



Chapter 5

Publicity Programmes

The Department is committed to ensuring 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

Law Week 2022

In December 2022, the Director of Legal Aid, Mr Chris Chong officiated at the opening ceremony of Teen Talk 2022 "Sports, Law & Discipline" Sports and Music Carnival cum Law Week 2022. Also officiating at the opening ceremony were the Secretary for Justice, Mr Paul Lam, SC; the Deputy Secretary for Justice, Mr Cheung Kwok-kwan; 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 October 2022, Assistant Principal Legal Aid Counsel / Legal and Management Support, Ms Christina Cheung Ying-man, conducted a Continuing Professional Development course "Update on Legal Aid Schemes" organised by the Hong Kong Academy of Law via webinar.

Separately, Legal Aid Counsel / Legal and Management Support, Miss Shirley Lo, participated in the Law Society's production of a short legal tips video which briefly introduced the means and merits tests for legal aid application.

Promotion of Legal Aid Services to External Bodies / Organisations

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, these visits were suspended in 2022.

On 29 September 2022, Senior Legal Aid Counsel / Crime, Mr David Chow (left) delivered a career talk on legal aid services in Hong Kong and the work of Legal Aid Counsel to a group of law students of the University of Hong Kong.



Please visit https://www.lad.gov.hk/eng/wnew/event_2022.html for the details and photos of the events.

Reaching out to the Community

On 18 January 2022, Senior Legal Aid Counsel / Civil Litigation, Ms Rita Chin, hosted a talk via online platform for frontline staff and volunteers 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 application for restraining order.

On 18 July 2022, Deputy Director of Legal Aid / Application and Processing, Ms Juliana Chan and Assistant Principal Legal Aid Counsel / Application and Processing, Ms Amy Lee hosted a workshop for members of the Hong Kong Federation of Insurers on topics relating to civil legal aid schemes and measures to prevent abuse of legal aid.

On 12 October 2022, Senior Legal Aid Counsel / Civil Litigation, Ms Rita Chin and Legal Aid Counsel / Kowloon Branch Office, Mr Jackson Lai hosted a talk for social workers and frontline staff of 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 27 October 2022, Legal Aid Counsel / Kowloon Branch Office, Ms Maggie Chau, and Senior Law Clerk I / Kowloon Branch Office Mr Gary Cheng hosted a talk for social security officers 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 minors.

Furthermore, the Department provides hands-on experience for students who joined the Post-Secondary Student Summer and Winter Internship Programmes. The participants under these programmes joined the Department from two weeks to two months and learned about legal aid work. In 2022, the Department recruited 11 summer interns and 7 winter interns under the Post-Secondary Student Summer and Winter Internship Programmes respectively.

Updating of Departmental Leaflets

The Department published and regularly updated a series of leaflets including "Contribution towards Costs of Legal Aid Case and Director of Legal Aid's First Charge", "Important Notice for Legally-Aided Persons-Family Litigation" and "Important Notice for Legally-Aided Persons-Insolvency Litigation" leaflets to reflect the enhancement made to the Legal Aid Electronic Services Portal.

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 2022.

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 at public waiting areas of the Department from 1 August 2021 to 31 July 2023, including the Information & Application Services Unit (IASU) of the Application and Processing Division and Crime Section of Litigation Division on 25/F of Queensway Government Offices; as well as the IASU of Kowloon Branch Office. The Department also displayed a poster on anti-touting activities at our 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 2022, the Department continued enhancing the homepage to meet with the latest requirements of the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer.