

Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services

**List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 27 March 2025)**

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

1. Law Reform Commission Secretariat – Progress on the Systematic Review of Statutory Laws of Hong Kong

April 2025

Proposed by the Department of Justice (“DoJ”). The Law Reform Commission (“LRC”) Secretariat continues to undertake the Systematic Review of the Statutory Laws of Hong Kong (“the Systematic Review”) it has embarked upon, and is actively coordinating and liaising with various bureaux and departments to assist and facilitate the relevant authorities in reviewing the laws under their policy and work purview in three primary areas (namely adaptation of laws, repeal of obsolete laws and consolidation of laws) in order that the responsible bureaux may make proposals for legislative amendments timeously. The LRC Secretariat apprised the Panel of the progress of the Systematic Review at its meeting on 16 December 2024 and will apprise the Panel again in April 2025.

At the Panel meeting on 14 January 2025, members suggested that the Administration should update the Panel on the target completion time and latest progress of the work of the LRC Secretariat in this regard.

2. Cultivation of international first-class law firms and arbitration institutions

April 2025

Proposed by members after the Panel meeting on 14 January 2025. Pursuant to the discussion at the 2025 session work plan meeting held on 24 January 2025, the Panel would discuss ways to cultivate international first-class law firms and arbitration institutions in Hong Kong, with the topics involved including: reviewing the requirements of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance (Cap. 159) with reference to the systems in other common law jurisdictions, and examining the factors affecting the development of law firms from a macro perspective in terms of naming requirements, restrictions on partners, profit sharing, etc.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

3. Waiting Times for Court Proceedings

June 2025

Proposed by the Judiciary Administration (“Jud Adm”). The Judiciary will provide an update on court waiting times and key measures to expedite court proceedings.

4. Progress on strengthening the promotion of Hong Kong’s legal and dispute resolution services – Pilot Scheme on Community Mediation

June 2025

Proposed by DoJ. The Administration will brief the Panel on the implementation progress of its policy initiatives under the 2023 and 2024 Policy Addresses regarding strengthening the promotion of Hong Kong’s legal and dispute resolution services.

At the Panel meeting on 25 January 2022, members suggested that DoJ should provide updated information on the mediation initiatives of the Administration, in particular the development of community mediation services.

5. Review of the Mediation Regulatory Regime

Q2 2025

Proposed by DoJ. The Administration will brief the Panel on the progress of its policy initiatives under the 2023 and 2024 Policy Addresses regarding the review of the mediation regulatory regime.

6. Development of Hong Kong lawyers in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area

Q3 2025

At the Panel meeting on 16 January 2024, members suggested that the Panel should discuss the development of Hong Kong lawyers in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

7. Implementation of the Action Plan on the Construction of Rule of Law in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area

See Note

At the Panel meeting on 14 January 2025, members expressed concern about the overall implementation of the Action Plan on the Construction of Rule of Law in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

[Note: Pursuant to the discussion at the meeting of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman with the Administration and Jud Adm on the work plan of the 2025 session (“the 2025 session work plan meeting”) held on 24 January 2025, the Panel could deliberate on measures relating to strengthening the interfaces of regulatory frameworks and mechanisms in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area in the context of this item, and this item could be discussed in the context of item 6 “Development of Hong Kong lawyers in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area”.]

8. Review of the legal aid system

Q3 2025

At the Panel meeting on 14 January 2025, members suggested that the Panel should discuss issues relating to the review of the existing legal aid system, including the process of the Legal Aid Department’s vetting and approval of legal aid applications, the system of assigning out civil legal aid cases, and the financial eligibility limits of legal aid applicants.

9. Latest developments of the Judiciary’s use of technology in court operations

November 2025

Proposed by Jud Adm. The Judiciary will provide updates on the latest developments of the Judiciary’s use of technology in court operations.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

10. Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Academy

Q4 2025

Proposed by DoJ. The Administration will brief the Panel on the development of the Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Academy (“HKILTTA”) and progress of its capacity building initiatives.

At the Panel meeting on 14 January 2025, members suggested that the Administration should brief the Panel on the latest position of HKILTTA.

11. Promoting LawTech

Q4 2025

Proposed by DoJ. The Administration will brief the Panel on relevant developments in relation to promoting the use of LawTech.

At the Panel meeting on 14 January 2025, members suggested that the Panel should discuss issues relating to assisting the legal profession in leveraging LawTech to enhance service quality and reduce operating costs.

12. Sports Dispute Resolution System

Q4 2025

Proposed by DoJ. The Administration will brief the Panel on relevant developments in supporting the introduction of a sports dispute resolution system in the sector.

At the Panel meeting on 14 January 2025, members suggested that the Panel should discuss ways to support the introduction of a sports dispute resolution system in the sector and related issues.

13. Law Reform Commission Report on Class Actions

To be
confirmed

The Panel agreed at the meeting on 27 November 2017 that the issue be included in the list of outstanding items for discussion to discuss the work progress of introducing a class action regime in Hong Kong (LC Paper No. CB(4)255/17-18(01)).

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

At the Panel meeting on 17 January 2023, members urged for confirmation of a meeting date for the discussion of this item at a Panel meeting. At the Panel meeting on 14 January 2025, members suggested an early discussion of this item by the Panel.

14. Implementation of the Mainland Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters (Reciprocal Enforcement) Ordinance (Cap. 645)

To be
confirmed

At the Panel meeting on 16 January 2024, members expressed concern about the upcoming commencement of the Mainland Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters (Reciprocal Enforcement) Ordinance (Cap. 645) on 29 January 2024, and suggested that the Panel should discuss its implementation.

15. Secretary for Justice's role as protector of charities

To be
confirmed

In relation to formulating a scheme for utilizing the estate of the late Mrs Nina WANG for charitable purposes, which has been outstanding since the relevant Court of Final Appeal judgment was handed down in 2015, members requested at the Panel meeting on 25 January 2022 DoJ's account of the role of the Secretary for Justice ("SJ") as protector of charities in relation to charitable interests in trusts and estates, in particular where major public interests were involved. At the Panel meeting on 16 January 2024, members reiterated the call for discussion of SJ's role as protector of charities by the Panel.

16. Legal education and training in Hong Kong

To be
confirmed

At the Panel meeting on 25 January 2022, members suggested that the Panel should discuss the proposal of introducing a public examination as an alternative to the Postgraduate Certificate in Laws ("PCLL") for obtaining legal professional qualifications. At the Panel meeting on 17 January 2023, members urged for confirmation of a meeting date for the discussion of this item at a Panel meeting.

Pursuant to the discussion at the 2025 session work plan meeting held on 24 January 2025, it was suggested that issues

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

relating to reviewing the PCLL programmes and improving their examination systems be discussed by the Panel, thereby ensuring the quality of legal practitioners.

17. Reviewing and enhancing the on-the-job training of legal practitioners

To be
confirmed

At the Panel meeting on 14 January 2025, members suggested that the Panel should discuss reviewing and enhancing the on-the-job training of legal practitioners with a view to promoting the development of the “eight centres” in Hong Kong.

Pursuant to the discussion at the 2025 session work plan meeting held on 24 January 2025, it was suggested that the Panel could discuss the following issues in the context of this item: (a) how to make good use of the country’s preferential policies to develop the maritime legal services industry (including legal services in respect of maritime arbitration, shipping finance and insurance) and train maritime legal talents; and (b) the difficulties currently faced by young lawyers, and studying how to turn such difficulties into opportunities to equip the legal profession to enhance its competitiveness.

18. Latest progress of hosting the headquarters of the International Organization for Mediation in Hong Kong

To be
confirmed

At the Panel meeting on 14 January 2025, members suggested that the Administration should update the Panel on the latest progress of the proposed hosting of the headquarters of the International Organization for Mediation in Hong Kong.

19. Improving the judicial system

To be
confirmed

At the Panel meeting on 14 January 2025, members suggested that the Panel should discuss issues relating to improving the judicial system, with the topics involved including: examining the existing judicial review system with reference to the relevant measures and legislative exercises implemented in other common law jurisdictions in recent years, and reviewing the overall operation of the Judiciary from a macro perspective in

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for discussion**

terms of leveraging technology, enhancement of efficiency, effective use of resources, etc.

20. Improving the mechanism for arbitration services in Hong Kong

To be
confirmed

Proposed by members after the Panel meeting on 14 January 2025. Pursuant to the discussion at the 2025 session work plan meeting held on 24 January 2025, the Panel would discuss ways to improve the mechanism for arbitration services in Hong Kong in the context of this item, such as the fees for arbitration services, the time frame for the issuance of awards by arbitrators, and the development of international first-class arbitration institutions.

Council Business Divisions
Legislative Council Secretariat
27 March 2025