

Chapter 2

The Legal System

'The law must be accessible, intelligible, stable, predictable and fair for the sustainable development of any society. In Hong Kong, our legal infrastructure is set out in the Basic Law. Our legislation is in plain language and accessible at the HKeL website. Our case law is also readily accessible to the public on the internet.'
– Secretary for Justice, Ms Teresa Cheng Yeuk-wah, SC,
at the ceremonial opening of the Legal Year 2020.

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 on 1 July 1997, the gradual development of a body of jurisprudence on the Basic Law has reinforced 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 in Hong Kong before 1 July 1997 (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
- 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. Hong Kong courts are authorised to interpret the Basic Law in adjudicating cases.

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.

The Chinese and English texts of the HKSAR's legislation 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 has been 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, which is vested in the Court of Final Appeal under Article 82. 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 these are implemented in the HKSAR by 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 (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. The Secretary for Justice also has a constitutional duty to make prosecutorial decisions independently, free from any interference.

There are six legal divisions in the department.

The Civil Division provides legal advice on civil matters to the government and represents the government in the conduct of all civil claims and disputes, including judicial review. The division is also responsible for implementing initiatives to promote mediation and arbitration services in Hong Kong.

The Constitutional and Policy Affairs Division advises government departments and bureaus on whether proposed legislation, or a particular policy, is consistent with the Basic Law, international human rights standards as applied in Hong Kong, and established principles underlying the legal system. The division is also responsible for new legislation promoted by the Secretary for Justice. It also has a specialist unit which addresses the need for advice on Mainland law and promotes understanding and cooperation between the two places in relation to legal and dispute resolution matters.

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 drafts all legislation proposed by the government, vets the form of draft legislation proposed by non-governmental bodies, and updates the consolidated legislation at the Hong Kong e-Legislation website.

The National Security Prosecutions Division, established in accordance with The Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, is responsible for the prosecution of offences endangering national security and other related legal work.

The Prosecutions Division prosecutes trials and appeals on behalf of the HKSAR, and provides 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 division's prosecutors must make an objective and professional assessment of the available evidence and applicable law, and act in accordance with the Prosecution Code.

The Inclusive Dispute Avoidance and Resolution Office was established under the Secretary for Justice's Office in 2019. Its work includes planning and taking forward initiatives to strengthen Hong Kong as an ideal hub for deal-making and dispute resolution, as well as promoting the rule of law and inclusive development in the Asia Pacific region and beyond.

In 2020, the department saw some developments and achievements under the following policy objectives.

Promotion of Rule of Law and Basic Law Education

Vision 2030 for Rule of Law

The department's 'Vision 2030 for Rule of Law' initiative was officially launched during Hong Kong Legal Week in November. It seeks to promote understanding and recognition of the rule of law and contribute to the sustainable development of inclusive and rule-based societies at both the local and international levels.

Promotion of Hong Kong's Legal and Dispute Resolution Services by Enhancing Global, Regional and Mainland-Hong Kong Cooperation

The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA)

Under an arrangement for legal exchange and mutual learning with the High People's Court of Guangdong Province, the department co-organised and participated in various seminars with judges, legal practitioners and officials from the Mainland and Hong Kong.

From June, Hong Kong law firms setting up partnership associations with Mainland firms in the Mainland are no longer required to provide a minimum 30 per cent of the capital, and a Hong Kong practitioner can be retained as a legal consultant by up to three Mainland firms simultaneously.

The launch of the GBA Legal Professional Examination in October enabled Hong Kong legal practitioners who pass the examination to practise in the GBA's nine Mainland municipalities in specified civil and commercial matters.

Since October, Hong Kong wholly-owned enterprises set up in Qianhai, Shenzhen can choose which law (including Hong Kong law) applies to their civil and commercial contracts, without a requirement for 'foreign-related elements'.

Matters discussed by legal departments from Guangdong Province, Hong Kong and Macao at the second GBA Joint Conference in December included establishing a GBA mediation platform with uniform mediation standards and rules.

Mutual Cooperation/Assistance with the Mainland Authorities

In November, a Supplemental Arrangement was signed with the Mainland to bring the existing mechanism for mutual enforcement of arbitral awards between the Mainland and Hong Kong more fully in line with the prevailing practice of international arbitration.

The Mainland Judgments in Matrimonial and Family Cases (Reciprocal Recognition and Enforcement) Bill was introduced into the Legislative Council in December to implement an arrangement signed in June 2017 between the Mainland and Hong Kong. It provides a mechanism for parties to apply to court in Hong Kong for recognition and enforcement of Mainland judgments and orders (including divorce certificates) and for certification of Hong Kong judgments and orders for recognition and enforcement in the Mainland.

International Cooperation and Promotion

Hong Kong is authorised under the Basic Law to conduct relevant external affairs and may use the name 'Hong Kong, China' to conclude and implement agreements with foreign states and regions and international organisations in the appropriate fields, including the economic, trade, financial and monetary, shipping, communication, tourism, cultural and sports fields.

As members of the Chinese delegation, the department's counsel joined the annual policy meeting of the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) and expert meetings of various private international law projects. They also participated in the work of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Working Groups III (Investor-State Dispute Settlement Reform) and VI (Judicial Sale of Ships).

The department played a leading role in developing the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Collaborative Framework on Online Dispute Resolution and supported Hong Kong's opting into it in 2020. The Commissioner of the department's Inclusive Dispute Avoidance and Resolution Office chairs APEC's Economic Committee and chaired numerous meetings at APEC 2020.

The Hong Kong Legal Hub

The Hong Kong Legal Hub, officially opened in November, aims to showcase the emphasis and recognition Hong Kong places on the rule of law and law-related services and to consolidate and enhance Hong Kong's status as a centre for international legal, deal-making and dispute

resolution services in the Asia-Pacific region. The hub comprises the former French Mission Building (FMB), the former Central Government Offices (CGO) and part of Two Exchange Square. The FMB will be the centre for international law where local, regional and international bodies can set up offices for fast and effective exchanges. Two Exchange Square, will be the centre for international dispute resolution. The department occupies part of the former CGO, while part serves as the centre for local and regional legal and dispute resolution bodies.

Grooming Legal 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.

The department launched an enhanced Understudy Programme in June for young lawyers with less than five years' post call/admission experience to take up the department's civil and prosecution work. Separately, the department launched a pilot scheme on 29 June to facilitate eligible non-Hong Kong residents to participate in arbitral proceedings in Hong Kong on a short-term basis as visitors.

The department also reached agreement with the Hague Academy of International Law to organise regular courses on international law in Hong Kong, together with the Asian Academy of International Law, to provide high-quality training for legal professionals in Hong Kong and neighbouring regions.

The department signed a Memorandum of Understanding with HCCH in December to provide secondment opportunities for Hong Kong legal professionals.

LawTech Development

As initiated by the department, the LawTech Fund was established in 2020 to assist the legal profession to upgrade information technology systems and provide training, and the COVID-19 Online Dispute Resolution Scheme, operated by eBRAM International Online Dispute Resolution Centre Limited, was launched in June.

Pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the department and UNCITRAL, a project office for collaboration was established on 2 November to work on the greater use of technology in international trade, including online dispute resolution.

The Judiciary

As prescribed in the Basic Law, the HKSAR has been authorised by the NPC to exercise independent judicial power, including the power of final adjudication. It has also been stated in express terms that the HKSAR's courts shall exercise judicial power independently, free from any interference. Members of the judiciary shall be immune from legal action in the performance of their judicial functions. As reflected in their judicial oath, in exercising their judicial power, judges are constitutionally required to determine and handle cases strictly in accordance with the law and legal principles.

In line with the principle of judicial independence, the pay and conditions of service of judges and judicial officers is determined by the Chief Executive-in-Council on the advice of 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 13 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, 42 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 seven Principal Magistrates, 62 Permanent Magistrates and one Special Magistrate. 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 563 staff, including 85 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 \$420,400. For applicants aged 60 or above, the test also disregards the first \$420,400 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, for Court of Final Appeal cases, to a Review Committee chaired by the Registrar of the High Court and with a barrister and a solicitor as members.

Supplementary Legal Aid Scheme

This scheme helps people whose financial resources exceed the Ordinary Scheme's limit, allowing an eligibility limit of \$2,102,000. The scheme covers the following types of cases where the claim is likely to exceed \$75,000: 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; monetary claims against vendors in the sale of first-hand residential properties; professional negligence claims against certain financial intermediaries under the Securities and Futures Ordinance; and certain monetary claims in respect of derivatives of securities, currency futures or other futures contracts.

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 committal proceedings in the Magistrates' Courts, criminal trials in the District Court and the Court of First Instance and appeals from the Magistrates' Courts and appeals to the Court of Appeal and the Court of Final Appeal. Applicants who pass the means test receive legal aid for trial, provided the director is satisfied it is desirable 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 2020

	Civil Cases		Criminal Cases
	Ordinary Scheme	Supplementary Scheme	Ordinary Scheme
Number of applications	11,107	179	3,537
Number of certificates granted	4,644	110	2,751
Amount of expenditure incurred	\$712.5 million	\$5.0 million*	\$236.2 million
Monies recovered	\$1,131.3 million	\$98.3 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 2020, the Official Solicitor took up 256 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 whose income does not exceed \$50,000 per month or \$600,000 per year and have not engaged lawyers, nor been granted legal

aid, are eligible. The scheme covers litigants who commence or are parties to civil legal 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 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 commission'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 2020, the commission received 4,748 enquiries and 1,131 complaints relating to the four ordinances. A total of 114 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 2020, the office received 4,862 complaints, 20,531 enquiries and 42 matching procedure consent applications. It also conducted 345 compliance actions and published nine guidance notes.

The office organised 277 talks, seminars, workshops and meetings with stakeholders to promote public and industry knowledge and understanding of personal data privacy, including 28 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