

Report of the Standing Committee on Mainland Affairs 2024

I. Introduction

1. 2024 has been another productive year for the Standing Committee on Mainland Affairs (“the **Committee**”). With a view to further strengthening communication between the Bar and the legal sector in the Mainland, the Committee focused its work on the following areas:
 - (1) Providing foreign-related legal education in the Mainland (涉外法治人才培訓);
 - (2) Encouraging Members to develop their practice in the Greater Bay Area (“the **GBA**”);
 - (3) Attending Mainland-related legal forums on behalf of the HKBA; and
 - (4) Receiving delegates from the Mainland on behalf of the HKBA.

II. Foreign-related legal education

2. The HKBA has conducted foreign-related legal training in various parts of the Mainland, including Beijing, Shanghai and Chengdu.

Common law Course with the Peking University (“Peking U”)

3. From February to June 2024, the HKBA co-organised the annual Common Law Course (《普通法精要·公法》課程) with Peking U. The course comprised 13 lectures and a moot court assessment, most of which were held at the campus of Peking U. The course was taught in English for the first time and the syllabus has expanded to include substantive legal topics including administrative law, contract law, equity law and criminal law. The target attendees of the course were both undergraduate and post-graduate law students at Peking U.
4. Over 30 barristers participated in the course as lecturers and/or moot court assessors in the course. The HKBA granted scholarships to students with outstanding performance in the course and arranged for them to observe barristers’ work in various sets of chambers in Hong Kong in July 2024.

Common Law Course with the East China University of Political Science and Law (“the ECUPL”)

5. In 2023, the HKBA co-organised the inaugural Common Law Course with the ECUPL in Shanghai (《普通法精要》課程) (“the **2003 Course**”). From 2 July to 9 August 2024, 30 students from the 2023 Course came to Hong Kong and spent about two weeks with members of the Bar in their chambers.

6. This year, from September to November, the HKBA co-organised the 2024 Common Law Course with ECUPL. The course comprised 8 lessons and was conducted in English. Written assessments were given by lecturers from the Bar to the students at the end of the course. The target attendees of the course were university students at ECUPL.

Common Law Course for the Chengdu Tianfu Central Legal Services District (成都天府中央法務區) (“the Tianfu District”)

7. The HKBA co-organised the inaugural Common Law Course at the Tianfu District (《普通法精要》課程), which commenced in September 2024 and will be completed in April 2025. The course comprises around 9 lectures in Putonghua. The target attendees of the course are members of the legal profession in Chengdu.
8. Around 20 lecturers from the Bar have taught or will be teaching the course. 7 lecturers attended the Opening Ceremony and the Inaugural Lectures of the Course on 4 and 5 September 2024.

Arbitration Course organised by the Ministry of Justice

9. Members acted as lecturers or mock arbitration arbitrators and coaches in the National Foreign-related Arbitration Training Course (全國涉外仲裁人才培訓班) organised by the Ministry of Justice in December 2024. The lectures and mock arbitrations were conducted in Putonghua. The target attendees of the course were legal professionals across the Country.

Memoranda of Understanding (“MOU”)

10. In addition to participating in the above legal courses, the HKBA signed the following MOUs with the lawyers’ associations in Shanghai and Zhejiang for collaborations in foreign-related legal training to be held in these cities.
11. On 27 July 2024, the HKBA and the Zhejiang Lawyers Association signed an MOU for cooperation in promoting the rule of law and foreign-related legal training in Zhejiang.
12. On 25 October 2024, the HKBA and the Shanghai Lawyers Association signed an MOU for promoting exchange and arrangement of foreign-related legal training for, *inter alia*, the legal profession in Shanghai.

III. Supporting Members to develop their Practice in the GBA

13. The HKBA continues to encourage members to participate in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Legal Professional Examination and to develop their practice in the GBA.
14. On 25 to 26 January 2024, members of the Committee joined the delegation led by the Bar Chairman to visit Guangzhou and Shenzhen. The delegation paid visits to, *inter alia*, the Guangdong Department of Justice, the Guangdong Lawyers Association and the Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration.

15. On 30 August 2024, members of the Committee attended and spoke in the “GBA Express (Zhuhai): The 4th Guangdong Hong Kong Macao Greater Bay Area (Guangdong) Enterprise Legal Services Forum” held in Foshan and Guangzhou, promoting the Bar’s legal services to Mainland enterprises involved in cross-border business.
16. On 11 December 2024, members of the Committee spoke in the Second Business Conference on Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development. The conference was jointly organised by the Hong Kong SAR Government, the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), the People’s Government of Guangdong Province and the Macao SAR Government, with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council as the strategic partner. In the conference, the HKBA highlighted the distinctive advantages of Hong Kong’s legal system and its important role in the development of the rule of law in the Country.

IV. Attendance of Legal Forums

17. Members of the Committee have actively participated in visits and legal forums in different parts of the Mainland with the objective of further strengthening the relationship between the HKBA and the legal sector in the Mainland:
 - (1) **Chengdu**: From 24 to 26 April 2024, members of the Committee attended and spoke at the 4th Tianfu District Legal Commercial Collaboration & Chengdu-Hong Kong Legal Services Forum (天府中央法務區法商融合對接洽談會暨川港法律事務交流會);
 - (2) **Jiangsu**: On 4 May 2024, members of the Committee attended and spoke at the Jiangsu Foreign Legal Services Promotion Seminar (江蘇省涉外法律服務推介活動) organised by Jiangsu Lawyers Association in Hong Kong;
 - (3) **Hainan**: On 16 October 2024, members of the Committee attended the Hainan Legal Week and participated in discussions about developing a comprehensive foreign-related legal framework to support the development of the Hainan Free Trade Port.

V. Receiving Delegations from the Mainland

18. Members of the Committee received, *inter alia*, the following Mainland delegations. During the exchange with the delegates, the Committee explained the Hong Kong legal system and the nature the Bar’s work to the delegates and engaged in discussions on various topical issues with the delegates:
 - (1) Representatives from the Jiangsu Lawyers Association and the Jiangsu Department of Justice (May 2024);
 - (2) Representatives from the Chongqing Arbitration Commission (May 2024);

- (3) 21 Mainland officials under the Training Scheme in Common Law for Mainland Legal Officials sponsored by the Department of Justice (June 2024);
- (4) 30 Mainland students and 20 Mainland young lawyers who participated in Invitational Moot Arbitration Competition (July 2024);
- (5) 14 Mainland officials from 7 Justice Bureaux/Departments who joined the Department of Justice exchange program (September 2024);
- (6) 30 Mainland judges who joined the 17th Judicial Science Programme organised by the City University of Hong Kong (September 2024);
- (7) Representatives from the Shanghai Lawyers' Association (November 2024);
- (8) Representatives from the Guangdong Department of Justice and the Guangdong Lawyers Association (November 2024);
- (9) Representatives from the Zhejiang Department of Justice and the Zhejiang Lawyers Association (November 2024); and
- (10) Representatives from the Tianfu District (December 2024).

Membership:

Richard Khaw, SC (Co-Chair)
 Douglas Lam, SC (Co-Chair)
 Eva Y.W. Sit, SC
 Anthony H.K., Chan, SC
 Jimmy Y.T. Ma
 Frederick H.F. Chan
 Charles K.C. Chan
 Albert Shi King Ho
 Catrina D.W. Lam
 Tony Ko
 Sabrina S.Y. Ho (Secretary)
 Clay Huen
 Richard H.L. Yip
 Adrian Chun Kit Wong
 Yanan Kang
 Katy H.T. Chung
 Carol L.W. Wong
 Alex Hoi Kit Fan
 Jacqueline Hoi Man Law
 Chantel Y. Lin
 Michael Hui Yin Lok
 Theresa L. Chow
 Cherry Qili Xu
 Keith Tam
 Brian M.H. Chok
 Adela Mao Mao

Xizhen Wang
Tiffany P.L. Chan
Jeffrey K.L. Lee
Harrison Kee Chang Miao
Yuan He
Leon Junye Guo
Kelly Hui Kiu Cheng
Ian P.N. Chu
Wai Fung Yip
John C.K. Chan
Matthew H.B. Suen
Selina J.Q. Kung (Associate Member)

Richard Khaw SC, Douglas Lam SC
Co-chairpersons of the Standing Committee on Mainland Affairs

2 January 2025