JORC Report 2025

The 2025 Judicial Officers Recommendation Commission ("JORC") Report gives an overview of JORC, and reports on its work during the year.

As part of our continued efforts towards environmental protection, we will only upload the Report on the website of the Judiciary.

Separately, there is a publication available on the Judiciary's website that provides an account of JORC, covering its constitution, functions, membership and operations. It also contains a description of the different levels of court and the various judicial offices.

Andrew Cheung
Chief Justice
Chairman of the Judicial Officers Recommendation Commission

Membership of JORC

1. In 2025, the Chief Executive re-appointed two members of JORC and appointed a new member to JORC for a term of two years up to 30 June 2027. The membership in 2025 is listed below –

Ex officio chairman and member

The Honourable Chief Justice Andrew CHEUNG Kui-nung, GBM (Chairman)

The Honourable Mr Paul LAM Ting-kwok, GBS, SC, JP (Secretary for Justice)

Judges

The Honourable Mr Justice Jeremy POON Shiu-chor
(from 11 January 2021 to 30 June 2022)
(from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2024)
(from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2026)

The Honourable Madam Justice Carlye CHU Fun-ling
(from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2020)
(from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2022)
(from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2024)
(from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2026)

Barrister and solicitor

Mr Victor DAWES, BBS, SC (barrister)
(from 1 April 2022 to 30 June 2023)
(from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2025)
(from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2027)

Ms Melissa Kaye PANG, BBS, MH, JP (solicitor)
(from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2023)
(from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2025)

Mr Roden TONG Man-lung, BBS (solicitor)
(from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2027)

Persons not connected with the practice of law

Mr Carlson TONG, GBS, JP
(from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2025)
(from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2027)

Mr Philip CHEN Nan-lok, GBS, JP
(from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2026)

Professor Nancy IP Yuk-yu, SBS, BBS, MH, JP
(from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2026)

Secretary to JORC

2. Ms Esther LEUNG Yuet-yin, the Judiciary Administrator, has been appointed the Secretary to JORC since 20 July 2020.

Work of JORC

1. Recommendations on judicial appointments were usually discussed and decided by JORC through meetings and occasionally through circulation of papers. In the year 2025, three meetings were held at which 12 papers were discussed and a paper was circulated for consideration. JORC passed resolutions on 40 recommendations on judicial appointments which were accepted by the Chief Executive (CE), comprising six recommendations relating to new appointments, nine relating to extension of term of office, and 25 on renewal of contracts. Details are at page 6.

Recommendations relating to new judicial appointments made in 2025

1. The six recommendations relating to new judicial appointments made by JORC and accepted by the CE in the year 2025 include two at the Court of Final Appeal level, three at the High Court level and one at the District Court level. Details are shown in the tables below.

Court of Final Appeal		**High Court**		**District Court**
Permanent Judge	Non-Permanent Judge from Another Common Law Jurisdiction	Justice of Appeal	Judge of the Court of First Instance of the High Court	Principal Family Court Judge
1	1	2	1	1

2. Apart from new judicial appointments, JORC also made 34 recommendations relating to extension of term of office and renewal of contract at three different levels of court, which were accepted by the CE. Details are shown in the table below.

	High Court	**District Court**	**Magistrates' Courts**
Extension of term of office	4 (Justice of Appeal) 2 (Senior Deputy Registrar of the High Court)	3 (District Judge)	-
Renewal of contract	-	-	25 (Magistrate)

Judicial Appointments made on the recommendation of JORC in 2025

1. On the recommendation of JORC, the Chief Executive made the following judicial appointments to take effect in 2025 at different levels of court as set out in the ensuing paragraphs.

Court of Final Appeal

2. The Honourable Sir William Gillow Gibbes Austen YOUNG, KNZM, KC was appointed Non-Permanent Judge from another common law jurisdiction of the Court of Final Appeal for three years from 23 June 2025 to 22 June 2028.

High Court

3. Mr Justice Anthony CHAN Kin-keung, Judge of the Court of First Instance of the High Court was appointed as Justice of Appeal of the Court of Appeal of the High Court with effect from 12 September 2025.

4. Madam Justice Winnie TSUI Wan-wah, Judge of the Court of First Instance of the High Court was appointed President, Lands Tribunal with effect from 1January 2025.

5. Mr Eugene FUNG Ting-sek, SC was appointed Judge of the Court of First Instance of the High Court with effect from 12 September 2025.

6. Mr Eric KWOK Tung-ming, SC was appointed Recorder of the Court of First Instance of the High Court for three years from 1 May 2025 to 30 April 2028.

7. Miss Maggie WONG Pui-kei, SC and Mr Derek CHAN Ching-lung, SC were re-appointed Recorders of the Court of First Instance of the High Court for another three years from 1 May 2025 to 30 April 2028.

Magistrates' Courts

8. Mr David CHEUNG Chi-wai and Mr Timon SHUM Kei-leong were appointed Principal Magistrates with effect from 16 September 2025.

9. Seven persons were appointed Magistrates –

With effect from 14 August 2025
Ms LI Ying-yue

With effect from 9 October 2025
Mr Tobias CHENG Yun-chung
Ms Claudia NG Cheuk-hwa
Mr Eric YAO Kwok-sun

With effect from 10 December 2025
Ms Shirley Cornelia HUNG
Mr George LAM Ting-wah
Ms Jennifer NG Che-ling

Bio-data of the Chairman and Members of JORC

Chairman

The Honourable Chief Justice Andrew CHEUNG Kui-nung, GBM

Chief Justice Cheung read law at the University of Hong Kong, graduating with a Bachelor of Laws in 1983 and a Postgraduate Certificate in Laws in 1984. In 1985, he obtained a Master of Laws from the University of Harvard. He was called to the Hong Kong Bar in the same year, and in 1995 he was admitted as an Advocate and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Singapore.

Chief Justice Cheung was in private practice in Hong Kong before joining the Judiciary as a District Judge in June 2001. He started sitting as a Deputy High Court Judge in December 2001 and was appointed as a Judge of the Court of First Instance of the High Court in 2003. Chief Justice Cheung was made the Probate Judge in 2004 and the Judge in charge of the Constitutional and Administrative Law List in 2008.

In 2011, Chief Justice Cheung was appointed Chief Judge of the High Court and thereby became President of the Court of Appeal of the High Court. In October 2018, Chief Justice Cheung was appointed as a Permanent Judge of the Court of Final Appeal. In January 2021, he was appointed Chief Justice of the Court of Final Appeal.

Chief Justice Cheung was awarded the Grand Bauhinia Medal in 2021. He was made an Honorary Bencher of Lincoln's Inn in 2017.

Ex officio member

Secretary for Justice, The Honourable Paul LAM Ting-kwok, GBS, SC, JP

Mr Paul Lam, SC, was appointed Secretary for Justice on 1 July 2022.

Before joining the Government, Mr Lam was a Senior Counsel in private practice specialising in general civil and commercial proceedings, and has passed the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Legal Professional Examination. He was a former Vice-Chairman of the Hong Kong Bar Association from 2014 to 2017 and the Chairman from 2017 to 2018. He sat as a Deputy Judge of the High Court of Hong Kong for short periods each year since 2015. He was once enlisted in the Panel of Arbitrators of the Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration and The China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission, and was once appointed by the China University of Political Science and Law in Beijing as professor.

Mr Lam held a number of public service positions, such as Chairman of the Consumer Council, Chairman of the Administrative Appeals Board, Chairman of Operations Review Committee of the Independent Commission Against Corruption and Member of the Independent Police Complaints Council.

Mr Lam was appointed Justice of the Peace in 2020. He was awarded the Silver Bauhinia Star and Gold Bauhinia Star in 2021 and 2025 respectively.

Members

The Honourable Mr Justice Jeremy POON Shiu-chor

Mr Justice Poon obtained the Bachelor of Laws and the Postgraduate Certificate in Laws both from the University of Hong Kong in 1985 and 1986 respectively. He further acquired the Master of Laws from the University College London in the United Kingdom in 1987. He was called to the Hong Kong Bar in 1986 and was in private practice between 1988 and 1993.

Mr Justice Poon joined the Judiciary as Magistrate in 1993. He was appointed as Deputy Registrar, High Court in 1999, and as Judge of the Court of First Instance of the High Court in 2006. While in the Court of First Instance, Mr Justice Poon was appointed the Civil Listing Judge, the Probate Judge, the Judge in charge of the Mental Health List and the Family Law List. In 2015, he was appointed as Justice of Appeal of the Court of Appeal of the High Court. He has been appointed as Chief Judge of the High Court since 18 December 2019.

Mr Justice Poon chairs or is a member of various committees and working parties within the Judiciary.

The Honourable Madam Justice Carlye CHU Fun-ling

Madam Justice Chu graduated from the University of Hong Kong with a Bachelor of Laws in 1982 and a Postgraduate Certificate in Laws in 1983. In 1984, she obtained a Master of Laws from London School of Economics and Political Science. She obtained a Master of Social Sciences in Criminology from the University of Hong Kong in 1994.

Madam Justice Chu was called to the Hong Kong Bar in 1983. She was in private practice before joining the Judiciary in 1991 as Magistrate. She was appointed as District Judge in 1995, Deputy Registrar of the High Court in 1997, Registrar of the High Court in 1999 and Judge of the Court of First Instance of the High Court in 2000. She was appointed as Justice of Appeal of the Court of Appeal of the High Court in 2011, and Vice-President of the Court of Appeal of the High Court in 2022.

Madam Justice Chu has been serving on various committees and working parties within the Judiciary. She is an Honorary Lecturer in the Department of Professional Legal Education of the Faculty of Law of the University of Hong Kong.

Mr Victor DAWES, BBS, SC

Mr Dawes, SC, read law at the London School of Economic and Political Science and graduated with a Bachelor of Laws in 1998. He then obtained his Postgraduate Certificate in Laws at the University of Hong Kong in 1999.

Mr Dawes was called to the Hong Kong Bar in 1999 and was appointed Senior Counsel in 2015. He was Chairman of the Hong Kong Bar Association from 2022 to 2024. He is also a Recorder of the Court of First Instance of the High Court, Chairman of the Air Transport Licensing Authority and a non-executive director of the Securities and Futures Commission.

Mr Dawes was awarded the Bronze Bauhinia Star in 2024.

Ms Melissa Kaye PANG, BBS, MH, JP
(up to 30 June 2025)

Ms Pang is the Past President of the Law Society of Hong Kong. She was elected the first female President of the Law Society of Hong Kong in 2018, and re-elected in 2019 and 2020. Ms Pang currently serves as Chairperson of Diversity and Inclusion Committee; Member of Standing Committee on Policy and Resources, External Affairs, Member Services and Mediation Committee. She was the Founding Chairperson of International Legal Affairs Committee and Pro Bono Committee.

Ms Pang is qualified to practise as a solicitor in Australia, England & Wales and Hong Kong. She is a Notary Public, Civil Celebrant, accredited mediator, Council Member of the Hong Kong Mediation Accreditation Association Limited and China Appointed Attesting Officer. She is also the Past President of LAWASIA.

Ms Pang is the Chairman of the Family Council, the Hong Kong Press Council and the Agency for Volunteer Service. She is the Chief Commissioner of the Hong Kong Girl Guides Association. She is also a member of Operations Review Committee of the Independent Commission Against Corruption and Building Committee of Hong Kong Housing Authority.

Ms Pang was awarded the Medal of Honour in 2006 and the Bronze Bauhinia Star in 2020. She was appointed Justice of the Peace in 2010.

Mr Roden TONG Man-lung, BBS
(since 1 July 2025)

Mr Tong has a robust background in litigation, dispute resolution, and insurance management. He was admitted as a solicitor in Hong Kong. Before transitioning to an in-house position in 2007, he worked as a solicitor specializing in litigation and dispute resolution.

Mr Tong is the Chief Executive of Berkley Insurance Company, where he oversees operations in Hong Kong for Berkley Insurance Asia. Under his guidance, the company has maintained a strong emphasis on Financial Lines and Specialty Insurance. He possesses extensive experience in managing complex claims across Asia, addressing high-profile issues such as Lehman-related investment mis-selling cases, U.S. securities class actions involving Hong Kong and mainland Chinese companies, U.S. SEC investigations, and large-scale fidelity claims. His client portfolio includes multinational corporations, listed companies, banks, and major financial institutions.

Mr Tong has made significant contribution to the legal community through his long-standing involvement with The Law Society of Hong Kong. Over the past two decades, he has actively participated in various committees and working groups, providing valuable insights and leadership. He was elected to the Council of The Law Society in 2016 and served as Vice-President in 2021. He was elected President in 2024 and then re-elected in 2025.

Beyond his professional responsibilities, Mr Tong is committed to community service, particularly in youth development and legal education. He is a member of the Junior Police Call Central Advisory Board and serves as an Executive Committee Member of Customs YES, a youth uniformed group under the Customs and Excise Department, where he promotes legal awareness among young people.

Mr Tong was awarded the Bronze Bauhinia Star in 2026.

Mr Carlson TONG, GBS, JP

Mr Tong is the Chairman of Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited. He is also an Independent Non-Executive Director of MTR Corporation Limited and the Hong Kong Investment Corporation Limited; and a director of the World Federation of Exchanges.

Mr Tong was Chairman of KPMG China and Hong Kong from 2007 to 2011, and was Chairman of the Asia-Pacific region and a member of KPMG's global board from 2009 to 2011. He was also an independent non-executive director of Standard Chartered PLC.

Mr Tong has been actively involved in capital markets throughout his career, with profound expertise in corporate governance and regulatory compliance. He served as a member of the Main Board and Growth Enterprise Market Listing Committee of The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited from 2002 to 2006 before becoming the chair from 2006 to 2008.

Mr Tong was appointed Chairman of the Securities and Futures Commission from 2012 to 2018. He oversaw the launch of several major policy initiatives during his term, including the introduction of the landmark Stock Connect programme and the mutual recognition of funds between Mainland China and Hong Kong.

Mr Tong has also been very active and devoted in serving the community, particularly in the education and youth sectors. He was Chairman of the English Schools Foundation, the Hong Kong Sports Institute and the University Grants Committee of Hong Kong.

Mr Tong is a Fellow of both the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW) and the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants. He received the 2022 ICAEW Outstanding Achievement Award, and was awarded an honorary Doctor of Business Administration by The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, as well as an honorary Doctor of Social Sciences by The Education University of Hong Kong.

Mr Tong was appointed Justice of the Peace in 2006. He was awarded the Silver Bauhinia Star and the Gold Bauhinia Star in 2014 and 2019 respectively.

Mr Philip CHEN Nan-lok, GBS, JP

Mr Chen is an Independent Non-Executive Director of Hang Lung Properties Limited. He retired as Chief Executive Officer of Hang Lung Group and Hang Lung Properties Limited in July 2018 and became Non-Executive Director of Hang Lung Properties Limited until January 2023.

Prior to joining Hang Lung in July 2010, Mr Chen had been with the Swire Group for thirty-three years. He was Chairman of John Swire & Sons (China) Limited, Chief Executive of Cathay Pacific Airways Limited, Chief Executive Officer of Hong Kong Dragon Airlines Limited, Executive Director of Swire Pacific Limited and John Swire & Sons (Hong Kong) Limited.

Over the years, in Hong Kong as well as overseas, Mr Chen has taken up major roles in various trade and community services. In community services, he has been actively involved mainly in areas relating to corruption prevention, education, commerce, aviation, logistics, tourism, and charities etc. He is also the Chief Editor of one volume of Hong Kong Chronicles.

Mr Chen is Past Chairman of the Hong Kong Jockey Club. He is currently a Vice Patron of the Hong Kong Community Chest. He is a Member of the Board of Airport Authority Hong Kong, Member of the Hong Kong-Japan Business Co-operation Committee, Advisor of Our Hong Kong Foundation, Director of both the China Overseas Friendship Association and the Shanghai Chinese Overseas Friendship Association, Honorary President of the Hong Kong Association of China Travel Organizers Limited, and Founder and Honorary President of the Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce in Beijing.

Mr Chen has great passion in education. For his Alma Mater, the University of Hong Kong, he has been appointed Professor of Practice in Management and Strategy of the Faculty of Business and Economics. He conducts an MBA course every year. He is also a Member of the International Advisory Council of the Faculty of Business and Economics, as well as a Member of the Advisory Committee of Shun Hing College.

He has been appointed Professor of Practice (Hospitality and Tourism Strategies), School of Hotel and Tourism Management by The Hong Kong Polytechnic University and Visiting Professor, Department of Management, Faculty of Economics by Sophia University, Tokyo.

He also serves as a Member of the International Advisory Board of Lingnan (University) College, Sun Yat-sen University as well as a Member of the Advisory Board of Stanford Graduate School of Business Chapter of Hong Kong.

Mr Chen has published some bestsellers in Hong Kong. Of his nine travel stories, two of them have also been published in Beijing and Taiwan. The royalties from the book sales have been donated to charities. His research on the "Great Cities Theory" has also been published as "Great Cities of the World" by the University of Hong Kong in 2010, and then "Great Cities" in Chinese was also published in 2023.

In 2001, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology named Mr Chen Honouree of the Beta Gamma Sigma and in 2004, made him an Honorary Doctor of Business Administration. In 2009, he was awarded a Distinguished Alumni Fellowship by The University of Hong Kong School of Professional and Continuing Education, and the University of Hong Kong also admitted him an Honorary University Fellowship in 2013 and bestowed upon him Beta Gamma Sigma Honouree in 2016. In 2010, he was bestowed Honorary Member of Eta Sigma Delta Chapter by The Chinese University of Hong Kong. He was conferred Doctor of Business Administration, honoris causa by Lingnan University in 2014 as well as by the Hong Kong Baptist University in 2018. He was also awarded a Fellowship by the Royal Aeronautical Society of the UK in 1997 and a Fellowship by the Hong Kong Management Association in 2004.

Mr Chen was appointed Justice of the Peace in 2000. He was awarded the Silver Bauhinia Star in 2002. He was further awarded the Gold Bauhinia Star in 2012. He was bestowed the Distinction of Officier de l'Ordre National du Mérite (National Order of Merit) by the French Government in 2009. In June 2014, the Ministry of Education, Singapore presented him the Service to Education Award – Silver.

Professor Nancy IP Yuk-yu, SBS, BBS, MH, JP

Professor Ip is the President of The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) and the Morningside Professor of Life Science. Taking office in October 2022, she is the first female president of a publicly funded university in Hong Kong.

Professor Ip received her PhD in Pharmacology from Harvard University, after which she held the position of Senior Staff Scientist at Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc. in New York. Since joining HKUST in 1993, she has served as the Vice-President for Research and Development, Dean of Science, and Head of the Department of Biochemistry.

World-renowned for her contributions to the field of neuroscience, Professor Ip's research interests include understanding the complex mechanisms underlying brain functions and drug discovery for neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's disease. Her research has resulted in over 345 scientific papers and holds 101 patents. In addition to conducting pioneering neuroscience research, she helps steer research policy on a global level. She is a member of various strategic initiatives such as the Leadership Group of the Davos Alzheimer's Collaborative and the Scientific Advisory Board of the World Dementia Council.

A distinguished neuroscientist, Professor Ip is an elected member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the US National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the World Academy of Sciences, and the Hong Kong Academy of Sciences, among other academies. In recognition of her excellence in science, Professor Ip has received numerous awards and honors. She received the L'OREAL-UNESCO for Women in Science Award for her discoveries on the molecular control of growth, differentiation, and synapse formation in the nervous system. She was the first Chinese scientist in the Life Sciences to receive this distinguished award. She was also bestowed the title and rank of "Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite" (National Order of Merit) by the French Government in recognition of her scientific contribution to the community. Her other notable awards include the National Natural Science Awards, the Honors for Women Innovators at the APEC Women and Economy Summit, and the "10 Science Stars of China" by Nature.

Professor Ip plays a key role in steering science and technology in Hong Kong and the Greater Bay Area. She currently serves as a member of the Chief Executive's Council of Advisers and the Committee on Innovation, Technology and Industry Development. A strong advocate for global collaboration and exchange among scientists, Professor Ip has also been instrumental in strengthening Hong Kong's position as an international center for innovation and technology. She was a key driver in establishing the Greater Bay Area Association of Academicians and the International Alliance of Academicians, serving as the founding council chair and the founding chair, respectively.

Professor Ip was awarded the Medal of Honor, Bronze Bauhinia Star and Silver Bauhinia Star in 2008, 2017 and 2022 respectively. She was appointed Justice of the Peace in 2014.