



THE
LAW SOCIETY
OF HONG KONG
香港律師會



HONG KONG BAR ASSOCIATION
香港大律師公會

Press Release
(For immediate release)

2 April 2022

**Joint Statement of The Legal Profession regarding
Overseas Non-Permanent Judges of the Court of Final Appeal**

1. Since 1st July 1997, the participation of overseas non-permanent judges (“NPJs”), who are all eminent Judges from other common law jurisdictions with the highest standing, in the work of the Court of Final Appeal has made significant contribution to the administration of justice in Hong Kong.
2. The Law Society of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Bar Association (together “the Legal Profession”) are immensely grateful to all current and former NPJs for their faithful and fearless discharge of their important role in the administration of justice in accordance with the law.
3. The Legal Profession welcomes the indications by the five British NPJs, the three Australian NPJs and the Canadian NPJ that they will remain and serve on our highest court as the Legal Profession strongly supports the continuation of the role of the overseas NPJs in the administration of justice in Hong Kong as provided for in the Basic Law.
4. It is encouraging to note the British NPJs affirmatively stating that they were “entirely satisfied of the independence and integrity which [their] colleagues on the CFA bring to [maintaining the rule of law and reviewing the acts of the executive]”. The Legal Profession considers that while legal issues may arise in context having a political dimension, politics has no role to play in the law or the administration of justice.