

**Statement of the Hong Kong Bar Association**  
**condemning damage to the Shatin Law Courts**

The HKBA strongly deplores the arson on the Shatin Law Courts building yesterday (13 November 2019) evening.

The HKBA condemns all the instances of violence and arson yesterday that caused serious and extensive damage and even life-threatening personal injuries. However, the attack on the court building stands out because of its symbolism. It represents an attack on the independent judicial authority of the HKSAR. It is difficult to think of anything that is more corrosive to the Rule of Law.

Attacks on private property are bad enough but if attacks on court buildings continue, the constitutional fabric of the HKSAR will be torn asunder with disastrous consequences for every Hong Kong resident.

Hong Kong Bar Association

Dated: 14 November 2019