



**Statement by the Law Society of Hong Kong in response to the Staff Research Report
May 2023 by the US Congressional-Executive Commission on China**

1. The Law Society of Hong Kong notes the publication of a Staff Research Report May 2023 by the US Congressional-Executive Commission on China. The Report is titled “One City, Two Legal Systems: Hong Kong Judges’ Role in Rights Violations under the National Security Law”.
2. The Law of the People’s Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (“NSL”) is a national law formulated by the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (“NPCSC”) in accordance with the Constitution of the People’s Republic of China and the Basic Law of HKSAR (“Basic Law”).
3. The Law Society condemns any attempt to undermine the administration of justice or challenge the rule of law or judicial independence of the Hong Kong justice system.
4. Judicial independence is constitutionally entrenched in the Basic Law. Article 2 guarantees independent judicial power, including that of final adjudication in accordance with the provisions of the Basic Law; Article 19 provides that Hong Kong shall be vested with independent judicial power; and Article 85 provides that the courts shall exercise judicial power independently, free from any interference.
5. The constitutional role of judges and judicial officers is to apply the law. Article 84 of the Basic Law states that judges and judicial officers shall adjudicate cases in accordance with the law. The Judicial Oath requires all judges and judicial officers to safeguard the law and administer justice without fear or favour.
6. Any attempt to exert pressure by the implementation of sanctions against a judge due to the type of cases that he or she is assigned to handle is an affront to the rule of law and judicial integrity. The Law Society calls for respect for the rule of law and an immediate halt to making any unfounded allegations on the justice system of Hong Kong.

**The Law Society of Hong Kong
12 May 2023**