

Chapter 5

Publicity Programmes



The Department is committed to ensure that no one who qualifies for legal aid is denied access to justice because of lack of means. Every year the Department organises or participates in various activities to enhance the public's awareness and knowledge of the legal aid services provided by the Department.

Promotional Activities

50th Anniversary Publicity



To celebrate the department's golden jubilee, the launching ceremony for the "Legal Aid Department 50th Anniversary Roving Exhibition" was officiated by the Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam; the Chief Justice of the Court of Final Appeal, Mr Andrew Cheung Kui-nung; the Chief Secretary for Administration, Mr Matthew Cheung Kin-chung; the Chairman of the Legal Aid Services Council, Professor William Leung; and the Director of Legal Aid, Mr Thomas Kwong, at the Hong Kong City Hall on 2 June 2021. A total of three roving exhibitions were held at different regions of Hong Kong in 2021 to promote public understanding of the department's contributions and work on legal aid services over the past half

century. Six episodes of TV documentary “Legal Aid - a Gateway to Justice” were produced in collaboration with RTHK and broadcast from June to August 2021 to chronicle the changes and development on legal aid services. Furthermore, a commemorative publication, showcasing various highlights of the Department including legally aided cases which had far-reaching impact on the legal system and society of Hong Kong, was produced and uploaded onto the Department’s website for viewing by the members of the public.

Law week 2021



In November 2021, the Director of Legal Aid, Mr Thomas Kwong officiated at the Opening Ceremony of the Law Week 30th Anniversary at the office of the Law Society of Hong Kong. Also officiating at the opening ceremony were the Chief Executive, Mrs Carrie Lam; the Chief Justice of the Court of Final Appeal, Mr Andrew Cheung Kui-nung; the Secretary for Justice, Ms Teresa Cheng, SC; and the President of The Law Society of Hong Kong, Mr C. M. Chan.

Promotion of Legal Aid Services to Legal Practitioners

The Department places great importance on working in partnership with the legal profession to deliver quality legal aid services to the public.



In September 2021, Assistant Principal Legal Aid Counsel / Legal and Management Support, Ms Christina Hadiwibawa, conducted a Continuing Professional Development course “Update on Legal Aid Schemes” organised by the Hong Kong Academy of Law via webinar.

Separately, Senior Legal Aid Counsel (Acting) / Application and Processing, Ms Michelle Lee, participated in the Law Society’s production of a short legal tips video which briefly introduced about the Director of Legal Aid’s First Charge.

Promotion of Legal Aid Services to External Bodies / Organizations

We regularly met with our counterpart organisations from overseas and the Mainland to exchange views on issues of common interest in legal aid work and spoke on the latest development of legal aid in Hong Kong.

Due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, some visits were suspended in 2021.

On 24 November 2021, Assistant Principal Legal Aid Counsel / Application & Processing Division, Ms Amy Lee delivered a talk on legal aid services in Hong Kong to a group of law students of the Chinese University of Hong Kong.



Please visit http://www.lad.gov.hk/eng/wnew/event_2021.html for the details and photos of the events.

Reaching out to the Community

On 16 December 2021, Senior Legal Aid Counsel (Acting) / Application and Processing, Ms Michelle Lee, and Senior Law Clerk I / Application & Processing, Mr Philip Leung, hosted a talk for members of the Hong Kong Federation of Trade

Unions and introduced legal aid services relating to employees' compensation and personal injuries at work.

On 19 October 2021, Legal Aid Counsel / Application & Processing, Ms Krista Sze and Legal Aid Counsel / Civil Litigation, Miss Kanas Wong hosted a talk for social workers and frontline staff from the Social Welfare Department, Hospital Authority and non-governmental organisations and introduced the department's work and legal aid services relating to family issues including divorce, maintenance, child custody and family mediation.

On 23 July 2021, Senior Legal Aid Counsel / Kowloon Branch Office, Ms Janet Fung and Senior Law Clerk I / Kowloon Branch Office, Mr Gary Cheng hosted a talk for social workers and frontline staff from the Social Welfare Department and non-governmental organisations and introduced the Department's work and legal aid services relating to family issues including divorce, maintenance, child custody and guardianship of minor.

On 23 June 2021, Legal Aid Counsel / Application & Processing, Ms Krista Sze, and Senior Law Clerk I / Application & Processing, Mr Ivan Lee, hosted a talk via online platform for the Hong Kong Single Parents Association, introducing the work and services of the Department relating to family issues such as divorce, maintenance, child custody and guardianship of minor.

On 25 March 2021, Senior Legal Aid Counsel / Application & Processing, Mr Ivan Yim, and Senior Law Clerk I / Application & Processing, Mr Philip Leung, hosted a talk for members of the Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions and introduced legal aid services relating to employees' compensation and personal injuries at work.

On 11 March 2021, Senior Legal Aid Counsel / Kowloon Branch Office, Ms Janet Fung, hosted a talk via online platform for social workers and frontline staff of Po Leung Kuk Tsui Lam Centre and introduced the work and services of the Department relating to family issues such as divorce, maintenance, child custody and guardianship of minor.

Furthermore, the Department provides hands-on experience for students who joined the Post-secondary Students Summer and Winter Internship Programmes. The participants under the Post-secondary Students Summer and Winter Internship Programmes joined the Department from two weeks to two months and learned about legal aid work. On the other hand, the Department participated in the programmes organised by the Civil Service Bureau to offer internship placements for students with disabilities and non-ethnic Chinese students for about two months. In 2021, the Department recruited 11 summer interns and 7 winter interns under the Post-secondary Students Summer and Winter Internship Programmes, 1 intern with disability and 1 non-ethnic Chinese intern.

Updating of Departmental Leaflets

The Department published and regularly updated a series of leaflets including “How to Apply Legal Aid in Criminal Cases” and “Important Notice for Legally-Aided Persons – Crime Section” leaflets to reflect the enhancement measures made upon the completion of the review on the operation of legal aid.

Other publications such as the Financial Information Sheet, which contained comprehensive information on financial eligibility, deductible personal allowances, contributions payable by an aided person towards the costs of litigation and the Director's First Charge were also revised to reflect changes implemented in 2021.

A list of publications of the Department is at [Appendix 5](#).

Measures to Combat Improper Touting Activities

As a measure to further combat improper touting activities of claims recovery agents among injured workers and accident victims, the Department continued to arrange the broadcast of the TV API “Beware of the touting activities of recovery agents” produced by the Department of Justice to be broadcast in three waiting areas of the Department from 1 August 2021 to 31 July 2023, including Information & Application Services (IASU) of Application & Processing Division and Crime Section of Litigation Division on 25/F of Queensway Government Offices; and IASU of Kowloon Branch Office. The Department also displayed the poster on anti-touting activities in various offices and arranged the poster to be displayed at District Social Welfare Offices of Social Welfare Department, offices of Labour Department’s Employees’ Compensation Division, Home Affairs Enquiry Centres, community centres and community halls.

Website

The Department regularly updates the contents of its website to provide comprehensive and timely information to the public and legal aid practitioners. In 2021, the Department continued enhancing the homepage to meet with the latest requirements of the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer.