

For Immediate Release

19 November 2021

Opening Ceremony of Law Week 30th Anniversary The Law Society's Time Capsule Revealing Legal Treasures



An annual flagship programme of The Law Society of Hong Kong (“The Law Society”), Law Week aims at promoting legal services and enhancing legal knowledge of the general public. Law Week 30th Anniversary kicked off today (19 November 2021) at an Opening Ceremony themed “Serving the Public Good for Three Decades”.

In his welcome remarks, President of The Law Society, Mr. C. M. Chan, said Law Week has organised a wide range of activities in a light-hearted manner over the past 30 years to promote legal knowledge closely related to people’s daily lives. Since its inauguration, Law Week has engaged more than 2,000 Law Society members as volunteers, serving over 50,000 people through the provision of about 130 community talks, free legal advice programmes and other activities. Since 2016, the Organising Committee has also produced nearly 60 short videos to promote legal knowledge, which are broadcast on social media with a viewership of over 1.74 million. He hopes that the Law Week can benefit more general public. Through Law Week, we help the public better understand the law, thereby promoting the law-abiding spirit and contributing to the well-being of society.

In her speech, the Chief Executive, the Hon Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor, GBM, GBS, said, “I am glad to attend the Opening Ceremony of Law Week 30th Anniversary of The Law Society. Since 1991, The Law Society has annually organised Law Week to promote legal knowledge to members of the public through different activities, including free legal community talks, production of short legal videos, etc.,

to strengthen and enhance the spirit of the rule of law in our society.” She said that she had attended the Opening Ceremony of Law Week 2017, and she supports and recognises the work done by The Law Society in promoting the rule of law.

In his speech, the Chief Justice of the Court of Final Appeal, the Hon Andrew CHEUNG Kui-nung, GBM, said, “The Law Society has organised Law Week since 1991. For 30 years, Law Week has successfully promoted better understanding of legal knowledge by the community through the provision of legal services. More diversified services have been introduced through the years in keeping with the times.” He believed that this year’s Law Week, themed “Serving the Public Good for Three Decades”, can benefit members of the public through a wide range of activities and encouraged public participation in them.

The Secretary for Justice, the Hon Teresa Cheng Yeuk-wah, GBM, GBS, SC, JP, said that legal professionals play an important role in advancing access to justice. Law Week is a clear example of the legal sector discharging its social responsibility, echoing the Department of Justice’s vision of “Rule of Law and Justice for All”. “I am sincerely appreciative of The Law Society’s substantial investment of resources over the years and the valuable time and professional knowledge that all the solicitors have contributed. By collaboration for synergy, members of the profession have joined hands together to promote sustainable development of our rule-based society to maintain the prosperity and stability of Hong Kong,” added Ms Teresa Cheng.

Also officiating the ceremony were:

- **The Hon Elsie Leung Oi-sie, GBM, JP**, former Secretary for Justice
- **Dr. Anthony Chow Wing-kin, SBS, JP**, Past President of The Law Society
- **Mr. Paul Harris, SC**, Chairman of the Hong Kong Bar Association
- **Mr. Thomas Edward Kwong, JP**, Director of Legal Aid, Legal Aid Department, The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
- **Ms. Melissa Kaye Pang, BBS, MH, JP**, Immediate Past President of The Law Society
- **Ms. Nadine Lai**, Chairlady of the Law Week 30th Anniversary Organising Committee
- **Ms. Bonita Chan Bow-ye**, Chairlady of the Law Week 1997 Organising Committee

To celebrate this memorable occasion, a legal time capsule created in the Law Week Opening Ceremony back in 1997 was opened today after 24 years of preservation. The legal time capsule is a testament to the robust legal system in Hong Kong, featuring items that represent the milestones of the legal systems in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (“SAR”) and Macao SAR. The legal treasures retrieved from the time capsule at today’s Opening Ceremony include:

- The Basic Law
- Policy Commitment of the Department of Justice
- The first determination in the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal
- Judgment for “Reservations Question of Law No. 1 of 1997” in the Court of Appeal of the High Court of Hong Kong
- The first Chinese judgment in the Court of Appeal of the High Court of Hong Kong
- List of Practising Barristers in 1997
- 1996/97 Annual Statement of Hong Kong Bar Association
- Performance Pledge Booklet for reviewing the time required to apply for legal aid
- The 1997 Progress Report of Legal Aid Work under the former Chief Executive’s Policy Guidelines
- The Law List 1997
- 1996 Annual Report of The Law Society
- The First Day Cover set of Law Week 1997

- Ends -



Photo Captions:

Kick-off ceremony



The Opening Ceremony of Law Week 30th Anniversary is officiated by distinguished guests from the government of the Hong Kong SAR and legal sector, and representatives of The Law Society.

Opening of the legal time capsule



Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of Law Week, guests open a legal time capsule that was created in 1997 as a testament to the robust legal system in Hong Kong.

Group photo



Distinguished guests celebrate the 30th Anniversary of Law Week.

Appendix : Law Week 30th Anniversary activities

Free Legal Community Talks

Four sessions of free community talks will be held on the evenings of 20 and 23 December 2021 on a number of topics, namely personal injury and compensation, family law, wills and probate, and building management. The community talks will be delivered onsite and through livestreaming for citizens to interact with the volunteer solicitors regarding their legal queries. Citizens can register online to pick topics of their interest and choose their preferred mode of attendance.

Date	20 December (Monday)	23 December (Thursday)
Time & Topics	Seminar 1: Personal Injury and Compensation (7:00pm - 8:20pm)	Seminar 1: Wills and Probate (7:00pm - 8:20pm)
	Seminar 2: Family Law (8:20pm - 9:40pm)	Seminar 2: Building Management (8:20pm - 9:40pm)
Venue	Option 1: Attend in person Conference Room, Administration Building, Hong Kong Cultural Centre Option 2: Join online via Zoom	
Registration Method	Pre-register online: <i>(Registration starts on 8 November)</i> Fill in the online registration form: https://forms.gle/Pn7QbDjmu5Mf59C67	

Free Legal Advice Programme

A team of volunteer solicitors led by The Law Society will provide free legal advice service to citizens in the first quarter of 2022. More than 30 volunteer solicitors will be available for consultation by citizens about their immediate legal concerns, covering areas such as employees' compensation and personal injury compensation, criminal law, family law, wills and probate, building management, as well as conveyancing and property.

Legal Tips Videos and Legal Knowledge Video Series

The Law Society has invited a number of volunteer solicitors to participate in filming a series of short legal tips videos on a wide range of everyday-life legal issues. Topics include personal consumption, family life, employment rights, etc. The solicitors will share their legal knowledge and explain the legal provisions in layman's terms.



Moreover, an interesting five-episode legal knowledge mini-drama series will be available soon! The mini-drama series adopts the concept of time-travelling to take the audience through different eras to discuss legal issues that they encounter in their daily lives. Citizens can refresh their legal knowledge, and most importantly learn more about how to protect their own rights and those of others.

The videos will be uploaded to the Law Week's social media channels:

- Law Week Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/hklawweek>
- Law Week Instagram page: @lawweekhk
- Law Week YouTube Channel: @香港律師會 Law Week 法律周



About The Law Society of Hong Kong

The Law Society of Hong Kong was established in 1907 as a professional body for solicitors in Hong Kong. As of October 2021, The Law Society had 12,676 members. The aims of The Law Society are 1) to preserve the character, status and interests of solicitors in Hong Kong; 2) to maintain professional standards and conduct; 3) to administrate the rules and regulations relating to discipline; 4) to assist members in developing and maintaining their practices; 5) to ensure the accurate representation of the views of solicitors; 6) to provide various services to members; and 7) to consider all matters of interest to the profession and to promote reform of the law or practice on its behalf.

Law Week Facebook Page : <https://www.facebook.com/hklawweek>

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Law Week YouTube Channel: @香港律師會 Law Week 法律周

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