

## **The Options for Reforms of the Public Order Ordinance**

The followings have been suggested for reforming the existing public order ordinance (some are my own ideas)

### **1. The Proper Authority for Dealing with Notifications of Processions and Meetings**

- a judge of the Court of First Instance (implications: contempt of court for violating the decision)
- an independent tribunal (closed proceedings, but representation by the interested parties allowed)
- an independent tribunal (open proceedings, exceptions allowed)
- a tribunal (with the inclusion of the Commissioner of Police and the Secretary of Security)

### **2. The Notification Procedure**

- a shortening of the period for notification
- substantial compliance with the notification procedure allowed
- notification by email allowed
- substantially a matter concerning the public interest vs. exclusively a matter concerning the public interest

### **3. The Need for Notification**

- the quota of participants in meetings and processions allowed in case where there is no notification made
- persons vs. vehicles

### **4. The Offence of Unauthorised Assembly**

- abolition
- fines only (implications: criminal record)
- exemption of liability for certain summary offences in case where notifications are made

**Anthony MW LAW,  
Assistant Professor of Law,  
City University of Hong Kong.**