

## 與相關持分者的聯繫

### Communication with Relevant Stakeholders



法援局自成立以來，一直與負責制定法律援助政策及管理法律援助署（法援署）的政策局保持密切聯繫。在2022-2023年間，政府告知本局關於政府就不同法援議題提出的建議或表達的立場，包括呈交立法會司法及法律事務委員會的文件，這些文件涉及法援申請人財務資格限額的周年檢討及有關法援的政策措施。

法援署自1970年成立以來，為經濟能力有限的人提供法援，讓其得以尋求正義伸張。本局亦會繼續與法援署緊密聯繫，確保市民大眾能得到法律援助服務，以維護及加強香港法治。此外，香港大律師公會已設立大律師公會法律義助服務計劃，旨在向未能獲得法律援助而又無法支付法律費用的申請人提供免費法律諮詢及代表服務，惟有關個案須獲該計劃認為值得提供援助。本局主席為該計劃諮詢委員會的成員。

Since its establishment, the LASC has been maintaining regular contacts with the government bureau responsible for formulating legal aid policy and housekeeping the Legal Aid Department (LAD). In 2022-2023, the Council was kept informed by the Government on its proposals or positions in relation to legal aid issues, including the papers submitted to the Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services of Legislative Council concerning the annual review of financial eligibility limits of legal aid applicants and the policy initiatives in respect of legal aid.

Since its establishment in 1970, LAD has assumed an important role in providing access to justice for people of limited means. The Council will continue to work hand in hand with LAD in ensuring the accessibility of legal aid services to the public to contribute towards upholding and enhancing the rule of law in Hong Kong. Meanwhile, the Bar Free Legal Service Scheme has been established by the Hong Kong Bar Association to provide free legal advice and representation in cases where legal aid is not available or where the applicant is unable to afford legal assistance, and the case is thought to be one where assistance should be given. The Council Chairman is a member of the Advisory Board for the Scheme.

偶有個別立法會議員或市民提出對某些法律援助事宜的批評，有些更會在社交媒體廣泛流傳，某些誤解和偏見可能會引起大眾關注。正如之前提及，本局會與法援署緊密聯繫，積極提升香港法律援助服務的正面形象。在這方面，本局已建議法援署制定公眾溝通計劃，通過適當的溝通渠道迅速作出回應，以釐清社會對法援服務的誤解和缺乏事實根據的批評。

於2023年初，本局主席代表本局出席數項法律界的重要活動，從而推廣香港的法律援助服務，其中出席包括2023年法律年度開啟典禮以及香港律師會周年招待酒會。香港大律師公會主席更在開啟典禮致辭時提及法律援助制度的重要性，並肯定法援署在法律制度下協助正義伸張的出色表現。

From time to time, there were criticisms raised by some members of Legislative Council and the public on certain legal aid issues and sometimes even further going viral through social media. The misperceptions and biased opinions might draw grave concerns on the public. As said above, the Council would work closely with LAD to proactively reinforce the positive image of legal aid services in Hong Kong. To this end, the Council has suggested LAD to establish a public communication plan for dispelling social misconceptions and unfounded criticisms on legal aid services in a responsive manner through appropriate communication channels.

In early 2023, on behalf of the Council, the Chairman attended a couple of significant events in the legal profession to promote the services of legal aid in Hong Kong, including but not limited to the ceremonial opening of the legal year 2023 and the annual cocktail reception of the Law Society of Hong Kong. On this note, The Chairman of Hong Kong Bar Association had mentioned the importance of legal aid system in his speech at the ceremonial opening and acknowledged the good work of LAD in assisting fair access to the legal system.