

法律年度開啟典禮 Ceremonial Opening of the Legal Year



「不單應秉行公正，還應使其有目共睹，讓人清楚看見秉行公正。」

"Justice should not only be done but should be manifestly seen to be done."

我們舉行法律年度開啟典禮，目的是強化司法機構的形象，使社會各界明白司法機構獨立自主的重要，讓市民大眾更加瞭解我們的使命是維護法治、保障個人權利和自由，及取得中港和國際人士對香港司法制度的信任。

The Ceremonial Opening of the Legal Year serves to strengthen among the community the importance of an independent Judiciary with its mission in upholding the rule of law, safeguarding the rights and freedoms of individuals, and commanding confidence within and outside Hong Kong.

法律年度開啟典禮的歷史源遠流長，可追溯至二十世紀初期。開啟典禮通常會在每年一月份的一個星期一舉行，所有法官及司法人員、律政人員及法律執業者均會參與其中。此外，更有不少知名人士蒞臨觀禮。

The ceremonial opening has a long history dated back to the early years of the 20th century. It is usually held on a Monday in January each year and is attended by all Judges and Judicial Officers, Law Officers, legal practitioners and distinguished guests.





開啟典禮當日，終審法院首席法官首先檢閱儀仗隊，為開啟典禮的儀式揭開序幕。在典禮進行時，終審法院首席法官、律政司司長、香港大律師公會主席及香港律師會會長都會相繼發表演說。

每年法律年度開啟典禮的儀式中，權杖員拿著權杖走在終審法院首席法官前頭。

主權移交之前，權杖的頂端是皇冠，象徵英國皇室的權力。1997年7月1日之後，中華人民共和國香港特別行政區的區徽取代了這個皇冠標誌。

權杖象徵終審法院首席法官的職權，也象徵著司法機構獨立的、維護法治的制度。

The ceremony is preceded by an inspection by the Chief Justice of a Guard of Honour. At the ceremony, the Chief Justice, the Secretary for Justice, the Chairman of the Hong Kong Bar Association and the President of the Law Society of Hong Kong deliver addresses.

At the opening ceremony of each Legal Year, the Mace is carried by the mace-bearer preceding the Honourable Chief Justice.

Before the change of sovereignty, the Mace was a symbol of the Royal authority with the butt end bearing the crown. Since 1 July 1997, the crown has been replaced by the emblem of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China.

The Mace symbolises the office of the Honourable Chief Justice and of the institution of the independent Judiciary upholding the rule of law.

