

# Absence of Corruption

## A Key Requirement for the Rule of Law

Tuesday, 26 August 2025

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World Justice  
Project



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香港大律師公會

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THE  
LAW SOCIETY  
OF HONG KONG  
香港律師會

The Law Society of Hong Kong CPD points: 2 points

# Programme Rundown

**8:30 – 9:00 am**

**Registration**

**9:00 – 9:10 am**

**Group photos of VIPs**

**9:10 – 9:20 am**

**Opening remarks**

**Mr. José Antonio Maurellet SC,**  
Chairman of the Hong Kong Bar Association

**Dr. Srirak Plipat,**  
Asia Pacific Regional Director of World Justice Project

**9:20 – 9:35 am**

**Keynote address**

**Mr. Paul Lam SC,**  
Secretary for Justice

**9:35 – 9:50 am**

**Thematic speech I**

**Mr. Woo Ying Ming,**  
Commissioner of the Independent Commission Against Corruption

**9:50 – 10:05 am**

**Thematic speech II**

**Dr. Kelvin Wong,**  
Chairman of the Securities and Futures Commission

**10:05 – 10:20 am**

**Coffee break**

**10:20 – 11:10 am**

**Panel discussion I**

From Plans to Progress: Lessons in Delivering National Anti-Corruption Strategies

*Moderator:*

**Mr. Felix Tang,**  
Council Member of the Hong Kong Bar Association  
*Speakers:*

**Mr. Martin Hui SC,**  
Vice-Chairman of the Hong Kong Bar Association

**Dr. Srirak Plipat,**  
Asia Pacific Regional Director of World Justice Project

**Mr. Jonathan Midgley,**  
Senior Partner and Solicitor Advocate of Haldanes  
**Mr. Kevin Wong,**  
Senior Lecturer of Faculty of Law of the University of Hong Kong

**11:10 am – 12:00 noon**

**Panel discussion II**

Integrity in Action: Aligning Agencies, Policies for Anti-Corruption Impact – Statutory Offences and Common Law Offences

*Moderator:*

**Ms. Angel Wong,**  
Council Member of the Hong Kong Bar Association  
*Speakers:*

**The Hon. Mr. Justice Andrew Colin Macrae,**  
Vice President of the Court of Appeal of the High Court

**Mr. Ricky Yau,**  
Deputy Commissioner and Head of Operations of the Independent Commission Against Corruption  
**Mr. Victor Dawes SC,**  
Non-Executive Director of the Securities and Futures Commission

**12:05 – 12:15 pm**

**Closing remarks**

**12:15 – 1:30 pm**

**Networking Luncheon**



## HONG KONG BAR ASSOCIATION 香港大律師公會

Serving the profession and community since 1949, the Hong Kong Bar Association (HKBA) is the only professional organisation of barristers in Hong Kong. As at August 2025, there are over 1,700 practising members, including 109 Senior Counsel.

The objects of the HKBA, as set out in its Rules and Regulations, are generally to consider and to take proper action on all matters affecting the legal profession and the administration of justice. These include among other things :

- the maintenance of the honour and independence of the Bar;
- the improvement of the administration of justice in Hong Kong;
- the prescribing of rules of professional conduct, discipline and etiquette;
- furtherance of good relations and understanding within the legal profession.

Barristers are legal practitioners expert in advocacy and specialising in litigation. Generally, only barristers have the right of audience in Hong Kong's Court of First Instance, Court of Appeal and the Court of Final Appeal. A practising barrister is bound to accept any instruction to appear before a Court in the field in which he professes to practise at his or her usual fee having regard to the type, nature, length and difficulty of the case. This is customarily known as "the cab-rank rule". However, special circumstances such as conflict of interest may exist which justify a barrister in refusing to accept a particular instruction.





# World Justice Project

The World Justice Project (WJP) is an independent, multidisciplinary organisation working to create knowledge, build awareness, and stimulate action to advance the rule of law worldwide. Founded in 2006, WJP produces original, independent research and data about the rule of law, promotes understanding and appreciation for the rule of law, its relationship to development, and effective strategies to strengthen it; and connects and builds an engaged global network of policymakers and advocates to advance the rule of law through strategic partnerships, convenings, coordinated advocacy, and support for locally led initiatives.

WJP compiles the Rule of Law Index, the world's leading source for original, independent data on the rule of law. The Index measures rule of law performance across 142 countries and jurisdictions, evaluating them across eight key factors including corruption and access to justice.

Beyond measurement and data collection, WJP engages in research, scholarship, and on-the-ground programmes to strengthen the rule of law in practice. Engagement efforts include connecting and developing a global network, organising and leading strategic convenings, and incubating practical, locally-led programmes. At its World Justice Forum, regional conferences, and single-country workshops, advocates come together to learn about the rule of law, build their networks, and design pragmatic solutions to local rule of law challenges.



# GOLD SPONSOR

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# Haldanes

Hong Kong is a city built on grit and determination, a place where modest beginnings, paired with hard work and a dash of optimism, can grow into something remarkable. That's exactly the Haldanes story.

When we opened our doors in 1975, we had little more than ambition, a leaky air conditioner, and an abacus to balance the books. Five decades later, we have evolved into one of Hong Kong's most respected full-service law firms.

As we mark our 50th anniversary, we're reflecting on how that same tenacity, and the unmistakable Hong Kong spirit, has shaped a practice ready for today's complex, fast-changing legal landscape, both at home and internationally.

The "Haldanes Difference" comes down to three things: People, Professionalism, and a Client-First Ethic. Our lawyers and staff combine deep expertise with adaptability, creativity, and an unwavering focus on client needs. Year after year, our work earns recognition from peers and leading legal directories for its quality, innovation, and results.

From high-profile criminal defence trials to landmark corporate deals, from media and entertainment matters to sensitive family cases, Haldanes lawyers are known for being driven, responsive, and ready to meet any challenge. It's who we are, and who we've been for 50 years.

# OPENING REMARKS

## Mr. José Antonio Maurellet SC

### Chairman of the Hong Kong Bar Association

Mr. José Antonio Maurellet is currently the Chairman of the Hong Kong Bar Association, the association representing all the barristers in Hong Kong who are independent and self-employed advocates. He is an English, Cantonese and French native speaker. He also can speak Mandarin.

José studied law at St Edmund Hall, Oxford University. He was called to the Hong Kong Bar in 2000 and was appointed Senior Counsel in 2016. He was admitted in 2020 as a solicitor of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, British Virgin Islands circuit. He is also a registered foreign lawyer with rights of audience in the Singapore International Commercial Court. He sat as a Deputy High Court Judge for periods between 2018 to 2021, and since October 2021 has been appointed as a Recorder of the Court of First Instance.

José is an Associate Member of 3 Verulam Buildings in London.

## Dr. Srirak Plipat

### Asia Pacific Regional Director of World Justice Project

Dr. Srirak Plipat is the World Justice Project's Regional Director for Asia Pacific, leading strategies to strengthen the rule of law through policy advisory, strategic partnerships, and platforms for collaboration.

With over 20 years' experience in international law, governance, justice, and human rights, he has held senior leadership roles in major global organisations. As Executive Director of an international human rights organisation, he directed research and advocacy in more than 20 countries to reform laws and policies that restrict fundamental freedoms, promoting alignment with international human rights standards.

Previously, as Transparency International's Director for Asia Pacific, Dr. Plipat oversaw strategy, research, and advocacy to advance accountable governance, strengthen anti-corruption laws, and empower civic engagement. He also served as Amnesty International's Director for movement building, mobilisation, public engagement, and human rights education.

His career reflects a consistent commitment to fairness, transparency, and accessible justice for all.



# KEYNOTE SPEAKER

## **Mr. Paul Lam, GBS, SC, JP**

Secretary for Justice

Mr. Paul Lam has been the Secretary for Justice since 1 July 2022.

Before joining the Government, Mr. Lam was a Senior Counsel in private practice specialising in general civil and commercial proceedings, and has passed the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Legal Professional Examination. He was a former Vice-Chairman of the Hong Kong Bar Association from 2014 to 2017 and the Chairman from 2017 to 2018. He sat as a Deputy Judge of the High Court of Hong Kong for short periods each year since 2015. He was once enlisted in the Panel of Arbitrators of the Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration and The China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission, and was once appointed by the China University of Political Science and Law in Beijing as professor.

Mr. Lam held a number of public service positions, such as Chairman of the Consumer Council, Chairman of the Administrative Appeals Board, Chairman of ICAC Operations Review Committee and Member of Independent Police Complaints Council.





# THEMATIC SPEECHES

## **Mr. Woo Ying Ming, SBS, CSDSM**

### **Commissioner, Independent Commission Against Corruption**

Mr. Woo joined the Immigration Department as Assistant Immigration Officer in 1988. He was appointed Officer of the Correctional Services Department in 1989. He was promoted to Senior Superintendent of Correctional Services in 2011, Assistant Commissioner of Correctional Services in 2012 and Deputy Commissioner of Correctional Services in 2018. He was Commissioner of Correctional Services from 2018 to March 2022 before retiring from the civil service.

On 1 July 2022, Mr. Woo was appointed by the Central People's Government, People's Republic of China, as Commissioner of the Independent Commission Against Corruption of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. In his over 33 years of experience in custodial and offenders' rehabilitation, Mr. Woo had established close partnership with ICAC in unveiling corruption-related crimes with vigor. Mr. Woo is also a keen advocate of innovative technology and will continue to exert technological leverage for the anti-corruption cause.

Mr. Woo was awarded the Correctional Services Distinguished Service Medal and the Silver Bauhinia Star Medal by the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in 2018 and 2022 respectively.

## **Dr. Kelvin Wong, SBS, JP**

### **Chairman of the Securities and Futures Commission**

Dr. Kelvin Wong is the Chairman of the Securities and Futures Commission, the Chairman of the Corruption Prevention Advisory Committee of the Hong Kong Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) and a member of its Advisory Committee on Corruption.

Dr. Wong is also a Director of the Hong Kong Academy of Finance, a member of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority's Banking Advisory Committee and a member of The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited's Listing Nominating Committee. Dr. Wong was the Chairman of the Accounting and Financial Reporting Council till end-December 2024.

Prior to joining the SFC, Dr. Wong was an Executive Director and a Deputy Managing Director of COSCO SHIPPING Ports Limited, a company listed in Hong Kong.

Dr. Wong holds a Master of Business Administration degree from Andrews University in Michigan, USA, and a Doctor of Business Administration degree from The Hong Kong Polytechnic University.





# PANEL DISCUSSION I

## From Plans to Progress: Lessons in Delivering National Anti-Corruption Strategies

### Mr. Martin Hui SC

#### Vice-Chairman of the Hong Kong Bar Association

Mr. Martin Hui is currently the Vice-Chairman of the Hong Kong Bar Association. He is a Senior Counsel at Plowman Chambers. Prior to joining private practice, Martin was a seasoned prosecutor having worked in the Prosecutions Division of the Department of Justice of HKSAR for 24 years. He was a Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions before he left the Department of Justice in 2019. Martin has served as a Deputy High Court Judge in 2019 and 2020. He has been appointed recorder of the Court of First Instance of the High Court on 1 January 2021 for a term of three years.

Martin's main areas of practice cover commercial fraud, corruption, white collar crime, money laundering and proceeds of crime, regulatory work involving investigation by the Securities and Futures Commission, departmental summons (industrial or building summons, quasi-criminal land matters, etc.) and public law (judicial review and constitutional law). He is also experienced in criminal appellate work at higher courts, specialising in human rights as well as constitutional and administrative law.

He is recognised and recommended in the Lexology Index Business Crime Defence Report of 2024 to be a leader of the field.

### Mr. Jonathan Midgley

#### Senior Partner and Solicitor Advocate of Haldanes

Mr. Jonathan Midgley has been a fixture in Hong Kong's legal scene for decades, earning a reputation as one of the city's leading criminal defence lawyers.

Independent legal journals and clients alike have called him the "go-to" choice for white-collar professionals in need of expert defence, describing him as "pre-eminent in the field" and "one of the most successful criminal lawyers in Hong Kong."

His career took a defining turn in the early 1980s when he acted for the defendant in Hong Kong's first-ever commercial crime prosecution, resulting in an acquittal. From that point, white-collar crime became a cornerstone of his practice.

Today, his work spans the spectrum, from minor offences to the most serious cases, including drug charges, assault, theft, robbery, sexual offences, driving matters, murder, and rape.

When Hong Kong introduced the Solicitor Advocate role, Jonathan's standing in the field saw him immediately appointed to the criminal division, giving him full advocacy rights in all criminal courts.

Over the years, he has built close working relationships with leading barristers in Hong Kong and England, alongside a global network of legal connections.

Based in Hong Kong since 1978, Jonathan's practice is truly international, reflecting both his experience and reach.



# PANEL DISCUSSION I

From plans to progress: lessons in delivering national anti-corruption strategies

## Mr. Kevin Wong

Senior Lecturer of the Faculty of Law,  
the University of Hong Kong

Mr. Kevin Wong obtained his BA Law from Leicester University and studied for the Bar in England. He was called to the Bar of England and Wales in 1999 and then was called to the Bar of Hong Kong in 2001.

He was a practising barrister in Hong Kong, practising predominantly in the field of criminal law where he practised criminal defence work as well as prosecutions for the Department of Justice.

Kevin joined the University of Hong Kong on a full-time basis in 2016 and teaches mainly criminal litigation, criminal advocacy and trial advocacy.



## Moderator: Mr. Felix Tang

Council Member and Chairman of the Standing Committee on  
Young Barristers, Hong Kong Bar Association

Mr. Felix Tang is currently the Council Member and Chairman of the Standing Committee on Young Barristers, Hong Kong Bar Association.

Felix maintains a mixed practice with focus in personal injuries, trusts and commercial law. In recent years, his practice has expanded into public and administrative law, where he has acted for both the appellant and the Government in judicial review cases.

Felix also serves as a part-time lecturer at the City University of Hong Kong and HKU SPACE, teaching Equity and Trusts.



# PANEL

## DISCUSSION II

Integrity in Action: Aligning Agencies, Policies for Anti-Corruption Impact – Statutory Offences and Common Law Offences

### The Hon. Mr. Justice Andrew Colin Macrae

Vice President of the Court of Appeal of the High Court

Mr. Justice Macrae VP was brought up in Africa and the United Kingdom. He was called to the Bar of England and Wales in 1979 and entered private practice in England in 1980 before being appointed Crown Counsel in the then Attorney General's Chambers of Hong Kong in 1982. He subsequently moved to the private Bar in Hong Kong in 1983 and practised as a junior barrister before taking Silk in 1999.

He practised as a Silk for 11 years in both Hong Kong and Brunei before being appointed to the High Court in 2010. He was appointed to the Court of Appeal in 2013 and became Vice President of the Court in 2018, and its senior Vice President in 2021.

At the Bar, he practised primarily in the fields of criminal law and medical tribunal work, successfully prosecuting the longest corruption trial in the history of Brunei between 2005 and 2010. On the Bench he conducted, among many other cases at first instance, the (second) trial of Nancy Kissel (for murder), the trial of Tony Chan Chun-chuen (for forgery of a will) and the trial of the former Chief Secretary, Rafael Hui and four others (for various offences of conspiracy to commit misconduct in public office). As an appeal judge, he has presided over numerous appeals and, most recently, been responsible for the rewriting of the sentencing guidelines for trafficking in various dangerous drugs.

Mr. Justice Macrae is a Bencher of the Middle Temple in London and, although he has lived and worked permanently in Hong Kong since 1982, he also resides in Hong Kong, France, Portugal and Japan.

### Mr. Ricky Yau, IDS

Deputy Commissioner and Head of Operations  
Independent Commission Against Corruption

Mr. Yau joined the Independent Commission Against Corruption as an Investigator in 1994, after having served as an Executive Officer in the Hong Kong Government for eight years. He rose through the ranks to Chief Investigator in 1999, Principal Investigator in 2004, Assistant Director in 2007 and Director of Investigation in 2014.

During his ICAC career, he has served in a wide range of positions variously responsible for conducting and supervising corruption investigations in both public and private sectors, as well as undertaking management and operational support work.

Mr. Yau began to head the Operations Department in July 2016, and was appointed as the Deputy Commissioner and Head of Operations in August 2018.

Mr. Yau holds a Bachelor degree in Social Sciences (1986) from the University of Hong Kong, and a Master of Science degree in Public Sector Management (1992) from Aston University, United Kingdom.





# PANEL

## DISCUSSION II

Integrity in Action: Aligning Agencies, Policies for Anti-Corruption Impact – Statutory Offences and Common Law Offences

### Mr. Victor Dawes SC, BBS

Non-Executive Director of the Securities and Futures Commission

Mr. Victor Dawes is a Non-Executive Director of the Securities and Futures Commission (SFC). A Senior Counsel practising from Temple Chambers in Hong Kong, Mr. Dawes is a commercial litigator specialising in banking, company and securities laws.

Mr. Dawes is the former Chairman of the Hong Kong Bar Association, and currently the Co-Chairman of the Standing Committee on Mainland Affairs.

Mr. Dawes is a recorder of the High Court. He is also an arbitrator and a member of the Advisory Body appointed under Part 10A of the Arbitration Ordinance.

Mr. Dawes is Deputy Chairman of the SFC's Audit Committee. He sits on the Remuneration Committee, Nominations Committee and the SFC (HKEC Listing) Appeals Committee. Mr. Dawes is also the Chairman of the Investor and Financial Education Council.

### Moderator: Ms. Angel Wong

Council Member of the Hong Kong Bar Association

Ms. Angel Wong served as the Chairman of the Young Barristers' Committee of the Hong Kong Bar Association (YBC) for two terms between 2023 and 2025. She is now a member of the YBC as well as the Bar Council.

Angel is developing a broad civil and criminal practice. She has experience in handling disputes involving land, probate, contracts and companies, as well as criminal matters. In 2024, she was awarded the Patrick Yu Memorial Scholarship.

Angel has been accredited as a HKMAAL General Mediator in 2021 and she became a MCI Arb in April 2022.

She now also chairs the Steering Committee of the charitable initiative Hong Kong Legal Walk.







# HONG KONG BAR ASSOCIATION

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