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By Email

Dear all,

The Chief Executive has today announced the 2021 Policy Address (“2021 PA”). I would like to thank you for the valuable views and suggestions during the public consultation and in our recent exchanges.

Extracts from the 2021 PA and its Supplement of relevance or interest to our legal and dispute resolution sectors are **enclosed**. In 2021/2022, the Department of Justice (“DoJ”) will continue to take forward various new and ongoing initiatives, in particular to –

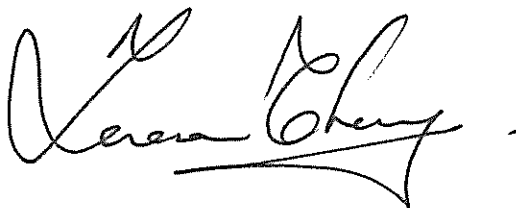
- (a) Complement National Development: Develop Hong Kong into an International Legal and Dispute Resolution Services Hub in the Asia-Pacific Region: the DoJ will continue to strive for further liberalisation measures to assist our legal and dispute resolution sectors in grasping the vast business opportunities under the National 14th Five-Year Plan, the Greater Bay Area (“GBA”) Development Plan and the Qianhai Plan by riding on the unique characteristic of “one country, two systems and three jurisdictions” and exploring possible study on the interface of laws in the GBA. The DoJ will also enhance collaborations and exchanges with international organisations and other jurisdictions on various fronts, including promoting the use of LawTech and pursuing with the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organisation the feasibility of establishing an arbitration centre in Hong Kong;
- (b) Strengthen Education on the Constitution, the Basic Law and National Security: the Government will promote and instill in the community a correct understanding of the Constitution, the Basic

Law and National Security. The DoJ, next year, will host a Basic Law conference and the Legal Summit on the National Security Law, as well as publish the “Basic Law: Selected Drafting Materials and Significant Cases” so as to complement the work of the Government as a whole;

- (c) Strengthen local rule of law education under the ten-year “Vision 2020 for Rule of Law” initiative: the DoJ will also establish a rule of law database to assist in reviewing rule of law and facilitate research and capacity building. We will carry on the “3Es” projects – “engagement”, “empowerment” and “enrichment” – to promote the proper understanding and recognition of the rule of law; and
- (d) Attract and retain legal talents: the DoJ will introduce a range of measures, including refining the requirements on legal and dispute resolution professionals in the Talent List, as well as regularising the pilot scheme to allow eligible non-Hong Kong residents to participate in arbitral proceedings in Hong Kong as visitors on a short-term basis.

Your staunch support in the coming years in pursuing a series of DoJ’s new and ongoing initiatives will reinforce Hong Kong’s enviable status as an international legal, deal-making and dispute resolution centre. We look forward to continuing our partnership with you and organization(s) under your leadership to enable our sectors to avail of the unlimited opportunities brought about by the national strategies and better integrate into the overall development of our country with the strengths of Hong Kong. In this regard, your valuable views and ideas are always welcome.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Teresa Cheng', with a stylized flourish at the end.

(Ms Teresa Cheng, SC)
Secretary for Justice

Encl.

**Extracts of 2021 Policy Address (“PA”) and PA Supplement
of relevance/ interest to the legal and dispute resolution sectors**

A. Policy Address

I. Foreword: A New Era

1. Today I present the fifth Policy Address in my term of office, which is also the last one of the current-term Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government’s five-year tenure. Despite this, my team and I attach great importance to this Policy Address. I have personally chaired 40 online and offline consultation sessions, attended live programmes and visited school campuses, meeting with over 3 500 members of the public from different sectors of the community. Coincidentally, some participants who spoke at the sessions shared my view that the double safeguards of The Law of the People’s Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the National Security Law) and the improved electoral system of the HKSAR have ushered in a new era whereby it is time for us to strive ahead with renewed perseverance and plan for the future of Hong Kong.

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II. Steadfastly and Successfully Implementing “One Country, Two Systems”

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Strengthening Education on the Constitution and the Basic Law

10. To ensure that the “One Country, Two Systems” principle is fully and accurately implemented, we must adhere to the Constitution and the Basic Law. The Basic Law Promotion Steering Committee will continue to take forward publicity and public education on the Basic Law through diversified approaches, whilst **the Secretary for Justice is planning to host a Basic Law conference and publish the Basic Law: Selected Drafting Materials and Significant Cases in April next year**. On education at the school level, the Citizenship and Social Development subject has been introduced to replace the Liberal Studies subject starting from Secondary Four in the current school year, with “Hong Kong under ‘One Country, Two Systems’ ” as one of the three themes of the subject. I found this an excellent start when I visited a secondary school to observe a lesson

in early September. To enable teachers of the Citizenship and Social Development subject to have a better grasp of the constitutional status, powers and functions of the Chief Executive under “One Country, Two Systems”, I have proposed to the Secretary for Education that I myself can give a class to teachers who are interested.

11. More channels should be provided for public education work. Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK), as a public service broadcaster, should play an active role in promoting the Constitution and the Basic Law, so as to fulfil its public purposes and mission under the Charter of RTHK, which include promoting public understanding of the implementation of “One Country, Two Systems” in Hong Kong, as well as engendering a sense of citizenship and national identity. In this regard, I have expressly requested the Director of Broadcasting to follow up.

Strengthening the Rule of Law

13. The rule of law is a core value and the cornerstone of Hong Kong’s success. Hong Kong’s rule of law has rock solid foundation: our mature legal system is renowned for being transparent, trustworthy and fair; the Department of Justice (DoJ) initiates criminal prosecutions without any interference; our courts exercise judicial power independently free from any interference; and a robust legal aid system is in place to ensure that all Hong Kong residents are equal before the law. These essential elements are protected under the Basic Law. Since our return to the Motherland, Hong Kong’s laws and judicial independence have been held in high regard. (DoJ’s new initiative)

14. To consolidate and promote Hong Kong as a city upholding the rule of law requires community-wide participation and people’s self-awareness of safeguarding the authority of the rule of law. To enhance the community’s proper understanding and practice of the rule of law, the Secretary for Justice has personally steered the 10-year initiative Vision 2030 for Rule of Law. A rule of law database with objective data will be set up to assist in assessing the rule of law and facilitate research and capacity building. A booklet entitled Vision 2030-Empowerment has also been published recently in simple language to instil law-abiding awareness in our secondary and primary school students. (DoJ’s new initiative)

15. Fair trial and due process are essential elements of the rule of law. In this respect the Judiciary plays a pivotal role. In discharging their responsibilities, judges look only at the letter and the spirit of the law without any interference. This notwithstanding, independent judicial power does not preclude a party from lodging a review of a court ruling or a complaint against the conduct of individual judges. In this regard, the Judiciary should also keep abreast of the times. Since taking office in January this year, the Chief Justice of the Court of Final Appeal, Mr Andrew Cheung Kui-nung, has refined the system for handling public complaints and proactively addressed the backlog of cases. I have asked relevant departments to fully assist the Judiciary in tackling the problem of courtroom shortage. Apart from the facilities currently under conversion and the re-opening of the de-commissioned Tsuen Wan Law Courts Building, an additional mega courtroom and supporting facilities will be set up at Wanchai Tower to handle cases involving a large number of defendants before the commissioning of the new District Court building at the end of 2027. The improvement works will commence in the first half of next year.

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III. New Paradigm for a New Future

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Enhancing Government's Capability in Information Dissemination and Public Communication

37. In this era of information explosion, an important aspect of governance is effective dissemination of government information so that the public can better and more quickly understand the policies of the government and the latest situation. I must admit this is an area that warrants the HKSAR Government's immediate improvements. Many people have told me from time to time that the contents of Government press releases are too technical and not easily communicated to the public. The old-fashioned approach in message delivery has also failed to draw the attention of the community or allay public concerns promptly. The malicious attacks on or biased reports against the Government over the past two years have highlighted that there is much room to improve our capability to communicate with the public. I have requested all Secretaries of

Departments and Directors of Bureaux, with the support of the Director of Information Services and his team, to place more emphasis on information dissemination and public communication on government policies.

IV. New Impetus to the Economy: Integration into the National Development

Leveraging Our Country and Engaging Ourselves Globally

38. The loud and clear heading of “Integration into the National Development” in the economy chapter in this year’s Policy Address has expressly stated that the developments of Hong Kong and our country are closely related. Only by leveraging the Central Government’s policies in support of Hong Kong can we give full play to our unique strengths, which will in turn bring continuous impetus to our economy.

39. Hailed as an economic miracle, Hong Kong has evolved from an obscure fishing port to an international financial, trade and transportation centre today. Having undergone numerous rounds of restructuring, regardless of whether they occurred before or after our return to the Motherland, the Hong Kong economy has always been closely intertwined with the development of our country. Driven by changes to the external environment, guided by the direction of the Mainland policies and led by the market forces, all these restructuring processes have been attributed to the remarkable acumen, brilliant versatility and “can-do” spirit of Hong Kong entrepreneurs. The current-term Government stresses that we should play the role of a “facilitator” and a “promoter” to keep connecting with the world to open up markets and explore business opportunities for our enterprises. Yet, notwithstanding the huge Mainland market, the local political forces against the Central Government have more often than not stood in our way, preventing us from reaping fully the benefits of our country’s development.

40. Fortunately, the implementation of the National Security Law and the improvement to our electoral system have restored safety and stability in society. Hong Kong is now ready again for a new start for economic development. **The 14th Five-Year Plan, the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, the Plan for Comprehensive Deepening Reform and Opening Up of the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Co-operation Zone, the economic development pattern of not only greater domestic circulation but also domestic and**

international dual circulation, as well as the Belt and Road Initiative, have brought unlimited opportunities for enterprises and professional services providers in Hong Kong, thereby allowing Hong Kong to benefit from its proximity to the Mainland. I will highlight how we shall leverage the Central Government's support to enhance our competitiveness as the eight international centres or hubs charted in the 14th Five-Year Plan with a view to building a brighter future for Hong Kong. We have prepared fact sheets on each centre/hub for promotional purposes. All are welcome to read and help distribute to those interested.

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Developing into a Centre for International Legal and Dispute Resolution Services in the Asia-Pacific Region

52. The rule of law in Hong Kong provides reassurance to Mainland and international investors when conducting business transactions and resolving commercial disputes in Hong Kong. To press ahead with the development of Hong Kong into a major centre for international legal and dispute resolution services in the Asia-Pacific region, we will adopt a wide range of measures including attracting international legal and dispute resolution institutions to set up offices in the Hong Kong Legal Hub, promoting international legal co-operation and exchanges, as well as securing international organisations to hold decision-making meetings in Hong Kong. The DoJ has successfully secured the hosting of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization Annual Meeting and the inter-sessional meeting of Working Group III of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law in Hong Kong at the end of this year. (*DoJ's new initiative*)

53. To enable the legal sector to meet the need for legal and dispute resolution services in the GBA, the DoJ will continue to organise the GBA Legal Professional Examination, develop a set of unified qualification, accreditation and other relevant standards for mediators in the GBA, take forward the measures of allowing wholly-owned Hong Kong enterprises registered in Qianhai, Shenzhen to adopt Hong Kong law and choose for arbitration to be seated in Hong Kong, and strive to extend such measures to other areas of Shenzhen and even the entire GBA. (*DoJ's new initiative*)

VIII. Nurturing Talents and Youth Development

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Attracting Talents

Building up a Talent Pool

149. Confronted with the challenges brought by a rapidly ageing population and a declining fertility rate, Hong Kong will face a bottleneck in manpower supply. As a small economy, Hong Kong cannot meet the needs of economic development simply by nurturing local talents. We need to attract non-local talents more proactively to enrich our talent pool, promote high-end economic development and seize the development opportunities as provided under the 14th Five-Year Plan and in the GBA.

Quality Migrant Admission Scheme

150. Following the Government's announcement last year to double the annual quota under the Quality Migrant Admission Scheme to 2 000 in an attempt to expand the talent pool of Hong Kong, over 1 700 talents from more than a dozen of countries and regions were approved with a quota. I have decided to double the annual quota of the Scheme to 4 000 to attract talents from all over the world to work in Hong Kong.

Talent List

151. The review of the first Talent List of Hong Kong was promulgated by the Government in 2018. Upon the completion of a review recently, we decide to add the new professions of "financial professionals in compliance in asset management" and "professionals in Environmental, Social and Governance" to the list. We will also expand the scope of some existing professions to include experts of "medical and healthcare sciences", "microelectronics", "integrated circuit design" and "arts technology" and **refine the requirements on legal and dispute resolution professionals, with a view to complementing Hong Kong's future policy direction to develop the key areas of finance, I&T, arts and culture, as well as dispute resolution services.** In addition, through the network of our ETOs and Mainland Offices, we will assist relevant bureau in attracting talents to work in Hong Kong. (*DoJ's new initiative*)

Legal Talents

153. The DoJ will introduce a range of measures to attract and retain top legal talents, such as relaxing the qualification requirements in handling international commercial disputes and clarifying the types of supporting documents required for transactional lawyers. Moreover, the DoJ will regularise the pilot scheme introduced in June last year to allow eligible non-Hong Kong residents to participate in arbitral proceedings in Hong Kong as visitors on a short-term basis, without the need to obtain employment visas beforehand. The scheme will strengthen Hong Kong's position as an international centre for legal and dispute resolution services in the Asia-Pacific region. (DoJ's new initiative)

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Facilitating Flow of Talents within the GBA

159. To enhance the two-way flow of talents within the GBA and respond proactively to the aspirations of the international chambers of commerce in Hong Kong for the facilitation of non-Chinese Hong Kong residents to travel to the Mainland cities of the GBA, I have put forward concrete proposals to the Central Government. I learnt that relevant Central Authorities would actively consider facilitating the flow of talents between Guangdong and Hong Kong, especially the relevant arrangements which will facilitate non-Chinese nationals residing in Hong Kong to travel to the Mainland cities of the GBA for business, research, exchanges and visits, etc. To this end, they have agreed to discuss the matter with the HKSAR Government by the end of this year. These efforts will enhance Hong Kong's attractiveness to foreign businesses and overseas talents.

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X. Closing Remarks: United for a Future

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168. The coming year 2022 will mark the important occasion of the 25th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the Motherland. Led by the Chief Secretary

for Administration, a committee comprising bureaux and departments has commenced preparatory work for a series of celebration activities, and will liaise with various sectors of the community in due course to jointly organise more exciting events for the public to rejoice in celebration of our return to the Motherland. There have been views that the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR is halfway of the journey that things shall remain “unchanged for 50 years” as enshrined in the Basic Law, and the beginning to the second half of the implementation of “One Country, Two Systems”. In my view, however, under the steer of the Central Government and with the co-operation of the HKSAR, we have, through “One Country, Two Systems”, improved our legal system and the enforcement mechanisms required for safeguarding national safety, and enhanced our electoral system that conforms to the constitutional order of the HKSAR. Safeguarded by the Constitution and the Basic Law, “One Country, Two Systems” has already become one of the strengths of the governance system of our country. So long as the HKSAR firmly observes and upholds the principle of “One Country” and fulfils the requirement of “patriots administering Hong Kong”, the “Two Systems” will definitely thrive and flourish, and Hong Kong will continue to be cherished by our country. At this new start, the 2021 Policy Address has unfolded a new paradigm and set out a new blueprint. Let us stand united and set off to build a bright future together!

B. Policy Address Supplement – DoJ’s New Initiatives

Chapter II – Upholding and Improving the “One Country, Two Systems” Practice

From Belief to Implementation¹

- Hong Kong has to maintain the robust institutions underpinning the unique system under “One Country, Two Systems”. They include the rule of law, judicial independence, an anti-corruption regime, a clean and efficient civil service, a stable monetary system, and international connectivity. We have to effectively counter misrepresentations of Hong Kong overseas and unfounded attacks on our systems. We have to tell the Hong Kong story with pride and confidence: the practice of “One Country, Two Systems” is a success bringing long-term prosperity and stability to Hong Kong.

Vision 2030 for Rule of Law²

- Strengthen local rule of law education and step up efforts in capacity building by encouraging local legal talents to seize overseas secondment/internship opportunities. (DoJ)
- Establish a rule of law database to assist in assessing rule of law and facilitate research and capacity building. (DoJ)
- Share the work experience in Vision 2030 for Rule of Law with other jurisdictions with a view to jointly promoting the rule of law for sustainable development. (DoJ)

Strengthening Education on the Constitution, the Basic Law and National Security³

- Host a Basic Law conference and publish the “Basic Law: Selected Drafting Materials and Significant Cases” in April 2022 to promote and instil a correct understanding of the Constitution and the Basic Law. (DoJ)
- Host the Legal Summit on the NSL in 2022 to enhance the understanding and awareness of the NSL. (DoJ)

¹ p. 6, 2021 PA Supplement

² p. 20, 2021 PA Supplement

³ p. 20, 2021 PA Supplement

Chapter V – Unlimited Business Opportunities

From Belief to Implementation⁴

- Hong Kong has the strong backing of the Motherland and the staunch support of the Central Government: capitalising on our strengths and enhancing our role in the Nation's 14th Five-Year Plan, the Belt and Road Initiative, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and the dual circulation economic strategy of the Mainland, Hong Kong enjoys unlimited opportunities. The Government has endeavoured and will continue to seize those abundant opportunities by introducing policy measures, providing funding support, nurturing talents, enhancing international networks and creating closer partnership with the Central and Provincial authorities.

Developing Hong Kong into an International Legal and Dispute Resolution Services Hub in the Asia-Pacific Region⁵

- *Legal and Dispute Resolution Services Hub*
 - Introduce legislation to give effect to the Arrangement on Reciprocal Recognition and Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters by the Courts of the Mainland and of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, which allows reciprocal enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters to reduce the need for re-litigation of the same disputes in both places. (DoJ)
 - Strive for further liberalisation measures for wholly owned Hong Kong enterprises in the GBA when entering into civil and commercial contracts to be able to choose Hong Kong law as the applicable law, and choose Hong Kong as the seat of arbitration. (DoJ)
 - Ride on the unique characteristic of "One Country, Two Systems and Three Jurisdictions" in the GBA and explore possible study on the interface of laws in the GBA (for example, in IP and e-commerce matters) with a view to devising mutually recognised standards and mechanisms in protecting business interests, thereby opening up vast business opportunities. (DoJ)
 - Pursue with international legal and dispute resolution institutes, including the AALCO the feasibility of establishing an arbitration centre in Hong Kong. (DoJ)

⁴ p. 60, 2021 PA Supplement

⁵ p. 97, 2021 PA Supplement

- *Fostering Collaboration on Legal Services*
 - Make full use of the Joint Conference Mechanism of the GBA Legal Departments to strengthen legal exchanges and collaborations and to promote the use of the dispute resolution services of Hong Kong in the GBA. (DoJ)
 - Enhance collaboration with international organisations and other jurisdictions to jointly promote and contribute to the use of Lawtech. (DoJ)

Consolidating Hong Kong's Position as a Regional Intellectual Property Trading Centre⁶

- Collaborate with the Department of Justice and other stakeholders to promote IP arbitration and mediation (CEDB, DoJ)

Chapter VII – Nurturing Talents

Talent Attraction⁷

- *Talent List*
 - Refine the scope of the existing industry segment and occupation of Dispute Resolution Professionals and Transactional Lawyers in the Talent List to cover professionals with expertise in resolving international commercial disputes, and relax the qualification requirements on past experience in handling international commercial and financial disputes or investor-state disputes, and clarify the types of supporting documents required as proof of experience for transactional lawyers so as to attract more talents in these respects. (DoJ)

⁶ p. 100, 2021 PA Supplement

⁷ p. 60, 2021 PA Supplement

C. Policy Address Supplement – DoJ’s Achievements

Chapter II - Upholding and Improving the “One Country, Two Systems” Practice

Safeguarding National Security⁸

- Assisted the Court to give a clear ruling on the construction of the NSL concerning designated judges, granting of bail and trial by a panel of three judges in lieu of a jury; and convicted an offender under the NSL by the Court of First Instance for the first time. (DoJ)
- Raised public awareness and understanding of the NSL and significance of national security through multiple channels including the National Security Education Day on 15 April 2021, the Hong Kong National Security Law 1st Anniversary Legal Forum, etc. (NSC, SB, DoJ)

Rule of Law⁹

- *Vision 2030 for Rule of Law*
 - Launched the 10-year initiative "Vision 2030 for Rule of Law" to enhance the community’s understanding and practice of the rule of law through public education and strengthening capacity building for legal professionals. (DoJ)
- *The Legal Hub*
 - Opened the Hong Kong Legal Hub on 2 November 2020. Around 20 selected local, regional and international law-related organisations are gradually moving in and commencing operations. (DoJ)

Promotion of the Constitution, the Basic Law and the NSL¹⁰

- Hosted the Basic Law Legal Summit - “Back to Basics” on 17 November 2020 to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the promulgation of the Basic Law. (DoJ)
- Hosted the NSL Legal Forum – “Security Brings Prosperity” on 5 July 2021

⁸ p. 11, 2021 PA Supplement

⁹ p. 12, 2021 PA Supplement

¹⁰ p. 12, 2021 PA Supplement

to commemorate the 1st Anniversary of the NSL. (DoJ)

Chapter III – Together, We Fight the Virus

Relief Measures and Temporary Jobs¹¹

- Launched a wide range of measures totaling over \$437 billion to help businesses stay afloat, keep workers in employment and assist the economy to recover. (across the Government)

Chapter V - Unlimited Business Opportunities

Legal and Dispute Resolution Services¹²

- Established the Mediation Mechanism for Investment Disputes under CEPA. Announced the lists of designated mediation institutions and mediators in 2018. Published mediation rules adopted by designated mediation institutions and mediators in Hong Kong. Extended the designation of all 43 Hong Kong mediators under the Mediation Mechanism for two years up to 2022. (DoJ)
- Signed with the Mainland the Arrangement on Reciprocal Recognition and Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters in 2019. Actively taking forward the legislative work to implement the arrangement, with the aim to consult the Legislative Council (LegCo) in the first quarter of 2022. (DoJ)
- Passed the Mainland Judgments in Matrimonial and Family Cases (Reciprocal Recognition and Enforcement) Ordinance on 5 May 2021. (DoJ)
- Signed the Record of Meeting on Mutual Recognition of and Assistance to Bankruptcy (Insolvency) Proceedings between the Courts of the Mainland and Hong Kong on 14 May 2021 to establish a new co-operation mechanism in three pilot areas, namely Shanghai, Xiamen and Shenzhen. (DoJ)
- Signed with the Mainland the Arrangement Concerning Mutual Assistance

¹¹ p. 37, 2021 PA Supplement

¹² p. 87-89, 2021 PA Supplement

in Court-ordered Interim Measures in Aid of Arbitral Proceedings. As at 27 July 2021, processed 47 interim measures applications with court orders granted in respect of RMB 10.8 billion worth of assets. (DoJ)

- Signed with the Supreme People's Court in 2020 the Supplemental Arrangement Concerning Mutual Enforcement of Arbitral Awards between the Mainland and the HKSAR, which has been implemented via the Arbitration (Amendment) Ordinance 2021 on 19 May 2021. (DoJ)
- Launched the inaugural Hong Kong Legal Week in November 2019 and the 2020 Legal Week virtually to promote legal and dispute resolution services. (DoJ)
- Endorsed the working proposal of the GBA Mediation Platform for high-level co-operation among the legal departments of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao to set standard and promote mediation. The GBA Mediation Working Group held its first meeting in August 2021. (DoJ)
- Implemented further liberalisation measures by Guangdong Province for partnership associations set up between Hong Kong and Mainland law firms in August 2019 and for the rest of the Mainland in June 2020. (DoJ)
- Secured the Central Government's agreement to allow Hong Kong eligible legal practitioners to practise specific areas of Mainland law in the nine Mainland municipalities of the GBA after passing the relevant examination. By November 2020, 655 legal practitioners applied to take the examination. Held the first GBA Examination in Hong Kong on 31 July 2021. (DoJ)
- With the passage of the related regulations for the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Co-operation Zone, over 11 000 wholly owned Hong Kong enterprises registered in Qianhai Co-operation Zone are able to choose Hong Kong law as the applicable law for their contracts since October 2020. (DoJ)
- Signed a tripartite arrangement in July 2021 with the Ministry of Commerce and the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council for establishing a permanent tripartite communication

platform for Mainland enterprises and the Hong Kong legal profession. (DoJ)

- Stepped up overseas promotion of Hong Kong's international legal and dispute resolution services through co-operation with the Asian Academy of International Law (AAIL) and international organisations, such as the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO), and the Hague Conference on Private International Law. (DoJ)
- Reached an agreement with the Hague Academy of International Law on organising regular capacity building courses in Hong Kong with the AAIL from 2020. Arranged an online seminar on 7 December 2020 with 150 participants. (DoJ)
- Completed the preparation for the publication of the Combined DoJ English-Chinese Glossary of Legal Terms and the Combined DoJ Chinese-English Glossary of Legal Terms. Launched the English-Chinese Glossary in September 2021, and will launch the Chinese-English Glossary by end-2021 at the earliest. (DoJ)
- Launched the Small Claims Mediation Pilot Scheme in 2018. Opened the West Kowloon Mediation Centre in 2018. As at 31 July 2021, received 1 147 cases and handled 1 980 enquiries from Small Claims Tribunal; received 761 applications for mediation with mediation conducted in 494 cases. (DoJ)
- Examined the Law Reform Commission's recommendations on Enduring Powers of Attorney with regard to personal care and launched a public consultation in 2017. (DoJ)
- Completed a consultation exercise on the legislative proposals on hearsay evidence in criminal proceedings in 2017. Consulted the Law Society and Bar Association on the latest proposals. (DoJ)
- LawTech
 - Led Hong Kong, China to opt into the APEC Collaborative Framework for Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) in April 2020. (DoJ)

- Supported development of procedural rules for eBRAM Centre's ODR platform, including the APEC ODR procedural rules. (DoJ)
- Signed in May 2021 a MoU with the AAIL on the administration of the Hong Kong Legal Cloud Fund for subsidising local legal and dispute resolution professionals to subscribe to the Legal Cloud services. (DoJ)
- Established a COVID-19 ODR Scheme, with eBRAM Centre to provide ODR services for COVID-19 related disputes. Launched the COVID-19 ODR Scheme in June 2020 with around 160 mediators and arbitrators enlisted. (DoJ)

Chapter VII – Nurturing Talents

Nurturing Legal Talents¹³

- Put in place secondment arrangements with the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), Hague Conference on Private International Law and the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law for Hong Kong legal professionals. Formally reserved a post by the Central People's Government for Department of Justice secondee under the United Nations Junior Professional Officers Programme at the UNCITRAL Secretariat. (DoJ)
- Launched an understudy programme for barristers and solicitors with less than 5 years' experience to be engaged in civil law matters, and expanded this programme to prosecution of criminal cases. Benefited 104 practitioners. (DoJ)
- Launched a Pilot Professional Exchange Programme to facilitate cross-fertilisation of knowledge and experience among lawyers in the private sector and the Government. (DoJ)

DoJ

6 October 2021

¹³ p. 155, 2021 PA Supplement