

与相关持分者的联系

Communication with Relevant Stakeholders



法援局自成立以来，一直与负责制定法律援助政策及管理法律援助署（法援署）的政策局保持密切联系。在2022-2023年间，政府告知本局关于政府就不同法援议题提出的建议或表达的立场，包括呈交立法会司法及法律事务委员会的文件，这些文件涉及法援申请人财务资格限额的周年检讨及有关法援的政策措施。

法援署自1970年成立以来，为经济能力有限的人提供法援，让其得以寻求正义伸张。本局亦会继续与法援署紧密联系，确保市民大众能得到法律援助服务，以维护及加强香港法治。此外，香港大律师公会已设立大律师公会法律义助服务计划，旨在向未能获得法律援助而又无法支付法律费用的申请人提供免费法律咨询及代表服务，惟有关个案须获该计划认为值得提供援助。本局主席为该计划咨询委员会的成员。

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.

偶有个别立法会议员或市民提出对某些法律援助事宜的批评，有些更会在社交媒体广泛流传，某些误解和偏见可能会引起大众关注。正如之前提及，本局会与法援署紧密联系，积极提升香港法律援助服务的正面形象。在这方面，本局已建议法援署制定公众沟通计划，通过适当的沟通渠道迅速作出回应，以厘清社会对法援服务的误解和缺乏事实根据的批评。

于2023年初，本局主席代表本局出席数项法律界的重要活动，从而推广香港的法律援助服务，其中出席包括2023年法律年度开启典礼以及香港律师会周年招待酒会。香港大律师公会主席更在开启典礼致辞时提及法律援助制度的重要性，并肯定法援署在法律制度下协助正义伸张的出色表现。

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.