



Law Society Statement on the recent resignations and retirement of non-permanent judges of the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal (“CFA”)

1. Under the novel concept of “One Country, Two Systems” unique to Hong Kong, there is in place a distinguishing feature in the constitution of CFA as the final appellate court in Hong Kong - in addition to the Chief Justice and permanent judges, there is a panel of non-permanent judges (“NPJs”) from Hong Kong and other common law jurisdictions invited as required to sit on the CFA.
2. The Law Society of Hong Kong is grateful to all current and former NPJs, who are all eminent judges from common law jurisdictions with the highest standing, for their faithful and fearless discharge of their important role in the administration of justice in accordance with the law.
3. Their participation in the work of CFA has made significant contributions and the Law Society 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. The composition of the panel of overseas NPJs may vary over time depending on the terms of appointment for individual NPJs. Notwithstanding changes in the composition, the Law Society Council has full confidence in the judicial system and in the judicial officers appointed through the system from time to time in upholding the rule of law and judicial independence.

**The Law Society of Hong Kong
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