

Statement of the Hong Kong Bar Association (“HKBA”)

Deploring Telephone Harassment Against a District Judge

It was reported in the media on 8 July 2021 that while presiding over a criminal trial a District Judge received persistent harassing messages on his office telephone line.

HKBA reiterates what was repeatedly stated in our statements issued on 9 December 2019, 2 January 2020 (jointly with the Law Society), 23 November 2020, 6 December 2020 and 29 May 2021 condemning attacks or intimidation against judicial officers in relation to different reported incidents.

Judges must be held free from any interference in the performance of their judicial duties. Any threat made with intent to harass, frighten or put pressure on a judicial officer is a serious assault on judicial independence. Such behaviour is an attack on the administration of justice and jeopardizes the rule of law.

Hong Kong Bar Association

Dated: 9 July 2021