## Statement of the Hong Kong Bar Association On Reports of Multiple Arrests Made of Mainland Legal Professionals

- 1. The Hong Kong Bar Association registers its deep concerns arising from recent reports of a large number of members of the mainland legal profession having being detained, taken away for questioning or having had their movements restricted, all happening within a short span of time.
- 2. In a society that upholds the Rule of Law, legal professionals must be allowed to carry out their professional duties in defending their clients without fear. The right of their clients' choice of legal representation must also be protected.
- 3. The Hong Kong Bar Association earnestly calls upon the relevant mainland authorities strictly to conform to due process in the course of investigation and enforcement actions, respect the fundamental rights of legal professionals, and refrain from harassing and, without good cause, arresting or detaining legal professionals.

Hong Kong Bar Association 18 July 2015