



HONG KONG BAR ASSOCIATION

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Press Release

(For immediate release)

Statement of the Hong Kong Bar Association on the Retirement and Resignations of Non-Permanent Judges of the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal

The Hong Kong Bar Association (“HKBA”) notes the personal decision of Madam Justice McLachlin to retire as an overseas Non-Permanent Judge (“NPJ”) of the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal (“CFA”). We are grateful for her contributions to the rule of law and administration of justice in Hong Kong since she was first appointed to the CFA in 2018. We echo the sentiment in her statement regarding her confidence in the members of the court, their independence and their determination to uphold the rule of law in Hong Kong.

In response to the comments by Lord Sumption in an article published in the Financial Times on 10 June 2024:

1. Hong Kong has faced numerous challenges over the past few years and the role of our judiciary has never been more important.
2. As stated in our Statement on 7 June 2024, the HKBA has every confidence in the independence of our judiciary and we urge the public to support the work of our judges and every effort to safeguard judicial independence and to uphold the rule of law in Hong Kong.
3. It is also important to appreciate that our judges can only decide cases on the basis of the legal arguments advanced and the evidence before them.
4. The HKBA will not respond to comments on specific cases, especially those which are sub judice.

Dated 11 June 2024

Hong Kong Bar Association