

Chapter 2

The Legal System

‘One fundamental aspect of the constitutional order of Hong Kong that is sometimes overlooked is that it is premised on both the Constitution of the PRC and the Basic Law of the HKSAR. As the Court of Final Appeal stated...: “The HKSAR was established by the NPC pursuant to Article 31 of the Chinese Constitution. It did so by promulgating the Basic Law on 4 April 1990.”¹
– Secretary for Justice, Ms Teresa Cheng, SC, at the ceremonial opening of the Legal Year 2019 on 14 January 2019

The legal system of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People’s Republic of China (PRC) differs from that of the Mainland, and is based on the common law.

Basic Law

The HKSAR’s constitutional framework is provided by the Basic Law, enacted by the National People’s Congress (NPC) under Article 31 of the Constitution of the PRC.

Since the establishment of the HKSAR, the gradual development of a body of jurisprudence on the Basic Law has been reinforcing its effectiveness in determining the rights and freedoms guaranteed to the people of Hong Kong.

Law in HKSAR

As provided in Article 18 of the Basic Law, the laws in force in the HKSAR are:

- the Basic Law;
- the laws previously in force (before 1 July 1997) in Hong Kong (including the common law, rules of equity and customary law as well as statutory law as referred to in Article 8 of the Basic Law), other than those not adopted as laws of the HKSAR in accordance with the Decision by the NPC’s Standing Committee (NPCSC) made under Article 160 of the Basic Law because they contravened the Basic Law;
- laws enacted by the HKSAR’s legislature which, according to Article 11(2) of the Basic Law, shall not contravene the Basic Law; and

¹ *Democratic Republic of the Congo v FG Hemisphere Associates LLC (No. 1)*

- the national laws listed in Annex III to the Basic Law and as applied to the HKSAR by way of promulgation or legislation.

Under Article 158 of the Basic Law, the power of interpretation of the Basic Law is vested in the NPCSC. National laws that may be added to Annex III to the Basic Law by the NPCSC are confined to those relating to defence and foreign affairs, and other matters outside the HKSAR's autonomy.

Hong Kong courts are authorised to interpret the Basic Law in adjudicating cases.

The Chinese and English texts of the legislation of the HKSAR are equally authentic. The Hong Kong e-Legislation website provides current and past versions of consolidated legislation dating back to 30 June 1997 and copies of legislation marked 'verified copy' have legal status. The hard-copy loose-leaf edition of legislation is being phased out.

Continuation of Common Law System and Judicial System

The common law system has been maintained by the Basic Law since the PRC's resumption of the exercise of sovereignty over Hong Kong on 1 July 1997 through the continuation of the application of the laws previously in force in Hong Kong.

The judicial system previously practised in Hong Kong is maintained except for those changes consequent upon the establishment of the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal on 1 July 1997, which replaced the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council as the appellate court exercising the power of final adjudication for Hong Kong. Pursuant to the Basic Law, judges from other common law jurisdictions have been invited to sit on the Court of Final Appeal since 1 July 1997.

Judges, magistrates and other judicial officers are appointed by the Chief Executive on the recommendation of the independent Judicial Officers Recommendation Commission, which is chaired by the Chief Justice of the Court of Final Appeal with the Secretary for Justice, two other judges, two persons from the legal profession and three lay persons as members. Under the Basic Law, judges shall be chosen on the basis of their judicial and professional qualities and may be appointed from other common law jurisdictions. The Basic Law also provides that judges may be removed from office only for inability to discharge their duties or for misbehaviour, on the recommendation of a tribunal appointed by the Chief Justice and consisting of at least three local judges. Articles 2 and 19 of the Basic Law provide that the HKSAR enjoys independent judicial power, including that of final adjudication. Under Article 82 of the Basic Law, the power of final adjudication is vested in the Court of Final Appeal. Pursuant to Article 85 of the Basic Law, the HKSAR courts shall exercise judicial power independently, free from any interference.

Legal Protection for Rights of the Individual

Chapter III of the Basic Law prescribes the fundamental rights and duties of Hong Kong residents. Among others, Article 39 provides that the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural

Rights (ICESCR), and international labour conventions as applied to Hong Kong shall remain in force and shall be implemented through the laws of the HKSAR.

Protection against discrimination is provided for in the Sex Discrimination Ordinance, Disability Discrimination Ordinance, Family Status Discrimination Ordinance and Race Discrimination Ordinance, which are enforced by the Equal Opportunities Commission, while the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance, which is administered by the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data, protects the privacy of individuals in relation to personal data.

Fifteen international human rights treaties are applicable to Hong Kong. Some of the treaties are implemented in the HKSAR by a specific legislation, such as the Hong Kong Bill of Rights Ordinance, which implements the provisions of the ICCPR as applied to Hong Kong, while others are implemented by various legislative measures. Seven of these, namely the ICCPR, ICESCR, International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, Convention on the Rights of the Child, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, require states parties to submit periodic reports and other requested information to UN treaty monitoring bodies. With the exception of the ICCPR, which does not apply to the Mainland of China, the HKSAR submits these reports as part of corresponding reports submitted by China and HKSAR teams attending hearings of the relevant treaty bodies as part of the Chinese delegation. The HKSAR delegation attends ICCPR hearings under the leadership of the Chinese Permanent Representative and Ambassador to the UN. In addition, the UN Human Rights Council conducts a Universal Periodic Review of the human rights situation in all UN member states.

Department of Justice

The Department of Justice, headed by the Secretary for Justice, plays a significant role in the legal system and in upholding the rule of law in Hong Kong. The Secretary for Justice is the government's chief legal adviser and represents the government in all actions brought by, or against, it. She also has a constitutional duty to make prosecutorial decisions independently, free from any interference.

There are five legal divisions in the department.

The Civil Division provides legal advice about legal issues on civil matters to the government and represents the government in the conduct of all civil claims and disputes, including judicial review.

The Prosecutions Division is to prosecute trials and appeals on behalf of the HKSAR, and to provide legal advice to law enforcement agencies upon request. By virtue of Article 63 of the Basic Law, the department controls all criminal prosecutions, free from interference. In conducting prosecution work, the prosecutors of the Prosecutions Division must make an objective and professional assessment of the available evidence and applicable law, and act in accordance with the Prosecution Code.

The International Law Division provides legal advice on public international law to the government, negotiates international agreements or provides legal advisers for such negotiations, and handles requests for legal cooperation between the HKSAR and other jurisdictions.

The Law Drafting Division is responsible for drafting all legislation proposed by the government, vetting all bills and subsidiary legislation put forward by non-governmental bodies, and compiling and publishing laws.

The Legal Policy Division advises government departments and bureaus on whether proposed legislation, or a particular policy, is consistent with the Basic Law, international human rights standards, and established principles underlying the legal system. It also advises on the law in the Mainland and plays an active part in law reform.

To better cope with the challenges and harness the additional opportunities offered by the Belt and Road Initiative and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area development, the department established the Inclusive Dispute Avoidance and Resolution Office in 2019 to provide support to the Secretary for Justice in planning and taking forward initiatives and programmes which contribute to the enhancement of Hong Kong's role as an ideal hub for deal making and a leading centre for international legal and dispute resolution services in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. The office also promotes the rule of law and inclusive development by facilitating access to justice.

In 2019, the department implemented or completed certain measures in relation to the following major policy initiatives.

Major Policy Initiatives

Raising HKSAR's International Profile

The department significantly strengthened its ties with other jurisdictions and international organisations. Cooperation arrangements were concluded with Japan, Korea and Thailand to enhance bilateral cooperation.

The department also concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with the UN for legal cooperation with the UN Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), including to co-organise the UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Judicial Summit biennially and to explore other avenues of cooperation.

With the support of the Central People's Government, the department has started exploring with the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organisation the establishment of a regional arbitration centre in Hong Kong and the hosting of its annual meeting in Hong Kong. The department is also exploring the hosting of important intergovernmental meetings in Hong Kong, such as inter-sessional meetings of UNCITRAL, to raise the HKSAR's international profile.

Enhancement of Hong Kong-Mainland Cooperation and Contribution to Belt and Road Initiative and Greater Bay Area Development

In January, Hong Kong concluded the Arrangement on Reciprocal Recognition and Enforcement of Judgments (REJ) in Civil and Commercial Matters between the Courts of the Mainland and of the HKSAR, which is the third arrangement providing for REJ between the two places in civil and commercial matters. Pending implementation by legislation, the arrangement can further reduce the need for re-litigation.

To the benefit of Hong Kong's uniqueness under the 'one country, two systems' principle, on 2 April, the department entered into the ground-breaking Arrangement Concerning Mutual Assistance in Court-ordered Interim Measures in Aid of Arbitral Proceedings by the Courts of the Mainland and of the HKSAR.

This arrangement makes Hong Kong the first and only jurisdiction outside Mainland China where, as a seat of arbitration, parties to arbitral proceedings administered by eligible arbitral institutions can apply to the Mainland courts for interim measures, and thereby enhances the attractiveness of Hong Kong as a seat of arbitration for Mainland-related disputes.

To take forward the Greater Bay Area development and tackle the related legal issues, the legal departments in Guangdong Province, Hong Kong and Macao have established a joint conference mechanism to meet regularly to explore and work together on projects that are conducive to advancing the legal environment in the Greater Bay Area. The first conference, held successfully on 12 September, explored the development of a Greater Bay Area Mediation Platform to provide uniform standards and rules.

On 7 September, the department signed a framework arrangement with the High People's Court of the Guangdong Province to enhance mutual legal exchanges. Activities were organised in Shenzhen and Guangzhou pursuant to the arrangement for judges, legal officials and legal practitioners from Hong Kong, Macao and the Mainland.

To provide a communication channel to connect Mainland enterprises with legal experts in various areas, the department established with the Ministry of Commerce and the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council a permanent tripartite communication platform between Mainland enterprises and the Hong Kong legal profession. The inaugural seminar under the platform was held in Beijing on 26 November.

Capacity Building and Collaboration with International Organisations

The department promotes Hong Kong as an international and regional capacity-building centre for international law and dispute resolution through organising conferences and training programmes on its own or with international and local bodies.

The department in 2019 hosted a number of international legal conferences in Hong Kong to enhance regional and international cooperation. Examples included Public-Private Partnership: Harnessing Opportunities and Overcoming Challenges co-organised with UNCITRAL and the Asian Academy of International Law (AAIL) in January, the Investor-State Dispute Settlement Reform Conference: Mapping the Way Forward with AAIL in February and the Inaugural Global

Conference on the Hague Judgments Convention with the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) in September.

The department organised the second Investment Law and Investor-State Mediator Training course with the World Bank Group's International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes and AAIL in Hong Kong in October.

During the year, the department continued to take an active role in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). A counsel from the department took up the chairmanship of the APEC Economic Committee from 1 September.

Grooming Talent

The department supports the grooming of local legal talent by offering internships and placements and by engaging less experienced lawyers to undertake court work. In addition, the department launched a new Pilot Professional Exchange Programme in mid-September to enable private-sector lawyers to experience working in the department.

The department has reached an understanding with the Hague Academy of International Law, a leading academic institution on international law, to organise regular courses in Hong Kong to provide high-quality training for legal professionals in Hong Kong and neighbouring regions from 2020.

The department is exploring fellowship, secondment and internship opportunities in renowned international legal bodies, such as HCCH, UNCITRAL and the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law.

Legal Week 2019

The department inaugurated the first Hong Kong Legal Week in early November to draw together government officials, judges, legal and other professionals as well as academics and businessmen from overseas for a week of important legal events and international conferences in Hong Kong. The three key events of the week are the 3rd UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Judicial Summit, the inaugural Hong Kong Mediation Lecture and the 32nd LAWASIA Conference 2019.

Legal Hub

To consolidate Hong Kong's status as a leading centre for international legal and dispute resolution services in the Asia-Pacific region, the government will provide space to law-related organisations in the West Wing of the former Central Government Offices (WWCGO) and the former French Mission Building. Together with the department's offices in the former CGO, the whole area will form a Legal Hub in the heart of Hong Kong. Renovation work of the WWCGO is largely complete. Selected organisations will gradually move in from 2020.

Vision 2030 for Rule of Law

The rule of law is the cornerstone of Hong Kong's success. The department will launch a 10-year initiative, Vision 2030 for Rule of Law, in 2020 to maintain and strengthen a fair and rule-based society, underpinned by the rule of law, towards sustainable development. The initiative will facilitate stakeholders' collaboration, encourage academic research and professional exchange,

enhance capacity building, and contribute to building a strong rule of law community within the region and beyond.

The Judiciary

A key element in the success and continuing attraction of the HKSAR is that its judicial system operates on the principle, fundamental to the common law system, of the independence of the judiciary from the executive authorities and legislature. The courts make their own judgments, whether disputes before them involve private citizens, corporate bodies or the government itself. The government is advised on matters relating to the pay and conditions of service of judicial officers by an independent Standing Committee on Judicial Salaries and Conditions of Service. The Chief Justice is the head of the Judiciary, assisted in its overall administration by the Judiciary Administrator.

The Court of Final Appeal, headed by the Chief Justice, is the HKSAR's highest appellate court. There are three permanent judges, four non-permanent Hong Kong judges and 15 non-permanent judges from other common law jurisdictions. The court, when sitting, will comprise five judges – usually the Chief Justice, three permanent judges and one non-permanent judge from another common law jurisdiction. If the Chief Justice is not available to sit, one of the three permanent judges will preside and an additional Hong Kong non-permanent judge will sit. If a permanent judge is not available to sit, again a Hong Kong non-permanent judge will sit in his place. The Registrar deals mainly with interlocutory and taxation matters.

The High Court, comprising the Court of Appeal and Court of First Instance, is headed by the Chief Judge of the High Court. There are 13 Justices of Appeal and 34 Judges of the Court of First Instance on the establishment. The Registrar, Senior Deputy Registrars and Deputy Registrars deal mainly with interlocutory and taxation matters.

The Court of Appeal hears civil and criminal appeals from the Court of First Instance, District Court and Lands Tribunal. The Court of First Instance has unlimited jurisdiction in all civil and criminal matters. Civil matters are usually tried by Court of First Instance judges sitting without juries, although there is a rarely used provision for jury trials in certain cases, including defamation. Criminal offences in the Court of First Instance are tried by a judge with a jury of seven, or when a judge so orders, a jury of nine. The Court of First Instance also hears appeals from the Magistrates' Courts, Minor Employment Claims Adjudication Board, Labour Tribunal and Small Claims Tribunal.

The Competition Tribunal has primary jurisdiction to hear and adjudicate competition-related cases. All Judges of the Court of First Instance are members of the tribunal, while the Registrar, Senior Deputy Registrars and Deputy Registrars of the High Court hold the corresponding positions in the tribunal.

The District Court is one level below the Court of First Instance. It is led by the Chief District Judge, who is assisted by the Principal Family Court Judge. There are, at present, 39 District Judges on the establishment. There is no jury. The Registrar and Deputy Registrars deal mainly with civil interlocutory matters and taxation of costs. The District Court's general civil jurisdiction

is limited to claims up to \$3 million, or recovery of land where the rateable value does not exceed \$320,000. It has jurisdiction over employees' compensation, equal opportunities and matrimonial matters including divorce, custody, maintenance and adoption. It also has jurisdiction to hear stamp duty assessment appeals. It tries criminal cases except murder, manslaughter and rape. The maximum sentencing power is seven years' imprisonment.

The Family Court, comprising 10 courts, is part of the District Court. It hears applications pertaining to divorce, separation and related family and matrimonial matters such as applications concerning children and financial relief. Notwithstanding the District Court's general civil jurisdiction, there is no limit on the amount claimed in the Family Court. It also deals with applications under domestic violence legislation and the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependents) Ordinance. Most hearings are conducted in private, save for defended divorces and enforcement actions.

The seven Magistrates' Courts process about 90 per cent of criminal cases. Led by the Chief Magistrate, the team, excluding Deputy Magistrates, comprises five Principal Magistrates, 51 Permanent Magistrates and five Special Magistrates. Magistrates exercise criminal jurisdiction over a wide range of offences. Their sentencing power is generally limited to two years' imprisonment and a \$100,000 fine, though statutory provisions empower them to impose up to three years' imprisonment and a \$5 million fine. They handle cases in the Juvenile Courts, which deal with offences, except homicide, committed by children and young persons below age 16. In addition to Permanent and Deputy Magistrates, Special Magistrates can also handle departmental summonses for offences such as traffic contraventions, but their sentencing power is limited to imprisonment for six months and a maximum fine of \$50,000 or as specified in their warrants of appointment.

There are five specialised tribunals. The Lands Tribunal is led by a President who is a High Court Judge and comprises presiding officers who are District Judges and members who may be experienced professional surveyors. The tribunal handles tenancy claims, building management matters, rating and valuation appeals, applications for the compulsory sale of land for redevelopment, and compensation assessments when land is resumed by the government or reduced in value by development. The Labour Tribunal handles claims arising from employment contracts and the Employment Ordinance. The Small Claims Tribunal handles civil claims of up to \$75,000. The Obscene Articles Tribunal determines whether articles are obscene or indecent. It also classifies articles submitted by authors and publishers. The Coroner's Court conducts inquests into the causes and circumstances of a death.

According to the Basic Law and Official Languages Ordinance, the courts can use either or both Chinese and English, the two official languages, in any proceedings.

Legal Aid

Publicly funded legal aid services are provided through the Legal Aid Department and the Duty Lawyer Service. Legal aid ensures a person who has reasonable grounds for taking or defending a legal action in Hong Kong courts is not prevented from doing so because of a lack of means.

Eligible applicants are granted legal aid certificates and receive the services of a solicitor and/or a barrister.

The department provides legal aid services to any person, irrespective of residence or nationality, who satisfies both the means and merits tests. It has about 560 staff, including 84 lawyers.

Legal Aid in Civil Cases

The department runs an Ordinary Legal Aid Scheme for civil proceedings in the District Court, Court of First Instance, Court of Appeal and Court of Final Appeal; applications to the Mental Health Review Tribunal; and death inquests if the interests of public justice so require. Major types of cases covered include family disputes, personal injury claims, employment disputes, disputes related to landed properties, contractual disputes, immigration matters and professional negligence claims.

The means test requires applicants to show their financial resources – the sum of the person's annual disposable income and total disposable capital after deducting a statutory allowance and certain deductible items – do not exceed \$307,130. For applicants aged 60 or above, the test also disregards the first \$307,130 when calculating the disposable capital.

The Director of Legal Aid may waive the statutory financial eligibility limit in meritorious cases where a breach of the Hong Kong Bill of Rights Ordinance or an inconsistency with the ICCPR as applied to Hong Kong is an issue.

The merits test requires applicants to satisfy the director that there are reasonable grounds for bringing or defending the civil proceedings.

Aided persons may have to pay a contribution, depending on their financial resources, and are required to repay all the expenses incurred in the proceedings that are not recovered from the opposite party out of the property recovered or preserved on their behalf in the proceedings.

An applicant who is refused civil legal aid may appeal to the Registrar of the High Court or, in Court of Final Appeal cases, to a Review Committee chaired by the Registrar of the High Court and also including a barrister and a solicitor.

Supplementary Legal Aid Scheme

This scheme helps people whose financial resources exceed the Ordinary Scheme's limit, allowing an eligibility limit of \$1,535,650. The scheme covers the following types of cases where the claim is likely to exceed \$60,000 – personal injury claims; medical, dental or legal professional negligence claims, as well as professional negligence claims against practising certified public accountants, registered architects, registered professional engineers, registered professional surveyors, registered professional planners, authorised land surveyors, registered landscape architects and estate agents; negligence claims against insurers or their intermediaries in respect of the taking out of personal insurance products; and monetary claims against vendors in the sale of first-hand residential properties.

It also covers employees' compensation claims and representation for employees in appeals against awards made by the Labour Tribunal regardless of the amount in dispute.

The scheme is self-financing, being funded by contributions from aided persons and a percentage payment deducted from damages or compensation recovered on their behalf.

Legal Aid in Criminal Cases

Legal aid is available under the Ordinary Legal Aid Scheme for criminal trials in the Court of First Instance and the District Court, committal proceedings in the Magistrates' Courts, appeals from the Magistrates' Courts and appeals to the Court of Appeal and Court of Final Appeal. Applicants who pass the means test receive legal aid for trial, provided the director is satisfied it is in the interests of justice to grant legal aid. For appeals, it must be shown there are reasonable grounds to appeal, except where the applicant has been convicted of murder, treason or piracy with violence.

The director has the discretion to grant legal aid in a criminal case where the applicant's financial resources exceed the eligibility limit, if the director is satisfied it is desirable in the interests of justice to do so, subject to the payment of a contribution at higher rates calculated according to the applicant's financial resources.

An applicant who passes the means test but is refused legal aid may apply to a judge for legal aid to be granted. Applicants charged with or convicted of murder, treason or piracy with violence may apply to a judge not only for legal aid for the trial or appeal, but also for exemption from the means test or payment of a contribution. The Review Committee hears appeals against the refusal of legal aid for appeals to the Court of Final Appeal.

Legal Aid Cases in 2019

	Civil Cases		Criminal Cases
	Ordinary Scheme	Supplementary Scheme	Ordinary Scheme
Number of applications	12,658	264	3,152
Number of certificates granted	5,228	178	2,328
Amount of expenditure incurred	\$692.8 million	\$7.9 million*	\$285.9 million
Monies recovered	\$1,351.7 million	\$124.6 million*	N/A

* The figures are unaudited

Official Solicitor

The Director of Legal Aid is also the Official Solicitor, appointed under the Official Solicitor Ordinance. The Official Solicitor's main duties are to act as 'guardian ad litem' or 'next friend' in legal proceedings for persons under a disability of age or who are mentally incapacitated, as representative of deceased persons' estates for the purpose of legal proceedings, as Official Trustee and Judicial Trustee, and as committee of the estate of mentally incapacitated persons. In 2019, the Official Solicitor took up 320 new cases.

Legal Advice Scheme for Unrepresented Litigants on Civil Procedures

The Legal Advice Scheme for Unrepresented Litigants on Civil Procedures under the Administration Wing, Chief Secretary for Administration's Office, provides free legal advice on civil procedural matters for unrepresented litigants. Applicants who do not exceed a monthly income limit of \$50,000 or an annual income limit of \$600,000 and have not engaged lawyers nor been granted legal aid are eligible. The scheme covers litigants who are parties to civil legal proceedings, including the start of proceedings, in the Lands Tribunal, Family Court, District Court or courts at levels above.

Director of Intellectual Property

The office of the Director of Intellectual Property, established under the Director of Intellectual Property (Establishment) Ordinance, runs the Intellectual Property Department, which operates four registries on trade marks, patents, designs and copyright licensing bodies. With regard to intellectual property, the department makes recommendations on policy and legislation, provides civil legal advice to the government, and promotes public awareness of and respect for intellectual property rights. It also facilitates and promotes Hong Kong's development as an intellectual property trading hub in the Asia-Pacific region.

Equal Opportunities Commission

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) is an independent statutory body that implements anti-discrimination legislation. There are four anti-discrimination ordinances: the Sex Discrimination Ordinance, Disability Discrimination Ordinance, Family Status Discrimination Ordinance and Race Discrimination Ordinance. The EOC's functions include working towards the elimination of discrimination on the grounds of sex, marital status, pregnancy, disability, family status and race, and towards the elimination of sexual harassment, and harassment and vilification on the grounds of disability and race.

In 2019, the EOC received 2,882 enquiries and 953 complaints relating to the four ordinances. A total of 144 complaint cases were conciliated successfully.

Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data

The Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data is an independent statutory body established under the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance to monitor, supervise and promote compliance with the ordinance.

In 2019, the office received 9,182 complaints, 21,574 enquiries and 34 matching procedure consent applications. It also conducted 316 compliance actions and published five guidance notes.

The office organised 421 talks, seminars, workshops and meetings with stakeholders to promote public and industry knowledge and understanding of personal data privacy, including 34 professional workshops for data users.

Websites

Administration Wing, Chief Secretary for Administration's Office: www.admwing.gov.hk

Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau: www.cmab.gov.hk

Department of Justice: www.doj.gov.hk

Equal Opportunities Commission: www.eoc.org.hk

Hong Kong e-Legislation: www.elegislation.gov.hk

Hong Kong's legal services: www.legalhub.gov.hk

Intellectual Property Department: www.ipd.gov.hk

Judiciary: www.judiciary.gov.hk

Law Reform Commission: www.hkreform.gov.hk

Legal Aid Department: www.lad.gov.hk

Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data: www.pcpd.org.hk

Treaties and international agreements: www.doj.gov.hk/eng/laws/treaties.html