

Hong Kong Judiciary Annual Report 2025



Welcome Remarks



Review of 2025



Highlights of Events in 2025



Selected Cases Decided in 2025

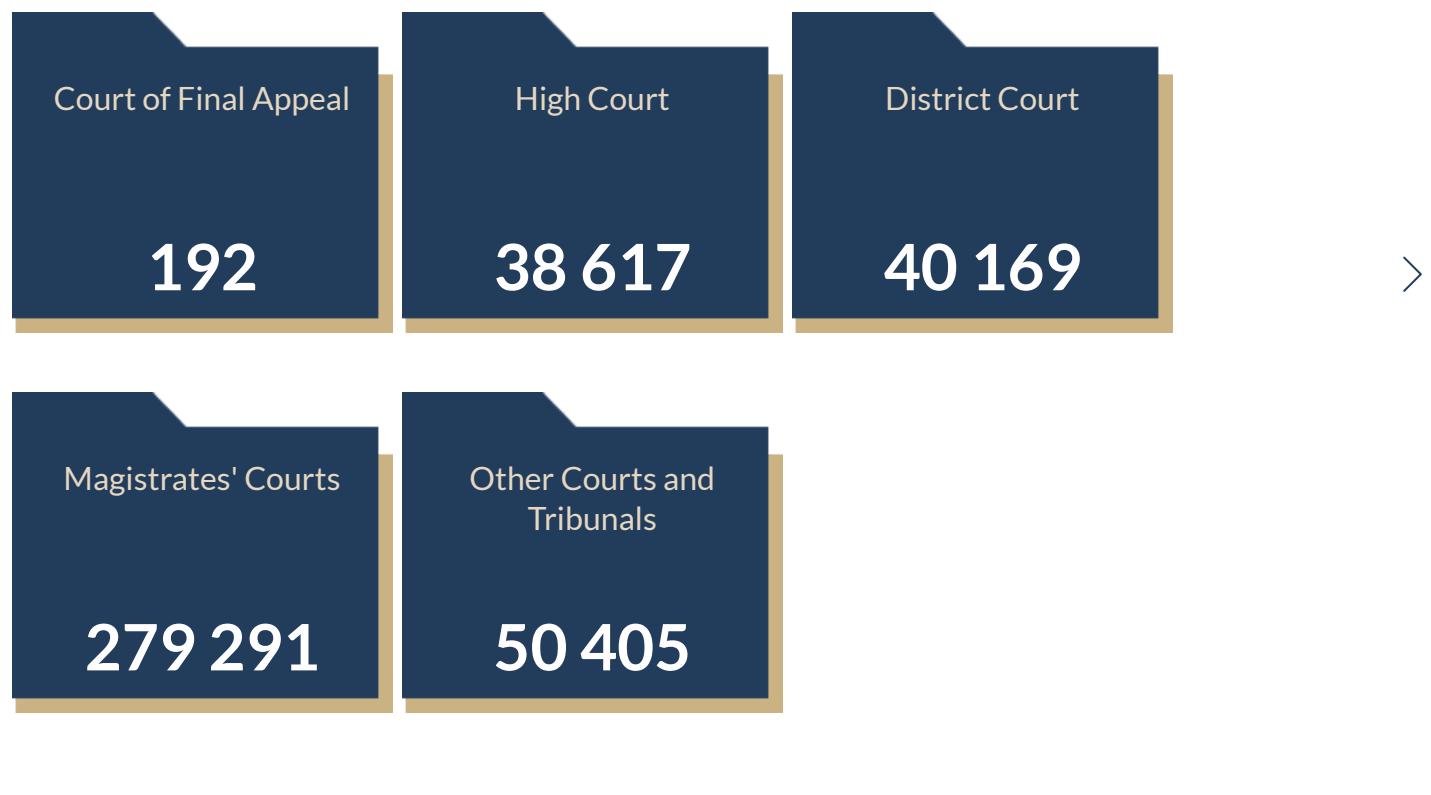


Judges and Judicial Officers



Caseload, Case Disposal and Waiting Time at Different Court Levels

Total Caseload at Different Court Levels (up to 30 Sep 2025)



Membership Lists

Advisory Committee on Complaints against Judicial Conduct

Rules Committees

Working Party on Mediation

Court Users' Committees

Governing Body of the Hong Kong Judicial Institute



Judiciary Administration



Greater Use of Technology in Court Operations

Key Technology Initiatives



iCMS



E-bundle hearings



Live Broadcasting



Voice-to-text (VTT)



IT security



Judicial Training



Number of Visits and Visitors to the Judiciary



Expenditure and Revenue of the Judiciary in 2024-25



Complaints against Judges and Judicial Officers



Complaints against the Judiciary Administration



Welcome Remarks

This Report provides a comprehensive overview of the key areas of work undertaken by the Judiciary in 2025.

In 2025, the Judiciary remained steadfast in its commitment to upholding the rule of law and safeguarding judicial independence in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region under the Basic Law and the “One Country, Two Systems” framework, which together provide a stable and trusted foundation for the administration of justice.

Throughout the year, substantial efforts were made to increase judicial manpower, enhance judicial training and exchanges, and improve the efficiency of the administration of justice through streamlined court procedures and the optimisation of technology.

The Judiciary continued its efforts to recruit judges and judicial officers at more frequent intervals, addressing manpower shortages across various levels of court. In addition to the 16 judicial appointments made in 2024, eight more appointments were made in 2025. As at the end of the year, there were 159 substantive judges and judicial officers serving across all court levels. In addition, around 40 deputy judges and judicial officers from the legal profession were appointed for various durations throughout the year. One new Non-Permanent Judge from another common law jurisdiction was appointed to the Court of Final Appeal in 2025.

The Judiciary continued to place strong emphasis on the professional training and development of judges and judicial officers. Through the Judicial Institute, a comprehensive training programme was maintained, alongside a broad spectrum of judicial exchanges with courts in the Mainland and other common law jurisdictions.

With the support of the Supreme People’s Court (SPC), I led a high-level delegation to visit major courts in Xi’an and neighbouring areas in May, followed by a second visit to courts in the Greater Bay Area in November, focusing on regional issues and the use of technology. In October, the Judiciary hosted a high-level judicial seminar entitled *“The Emerging Challenges and Opportunities in Judicial Work”* for judges from across the Strait, Hong Kong, and Macao. The event was attended by a number of senior judicial figures, including the President of the SPC. Other major exchange programmes included an annual one-week exchange, which was held in Jiangsu Province in November, and reciprocal judicial exchange programmes for longer periods which were held in Shanghai and Hong Kong from March to April and from October 2025 to January 2026, respectively.



Andrew Cheung
Chief Justice

The Judiciary continued its work on mutual legal assistance with the Mainland in civil, commercial, and arbitral matters, pursuant to the nine agreements made under Article 95 of the Basic Law. Since the implementation of the new mechanism in January 2024⁽¹⁾ for the reciprocal recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters between Hong Kong and Mainland courts, there has been a steady increase in the number of cases seeking such facilitation.

As the only common law jurisdiction within the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong's Judiciary also maintained close ties with the international legal community through judicial exchanges. In 2025, senior judges attended the Asia-Pacific Judicial Colloquium in Canberra, Australia, in March, and the Sixth Full Meeting of the Standing International Forum of Commercial Courts in Delhi, India, in November. Throughout the year, judges and judicial officers participated in numerous conferences, seminars, and exchanges, and also received visiting senior judges from jurisdictions including the United Kingdom, Singapore, Kenya, and Vietnam.

To enhance public understanding of the Judiciary's work, particularly in other major common law jurisdictions, we began using LinkedIn in March 2025 to share updates on visits, exchanges, and other professional developments, as well as significant court cases and key matters related to court operations.

Beginning with this Annual Report, we will also publish selected sample cases to illustrate the nature and scope of our judicial work.

On the court operations front, the Judiciary demonstrated resilience in 2025 amid continued challenges from heavy caseloads and a significant number of complex civil and criminal cases requiring long trials. Thanks to the concerted efforts of all judges, judicial officers, and support staff, the overall number of cases disposed of in 2025 was comparable to that in 2024, which is higher than the average over the past five years. While continuing to prioritise approximately 100 remaining high-profile cases related to the 2019 civil disorder and national security matters, we also made steady progress in reducing average waiting times across various court levels.

The Judiciary continued its strategic and targeted approach to expedite the processing of the increasing number of judicial review leave applications related to non-refoulement claims. In 2025, encouraging progress was made through the deployment of additional dedicated judicial manpower and the streamlining of case-handling procedures. A record high of over 3 700 cases were disposed of, representing a 109% increase over 2024. Barring unforeseen circumstances, this progress is expected to clear the overall

backlog of over 7 000 cases in the Court of First Instance within the next few years.

To enhance the efficiency of justice delivery, the Judiciary stepped up efforts to promote mediation as an alternative dispute resolution mechanism. In 2025, full or partial settlements were reached in more than half of the cases referred to mediation across various courts. The Family Court-annexed Mediation Scheme ⁽²⁾ continued to report a high success rate. Separately, in light of its high success rate, the Case Settlement Conference pilot scheme in the District Court ⁽³⁾ was regularised in January 2025.

Construction of the new District Court Building at Caroline Hill Road, which is set to house the District Court, Family Court, and Lands Tribunal, continued in 2025. The project is expected to be completed in early 2027, with commissioning in early 2028. Meanwhile, planning has begun for the construction of a new High Court Building at the combined site of the Queensway Government Offices and the existing High Court Building.

Embracing technology more fully remains essential to delivering justice efficiently in a modern and professional judiciary. In June 2025, we began extending the integrated Court Case Management System (iCMS) to major civil proceedings in the High Court, including the introduction of e-fillable forms for case initiation. Over the next two years, the platform will be progressively extended to the Court of Final Appeal; criminal proceedings in the High Court and District Court; non-summons Magistrates' Courts; and non-bulk claim cases in the Small Claims Tribunal.

In 2026, we plan to mandate the use of iCMS for all legally represented litigants in relevant case types. Outreach and promotional efforts will continue to support the legal profession's transition from paper-based to electronic filing.

The Courts (Remote Hearing) Ordinance (Cap 654) came into effect in March 2025, providing a clear legal foundation for remote hearings. Since then, the Judiciary has actively promoted the use of remote hearings where appropriate, achieving efficiency gains without compromising the interests of justice. These include short civil hearings (e.g., three-minute hearings) and non-trial criminal proceedings (e.g., bail applications), particularly for defendants in custody.

In April 2025, we launched a two-year pilot scheme for live broadcasting of all substantive appellate proceedings in the Court of Final Appeal (except those deemed unsuitable ⁽⁴⁾), using our in-house platform.

Regarding artificial intelligence (AI), judges, judicial officers, and support staff

have responsibly and prudently adopted generative AI tools in line with the first set of guidelines issued in 2024. In 2025, voice-to-text AI technology was used effectively for note-taking during proceedings where available. We continue to monitor developments in AI and have been experimenting with various models across different areas of work. Preparatory work is underway to develop new guidelines on the use of generative AI for the legal profession and other court users.

On 10 December 2025, the Judiciary announced measures to expedite and prioritise legal proceedings arising from the tragic Wang Fuk Court fire in Tai Po. A task group led by the Chief Judge of the High Court was established to oversee handling across all court levels, and a support team was set up to manage probate matters and liaise with relevant departments. Probate-related fees for deceased victims will be waived, with other fee concessions to be considered case by case.

Finally, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to members of the community, the Chief Executive, Government bureaux and departments, and the Legislative Council for their unwavering support of the Judiciary's work. My heartfelt thanks also go to my fellow judges, judicial officers, and Judiciary staff for their dedication, professionalism, and resilience in upholding the rule of law and meeting the many challenges of 2025 with integrity.

Andrew Cheung

Chief Justice

1. The mechanism involves a party to a recognised judgment of a HKSAR court first obtaining a certificate from that court, and then applying for registration in a Mainland court for enforcement, and vice versa.

2. The Scheme aims to assist parties in resolving disputes over issues that often consume a disproportionate amount of judicial time during litigation. Accredited freelance family mediators are engaged as service providers on a commissioning basis to deliver mediation services, as needed, at court premises. These services are offered in suitable cases involving litigants-in-person on both sides with limited financial resources.

3. The Case Settlement Conference focuses on facilitating the settlement of general civil cases and is conducted during case management hearings in the District Court. Legal practitioners with expertise in mediation are engaged as Temporary Masters or Deputy Registrars to assist parties in reaching a settlement.

4. To preserve judicial decorum, prevent undue pressure on litigants and legal representatives, and safeguard the fair and proper administration of justice, certain cases are deemed unsuitable for live broadcasting. These include: (a) cases requiring the protection of the interests of children or mentally incapacitated persons, privacy rights, trade secrets, or commercially sensitive information; and (b) proceedings involving national security, high-profile public order incidents, or matters that are highly politically sensitive.

Review of 2025



At the Ceremonial Opening of the Legal Year on 20 January 2025, the Honourable Chief Justice Andrew Cheung emphasised the importance of this annual occasion, noting that it serves to remind the community of the independent judiciary's indispensable role in the administration of justice and the preservation of the rule of law.

The Chief Justice observed that the rule of law forms the foundation upon which Hong Kong has built its reputation as an international financial centre and as a secure, equitable environment for commerce, while safeguarding individual rights. He described it as a cornerstone of the "One Country, Two Systems" framework, ensuring the maintenance of Hong Kong's distinct legal system, which is separate from, yet intrinsically linked to, that of the Chinese Mainland. Sustaining this unique arrangement, he added, requires unwavering commitment, with the Hong Kong Judiciary bearing a pivotal responsibility for its success through the steadfast upholding of the rule of law.

The Chief Justice further noted that the rule of law is a practical principle contingent upon the integrity of judicial institutions and the diligent practice of the legal profession. He stressed that it entails more than the enactment of statutes; it requires that laws be applied with fairness, consistency and independence. Consequently, he observed, the international standing of Hong Kong's legal system rests not only on its legislation but also on the excellence of its courts and legal practitioners.



Addressing the core of the legal framework, the Chief Justice stated that judicial independence lies at the heart of the rule of law in Hong Kong. He referred to Article 85 of the Basic Law, which mandates that judicial power be exercised independently, free from any interference. He reaffirmed that this constitutional mandate has always been, and continues to be, vigilantly safeguarded by the courts of Hong Kong.

He further asserted that judicial independence is most clearly demonstrated through the daily conduct of judges and judicial officers, who determine cases solely on the law and the evidence, without regard to external pressures or public opinion. The Chief Justice cautioned that the legal system cannot command public confidence unless the Judiciary remains unwavering in its commitment to administer justice in accordance with the law. Notwithstanding the challenges of recent years, he confirmed that the Judiciary continues to discharge this duty with integrity and impartiality.



The Chief Justice explained that under Hong Kong's common law system, the jurisprudential principles that guide and inform judicial reasoning are of equal significance to the decisions themselves. In line with practice in other established common law jurisdictions, he noted that Hong Kong courts apply legal principles consistently across all areas of practice, including commercial disputes, family law, criminal

prosecutions and matters of public law.

Appointment of Judges and Judicial Officers

A number of judicial appointments took effect in 2025.

The Honourable Sir William Young was appointed as a Non-Permanent Judge from another common law jurisdiction of the Court of Final Appeal on 23 June 2025.

The Honourable Mr Justice Anthony Chan was appointed as a Justice of Appeal of the Court of Appeal of the High Court on 12 September 2025.

Mr Eugene Fung SC was appointed as a Judge of the Court of First Instance of the High Court on 12 September 2025.

Mr David Cheung, Permanent Magistrate, and Mr Timon Shum, Permanent Magistrate, were appointed as Principal Magistrates on 16 September 2025.

Ms Li Ying-yue was appointed as a Permanent Magistrate on 14 August 2025.

Mr Eric Yao, Ms Claudia Ng and Mr Tobias Cheng were appointed as Permanent Magistrates on 9 October 2025.

Mr George Lam, Ms Jennifer Ng and Ms Shirley Hung were appointed as Permanent Magistrates on 10 December 2025.



Appointment of the Honourable Sir William Young (right) as a Non-Permanent Judge from another common law jurisdiction of the Court of Final Appeal



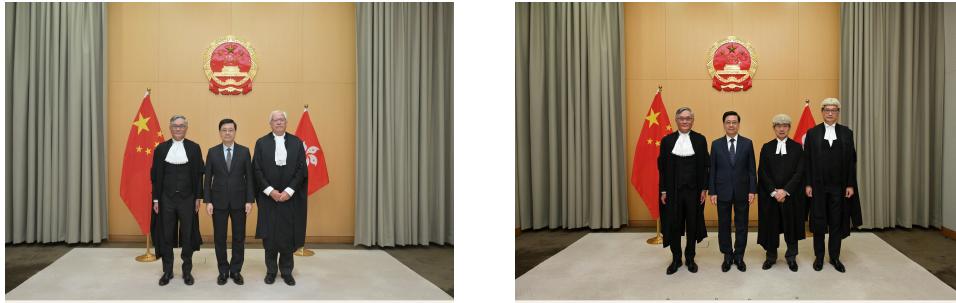
Appointment of Mr David Cheung (second left) as a Principal Magistrate



Appointment of Mr Eric Yao (second left) as a Permanent Magistrate



Appointment of Mr George Lam (second left) as a Permanent Magistrate



Appointment of the Honourable Mr Justice Anthony Chan (second right) as a Justice of Appeal of the Court of Appeal of the High Court



Appointment of Mr Eugene Fung SC (second right) as a Judge of the Court of First Instance of the High Court



Appointment of Mr Timon Shum (second left) as a Principal Magistrate



Appointment of Ms Claudia Ng (second left) as a Permanent Magistrate



Appointment of Ms Li Ying-yue (second left) as a Permanent Magistrate



Appointment of Mr Tobias Cheng (second left) as a Permanent Magistrate



Appointment of Ms Jennifer Ng (second left) as a Permanent Magistrate



Appointment of Ms Shirley Hung (second left) as a Permanent Magistrate

Judicial training

In 2025, our judges and judicial officers continued to engage in a diverse range of judicial training facilitated by the Hong Kong Judicial Institute. Highlights included a seminar in February entitled “The international character of maritime law and the importance of the jurisprudence of Asia”, delivered by the Honourable Mr Justice James Allsop, Non-Permanent Judge of the Court of Final Appeal. This was followed in September by a presentation on “The relationship between courts and the arbitration community”, given by the Honourable Sir William Young, Non-Permanent Judge of the Court of Final Appeal.

In addition to these lectures, the Judicial Institute conducted training sessions on IT security, the handling of vulnerable witnesses, and mediation, alongside various site visits.



Exchanges with the Chinese Mainland and other jurisdictions

In 2025, the Judiciary continued to strengthen its professional exchanges with the Mainland and other jurisdictions. It received official visits from a distinguished array of judges, legal professionals, and senior government officials. Our judges and judicial officers also actively participated in conferences and seminars both locally and overseas. Highlights of these key interactions are set out below.

In January, a seven-member delegation led by Mr Mao Zhonghua, Vice-President of the Supreme People’s Court (the SPC), visited the Judiciary for high-level exchanges.

In February, the Honourable Chief Justice Andrew Cheung gave a keynote address at the 8th Asia Pacific Regional Forum Biennial Conference of the International Bar Association held in Hong Kong.

In March, the Honourable Chief Justice Andrew Cheung; the Honourable Mr Justice Roberto Ribeiro, Permanent Judge of the Court of Final Appeal; and the Honourable Mr Justice Johnson Lam, Permanent Judge of the Court of Final Appeal, attended the 2025 Asia-Pacific Judicial Colloquium in Canberra, Australia. In the same month, the Honourable Mr Justice Aarif Barma, Justice of Appeal of the Court of Appeal of the High Court, co-chaired the Asia Judicial Round Table on Insolvency in Hong Kong with Sir Alastair Norris of the High Court of England and Wales, as part of the annual international conference organised by the International Association of Restructuring, Insolvency & Bankruptcy Professionals.



Also in March, three judges visited Shanghai under a reciprocal judicial exchange programme for a longer period. During the programme, they observed hearings at the Shanghai High People's Court and had professional exchange with the Shanghai judges. They also visited various courts and related facilities in the municipality and observed some latest legal and judicial development, such as the adoption of technology in the Mainland courts.

In May, the Honourable Chief Justice Andrew Cheung led a high-level delegation to Shaanxi Province and nearby areas. The delegation held professional exchanges with Mr Deng Xiuming, Executive Vice-President of the SPC; Mr Mao Zhonghua, Vice-President of the SPC; and senior local judges.

In June, an eight-member delegation led by Mr Wang Shuijiang, President of the High People's Court of Sichuan, visited the Judiciary for professional exchanges.

In September, a seven-member delegation led by Mr Nguyễn Văn Dũng, Justice of the Supreme People's Court of Vietnam, visited the Judiciary to enhance understanding of Hong Kong's judicial system.

In October, the Judiciary hosted the 8th Seminar of Senior Judges from across the Strait, Hong Kong, and Macao. The Seminar was attended by the President of the SPC and about 160 senior representatives from the judicial and legal sectors of the Chinese Mainland, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Macao, for in-depth discussions under the theme "Emerging Challenges and Opportunities in Judicial Work". In the same month, a 15-member delegation led by the Honourable Justice Martha Koome, Chief Justice and President of the Supreme Court of Kenya, visited the Judiciary for professional sharing. From October 2025 to January 2026, four Mainland judges visited Hong Kong under a reciprocal judicial exchange programme for a longer period. During the programme, they observed hearings at the High Court and had professional exchange with our judges and judicial officers. They also visited different levels of court in Hong Kong in order to have a better understanding of our legal and judicial system.



In November, the Honourable Mr Justice Jeremy Poon, Chief Judge of the High Court, led a delegation of 20 judges and judicial officers to Jiangsu Province for an eight-day exchange programme. The delegation attended professional forums and thematic talks on various judicial topics and on broader national developments, and visited various courts as well as sites of cultural and technological significance. In the same month, the Honourable Mr Justice Joseph Fok, Permanent Judge of the Court of Final Appeal, and the Honourable Mr Justice Jonathan Harris, Judge of the Court of First Instance of the High Court, attended the 6th Full Meeting of the Standing International Forum of Commercial Courts, which brought together senior commercial judges from over 50 jurisdictions. Also in November, the Honourable Chief Justice Andrew Cheung led a visit to courts in the Greater Bay Area, with a focus on regional issues and the use of technology.

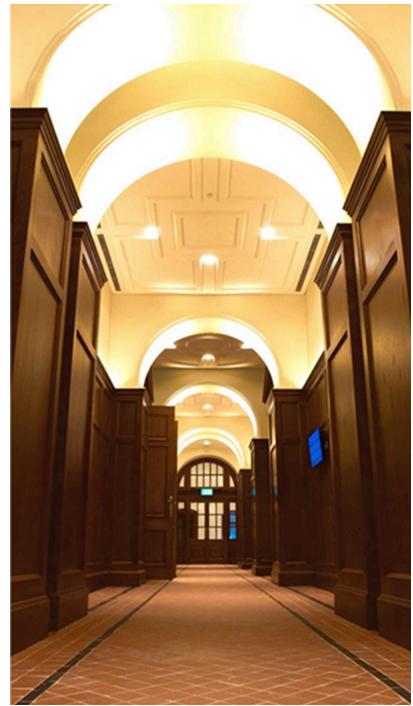


In December, the Honourable Chief Justice Andrew Cheung delivered a keynote address at the 6th UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Judicial Summit 2025 under Hong Kong Legal Week 2025.

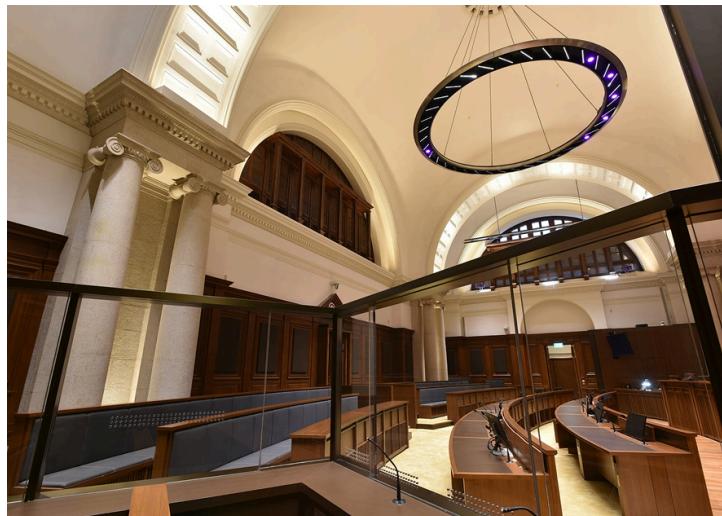
Meeting challenges on workload

In 2025, the Judiciary continued to contend with a persistently heavy caseload across all court levels, driven chiefly by an increasing number of complex civil and criminal proceedings. The sustained influx of leave applications for judicial review relating to non-refoulement claims, together with related appeals in both the High Court and the Court of Final Appeal, further strained judicial resources.

In response, the Judiciary adopted a proactive approach to expediting proceedings and enhancing efficiency through a series of measures. These included the deployment of additional permanent and temporary judicial resources, the adoption of more robust case management practices, the wider application of technology, and the continued enhancement of court facilities.



Collectively, these measures demonstrated the Judiciary's unwavering commitment to ensuring the effective and efficient administration of justice while steadfastly upholding its core principles.



Through the concerted efforts of all judges, judicial officers and support staff, the total number of cases disposed of in 2025 was comparable to that in 2024, which is higher than the average for the past five years from 2020 to 2024. The majority of civil cases across all court levels continued to meet target waiting times. There were steady improvements in the average waiting times for criminal proceedings, with the exception of certain complex criminal cases in the Court of First Instance of the High Court which required lengthy trials.

Priority continued to be accorded to complex cases arising from the 2019 civil disorder and to national security matters. As at 2025, the Judiciary had disposed of approximately 2 300 (around 97%) of about 2 370 cases related to the 2019 civil disorder, and about 230 (around 88%) of about 260 national

security related cases across various court levels. With the majority of the remaining cases scheduled for trial in 2026, the impact of these matters on the average waiting times for other proceedings is expected to subside gradually.

To expedite the disposal of the large number of leave applications for judicial review relating to non-refoulement claims, and in addition to appointing more retired judges to sit as Deputy Judges of the High Court to hear these applications, the Judiciary launched a special scheme in February 2025 under which eligible private practitioners were appointed as Deputy Judges exclusively to handle non-refoulement claims. Administrative procedures and the delivery of judgments were streamlined to accelerate case handling. As a result, approximately over 3 700 cases were disposed of at the Court of First Instance in 2025, representing a significant increase of 109% compared with 2024.

■ At a glance (up to 30 Sep 2025)

Total Caseload

Total Caseload for All Court Levels

408 674



Total Case Disposal

Total Case Disposal for All Court Levels

392 700



■ Caseload and Case Disposal of major court levels (up to 30 Sep 2025)

 Caseload

192

 Case Disposal

211

 Court of Final
Appeal

 Caseload

38 617

 Case Disposal

37 339

 High Court

*including Probate
Registry

 Caseload

40 169

 Case Disposal

32 766

 District Court

**including Family Court

 Caseload

279 291

 Case Disposal

273 524

 Magistrates'
Courts

 Caseload

50 405

 Case Disposal

48 860

 Other Courts
and Tribunals

Promoting the use of mediation in court proceedings

The Judiciary continued to promote mediation as a key form of alternative dispute resolution.



To ensure that parties fully appreciate the intrinsic value and benefits of mediation, judges and judicial officers refer litigants to information sessions organised by the Mediation Offices and encourage the use of other court-related mediation services. In 2025, over 1 800 parties and litigants visited the Mediation Offices, and around 900 information sessions were arranged. More than half of the mediated cases referred by the Judiciary resulted in full or partial settlement.

The Family Court-annexed Mediation Scheme⁽¹⁾ continued to achieve a high success rate. The Case Settlement Conference scheme⁽²⁾, piloted in the District Court from 2021 to 2024, was regularised in 2025. It has proved effective in facilitating the settlement of general civil cases, with a notable success rate of 56%, thereby saving litigation time and costs and reducing the adversarial nature of proceedings.

■ Statistics on promoting the use of mediation in 2025



1 825

Visitors to
Mediation Offices



901

Information Sessions
Arranged



406 509

Hits on the
Dedicated Webpage

Enhancement of court facilities



Additional court facilities were completed in 2025 to meet the Judiciary's increasing operational needs. Six new chambers for Deputy High Court Judges, together with associated offices, were constructed in the Queensway Government Offices.

Construction of the new, purpose-built District Court Building at Caroline Hill Road is ongoing. The new building is intended to house the District Court, the Family Court, and the Lands Tribunal. Construction is expected to be completed by early 2027, enabling court operations to commence by early 2028.

The Government has reserved the sites of the current Queensway Government Offices (adjacent to the existing High Court Building) and the existing High Court Building for the construction of a new High Court complex. The Judiciary has commenced preparatory work for this major project.

Greater use of technology in court operations

In 2025, the Judiciary continued to press ahead with the implementation of major technology initiatives to enhance the efficiency of court operations.



In March, the Courts (Remote Hearing) Ordinance (Cap 654) came into operation. Since then, the Judiciary has been promoting the conduct of more remote hearings in suitable proceedings, particularly short proceedings (such as three-minute hearings) and non-trial criminal proceedings (such as bail applications).

In April, the Judiciary launched a two-year pilot scheme for the live broadcasting of selected proceedings (except those deemed unsuitable)⁽³⁾ in the Court of Final Appeal. The videos are uploaded to, and retained on, the Court of Final Appeal website for one month after the hearing date to facilitate easy access and flexible viewing. On average, each case attracted around 1 900 viewers across both live and recorded broadcasts.



In June, the integrated Court Case Management System was extended to civil proceedings in the High Court. Incremental roll-outs are planned over the next two years to cover the Court of Final Appeal, criminal proceedings in the High Court and the District Court, the non-Summons Courts of the Magistrates' Courts, and non-bulk claim cases of the Small Claims Tribunal.

In November, while continuing to make use of the voice-to-text system to facilitate note-taking for judges, the Judiciary launched a pilot arrangement to produce transcripts using the same system for selected hearings in the Court of Final Appeal and the High Court.

As regards the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI), the Judiciary has been prudently exploring and trialling different AI models for appropriate judicial and non-judicial tasks, in line with the first set of guidelines issued in 2024. The Judiciary is also considering issuing new guidelines to the legal profession on the use of generative AI.

Wang Fuk Court fire in Tai Po

On 10 December, the Judiciary announced a package of facilitative measures to expedite and prioritize all legal proceedings arising from the tragic Wang Fuk Court fire in Tai Po, while safeguarding the administration of justice. A dedicated task group, led by the Chief Judge of the High Court with relevant court leaders and specialist judges, was established to oversee swift handling across all court levels. A designated support team was set up to manage probate matters for deceased victims, liaise with relevant departments to share essential information with affected families, and operate a special hotline for probate and related enquiries. Probate-related scheduled fees for deceased victims will be waived, with other fee concessions to be considered on a case-by-case basis in accordance with applicable rules. Coroner-related matters, including the issuance of Certificates of the Fact of Death, will be processed with priority. The Judiciary will continue to draw on support from the legal profession, including legally aided lawyers, as appropriate and in the public interest.

1. The Scheme aims to assist parties in resolving disputes over issues that often consume a disproportionate amount of judicial time during litigation. Accredited freelance family mediators are engaged as service providers on a commissioning basis to deliver mediation services, as needed, at court premises. These services are offered in suitable cases involving litigants-in-person on both sides with limited financial resources.
2. The Case Settlement Conference focuses on facilitating the settlement of general civil cases and is conducted during case management hearings in the District Court. Legal practitioners with expertise in mediation are engaged as Temporary Masters or Deputy Registrars to assist parties in reaching a settlement.
3. To preserve judicial decorum, prevent undue pressure on litigants and legal representatives, and safeguard the fair and proper administration of justice, certain cases are deemed unsuitable for live broadcasting. These include: (a) cases requiring the protection of the interests of children or mentally incapacitated persons, privacy rights, trade secrets, or commercially sensitive information; and (b) proceedings involving national security, high-profile public order incidents, or matters that are highly politically sensitive.

Highlights of Events in 2025

JANUARY 2025

1 The Hon Madam Justice Winnie Tsui, Judge of the Court of First Instance of the High Court, was appointed as the President, Lands Tribunal



7 Professor Nico Schrijver, member of the Curatorium of the Hague Academy of International Law and emeritus Professor of Public International Law at the Leiden University, the Netherlands, visited the Judiciary



12 The term of office of the Rt Hon the Lord Hoffmann, Non-Permanent Judge from another common law jurisdiction of the Court of Final Appeal, was extended for a period of three years



20

The Hon Chief Justice Andrew Cheung officiated at the Ceremonial Opening of the Legal Year 2025



20-21

A seven-member delegation led by Mr Mao Zhonghua, Vice-president of the Supreme People's Court, visited the Judiciary and attended the Ceremonial Opening of the Legal Year 2025

FEBRUARY 2025

18

Judge Peter Tomka, a Judge of the International Court of Justice, visited the Judiciary



18-19

A 13-member delegation, led by the Hon Mr Justice Johnson Lam, Permanent Judge of the Court of Final Appeal, visited Shenzhen to engage in the exploratory discussions with representatives of the Supreme People's Court and the Guangdong courts

20

The Hon Chief Justice Andrew Cheung delivered a keynote speech at the 8th IBA Asia Pacific Regional Forum Biennial Conference



The Hon Chief Justice Andrew Cheung delivered a speech at the Opening Ceremony of the 9th Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Lawyers Sports Meet



MARCH 2025

17-20

The Hon Mr Justice Aarif Barma, Justice of Appeal of the Court of Appeal of the High Court, and the Hon Madam Justice Linda Chan, Judge of the Court of First Instance of the High Court, attended the annual international conference held by the International Association of Restructuring, Insolvency & Bankruptcy Professionals (INSOL)



17/3-

16/4

Three judges visited Shanghai under a reciprocal judicial exchange programme for a longer period. The programme was co-organised by the Judiciary and the Supreme People's Court on a yearly basis. During the programme, they observed hearings at the Shanghai High People's Court and had professional exchange with the judges in the municipality

24-26

The Hon Chief Justice Andrew Cheung, the Hon Mr Justice Roberto Ribeiro, and the Hon Mr Justice Johnson Lam, Permanent Judges of the Court of Final Appeal, attended the 2025 Asia-Pacific Judicial Colloquium in Canberra, Australia



28

A 20-member delegation from the Employment and Labour Affairs Committee of the Daini Tokyo Bar Association of Japan visited the Labour Tribunal

APRIL 2025

6-10

The Hon Mr Justice Andrew Macrae, Vice-President of the Court of Appeal of the High Court, attended the Patron Chief Justices' Meeting and the 24th Commonwealth Law Conference in Malta

10-11

A 10-member delegation led by Ms Esther Leung, the Judiciary Administrator, visited the Singapore Judiciary and Singapore courts



MAY 2025

1

Mr Eric Kwok, SC, was appointed as Recorder of the Court of First Instance of the High Court for a term of three years. Miss Maggie Wong, SC, and Mr Derek Chan, SC, were re-appointed as Recorders of the Court of First Instance of the High Court for a term of three years

15

The Hon Madam Justice Linda Chan, Judge of the Court of First Instance of the High Court, delivered a speech at conference titled “GRR Live: Restructuring in Asia 2025”



19-22

The Hon Madam Justice Queeny Au-Yeung and the Hon Mr Justice Herbert Au-Yeung, Judges of the Court of First Instance of the High Court, attended the Fourth Global Meeting of the International Hague Network of Judges and the Hague Conference on Private International Law Judicial Roundtable in Singapore



24-31

The Hon Chief Justice Andrew Cheung led a Judiciary delegation to visit Xi'an in Shaanxi Province and Yinchuan in Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, where they engaged in professional exchanges with judges from the Mainland



JUNE 2025

7

The Hon Chief Justice Andrew Cheung presided over the Ceremony for the Admission of the New Senior Counsel



23

The Hon Sir William Young was appointed as a Non-Permanent Judge from another common law jurisdiction of the Court of Final Appeal



23

An eight-member delegation led by Mr Wang Shujiang, President of the Sichuan High People's Court, visited the Judiciary



JULY 2025

18

The Hon Madam Justice Linda Chan, Judge of the Court of First Instance of the High Court, delivered a talk at a joint event organised by the Restructuring and Insolvency Faculty of the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation (Hong Kong Chapter)



26

The Hon Madam Justice Winnie Tsui and the Hon Madam Justice Amanda Woodcock, Judges of the Court of First Instance of the High Court; and Her Honour Judge Liza Cruden and His Honour Judge Gary LAM, District Judges, adjudicated the Finals of the Hong Kong Bar Association Debating Competition 2025



29

The term of office of the Hon Mr Justice William Gummow, Non-Permanent Judge from another common law jurisdiction of the Court of Final Appeal, was extended for a period of three years



AUGUST 2025

14

Ms Li Ying Yue was appointed as a Permanent Magistrate



20-21

The Hon Mr Justice Jonathan Harris, Judge of the Court of First Instance of the High Court, attended the Turnaround Management Association (TMA) 2025 APAC Regional Conference in Singapore

26

The Hon Mr Justice Andrew Macrae, Vice-President of the Court of Appeal of the High Court, delivered a speech at the conference "Absence of Corruption - A Key Requirement for the Rule of Law" co-organised by the Hong Kong Bar Association and the World Justice Project

The Hon Madam Justice Linda Chan, Judge of the Court of First Instance of the High Court, delivered a speech at the INSOL International Shanghai Seminar



SEPTEMBER 2025

1

The term of office of the Hon Mr Justice Frank Stock, Non-Permanent Hong Kong Judge of the Court of Final Appeal, was extended for a period of three years



4

A seven-member delegation led by Mr Nguyễn Văn Dũng, Justice of the Supreme People's Court of Vietnam, visited the Judiciary



11

Mr Ferenc Pál Biró, President of the Integrity Authority of Hungary, visited the Judiciary



12

The Hon Mr Justice Anthony Chan, Judge of the Court of First Instance of the High Court, was appointed as a Justice of Appeal of the Court of Appeal of the High Court



12

Mr Eugene Fung, SC, was appointed as a Judge of the Court of First Instance of the High Court



16

Mr David Cheung and Mr Timon Shum were appointed as Principal Magistrates



19

The Hon Mr Justice David Lok, Judge of the Court of First Instance of the High Court, delivered a talk on the topic of intellectual property to the Mainland judges attending the 18th Advanced Programme for Chinese Senior Judges of the City University of Hong Kong

OCTOBER 2025

8

A 15-member delegation led by the Hon Justice Martha Koome, Chief Justice of the Republic of Kenya and President of the Supreme Court of Kenya, visited the Judiciary



9

Mr Eric Yao, Ms Claudia Ng and Mr Tobias Cheng were appointed as Permanent Magistrates



13-14

The Judiciary hosted the Eighth Seminar of Senior Judges from across the Strait, Hong Kong and Macao



14-15

The Hon Mr Justice David Lok, Judge of the Court of First Instance of the High Court, attended the 2025 World Intellectual Property Organization Intellectual Property Judges Forum in Geneva, Switzerland

20

The Hon Chief Justice Andrew Cheung witnessed the inauguration of the International Organization for Mediation (IOMed)



20-22

The Hon Mr Justice James Allsop and the Hon Sir William Young, Non-Permanent Judges from another common law jurisdiction of the Court of Final Appeal, and the Hon Madam Justice Mimmie Chan, Judge of the Court of First Instance of the High Court, delivered speeches at the 2025 Hong Kong Arbitration Week



21

The term of office of the Hon Mr Justice Patrick Chan, Non-Permanent Hong Kong Judge of the Court of Final Appeal, was extended for a period of three years



21

The Hon Mr Justice Jonathan Harris, Judge of the Court of First Instance of the High Court, delivered a speech at the 11th Antitrust in Asia Conference

NOVEMBER 2025

7-8

The Hon Chief Justice Andrew Cheung led a Judiciary delegation to visit Guangzhou and Shenzhen. The delegation participated in roundtable discussions and visited various organisations. They also engaged in professional and technical exchanges with judges and relevant officers to discuss major judicial and legal developments concerning Guangdong Province and Hong Kong, as well as the application of AI in the Mainland courts

8-9

The Hon Mr Justice Joseph Fok, Permanent Judge of the Court of Final Appeal, and the Hon Mr Justice Jonathan Harris, Judge of the Court of First Instance of the High Court, attended the sixth Full Meeting of the Standing International Forum of Commercial Courts in New Delhi, India



16-23

A 20-member delegation of Judges and Judicial Officers led by the Hon Mr Justice Jeremy Poon, Chief Judge of the High Court, visited Jiangsu for an exchange visit programme. The delegation engaged in exchanges with the Mainland judges and attended discussion forums and thematic talks on various topics. The delegation also visited various courts as well as places with cultural and technological significance



DECEMBER 2025

1

The Hon Chief Justice Andrew Cheung delivered a keynote speech at the 6th UNCITRAL Asia Pacific Judicial Summit 2025, which was held as the opening event of the Hong Kong Legal Week 2025



1

A five-member delegation led by Mr Wang Jing, President of the Guangzhou Intermediate People's Court, visited the Judiciary



3

Mr Simon Kwang, Registrar of the High Court, spoke at the Symposium of the HCCH Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific on Private International Law at the Hong Kong Legal Week 2025 for the session "Apostille Convention - Streamlining Cross-Border Document Circulation, including through digital means (e-APP)"



4

The Hon Chief Justice Andrew Cheung delivered welcome remarks to the participants of the International Academy of Family Lawyers Asia Pacific Chapter Meeting during their visit to the Court of Final Appeal



4

The Hon Mr Johnson Lam, Permanent Judge of the Court of Final Appeal, delivered a keynote speech for the Judges' Session titled "The Pace of Change - revolution or evolution" at the International Academy of Family Lawyers Asia Pacific Chapter Meeting. His Hon Judge Ivan Wong, Principal Family Court Judge, also attended the session as a speaker

5

The Hon Mr Justice David Lok, Judge of the Court of First Instance of the High Court, delivered a keynote speech at the LawTech Conference themed "The AI Era: Shaping the Legal Landscape in the 21st Century" at the Hong Kong Legal Week 2025



5

The Hon Mr Justice Russell Coleman, Judge of the Court of First Instance of the High Court, attended the International Academy of Family Lawyers Asia Pacific Chapter Meeting as a speaker for the session "Ink on the Pre-Nuptial Agreements and Party Invitations"

10

Mr George Lam, Ms Jennifer Ng and Ms Shirley Hung were appointed as Permanent Magistrates



12

The Hon Chief Justice Andrew Cheung delivered opening remarks at the Law Society of Hong Kong's Pro Bono and Community Service Award Presentation Ceremony 2025





	Date	Court	Case	
01	24 January 2025	 Court of First Instance	<i>Re Gatecoin Ltd (in liquidation)</i> [2025] HKCFI 493	>
02	20 February 2025	 Court of Appeal	<i>Ho Wai Kwong, Executor of the Estate of Yu King, deceased v Ho Kam Chui</i> [2025] HKCA 174	>
03	5 March 2025	 Court of Appeal	<i>HKSAR v Huang Ruifang</i> [2025] HKCA 234	>
04	17 April 2025	 Court of Appeal	<i>Wong Chi Hung v Lo Wing Pun and Another</i> [2025] HKCA 370	>
05	20 May 2025	 Court of Final Appeal	<i>So Kwai Chung v Wong Wai Ying Anita and Others</i> [2025] HKCFA 8	>

06

11 June 2025

Court of Final
Appeal

*Cb v Commissioner of Police,
Secretary for Justice and
Secretary for Security* [2025]
HKCFA 10



07

16 June 2025

Court of
Appeal

*Re Up Energy Development
Group Ltd (in liquidation)* [2025]
HKCA 555



08

4 July 2025

Court of
Appeal

*Chen Wencan and Another v
Secretary for Justice and
Another* [2025] HKCA 595



09

18 July 2025

Court of
Appeal

*Yim Tin Fook, since deceased
(Yim Lok Man Winne, appointed
by Order dated 10 May 2024 to
represent the Estate of Yim Tin
Fook, deceased) and Another v
Yu Chor Lai, Kong Wai Hung and
Sou Ka Lun trading as Wang
Cheung Industrial Chemicals Co
and Another* [2025] HKCA 675



10

16 October 2025

Court of Final
Appeal

*Tenwow International Holdings
Limited (in liquidation) and
Another v 普华永道中天会计师事
务所(特殊普通合伙)
Pricewaterhousecoopers Zhong
Tian LLP* [2025] HKCFA 17



Selected Cases Decided in 2025

01

***Re Gatecoin Ltd (in liquidation)* [2025] HKCFI 493**

On 24 January 2025, the Court of First Instance handed down its judgment in *Re Gatecoin Ltd (in liquidation)* [2025] HKCFI 493, concerning the distribution of cryptocurrencies held by trustees.

In the earlier landmark decision *Re Gatecoin Ltd (in liquidation)* [2023] HKCFI 914, the Court confirmed that cryptocurrencies can be held on trust and held that Gatecoin did not hold cryptocurrencies on trust for customers who agreed to their 2018 Terms & Conditions.

In this judgment, the Court dealt with claims by certain customers known as "non-consenting customers" ("NCCs") who argued that they never accepted the 2018 Terms & Conditions. Although there were transactions recorded in their accounts after 2018, they argued that they did not access or use the Gatecoin platform to effect those transactions. On this issue, the Court distinguished between two types of transactions: ones that did not require access or use of the Gatecoin platform and ones that did. It held that the former type fell within the definition of NCCs and was thus subject to the trust arrangement, whilst the latter did not.

As to the nature of NCCs' beneficial interest, the Court held that each NCC is a beneficial tenant-in-common in a pool of cryptocurrency.

Turning to the distribution of the cryptocurrencies, the Court held that where there is no shortfall of a particular type of cryptocurrency, each NCC should be entitled to his trust property. Where there is a shortfall, the *pari passu ex post facto* approach should be adopted in allocating that type of cryptocurrency to NCCs concerned.

Regarding the mode of allocation, subject to deducting administration costs, there should be allocation of the cryptocurrency to NCCs *in specie* unless it would be impractical or inappropriate to do so, in which case the liquidators can sell the cryptocurrency and apply the sale proceeds to meet the claims of NCCs.

The full judgment can be accessed [here](#).

02

***Ho Wai Kwong, Executor of the Estate of Yu King, deceased v Ho Kam Chui* [2025] HKCA 174**

On 20 February 2025, the Court of Appeal handed down judgment in *Ho Wai Kwong,*

Executor of the Estate of Yu King, deceased v Ho Kam Chui [2025] HKCA 174. The mother of the defendant transferred a shop held in her sole name to herself and the defendant as joint tenants, for which the defendant did not pay any consideration. After the mother gave notice of severance of the joint tenancy, she passed away. The plaintiff then claimed against the defendant for a declaration that the half share of the shop registered in the defendant's name was at all material times and is held by her on trust for the mother's estate, which the judge granted.

The Court, allowing the appeal in part, found that the transaction was a sale and purchase, not a gift. On the facts of the instant case, the parties' legal relationship, and their respective rights and liabilities, was governed by contract. Termination of a contract by acceptance of a wrongful repudiation is a mechanism for the innocent party to be released from his obligation further to perform his own remaining obligations under the contract. It is prospective in operation and does not unwind what has been executed under the contract. It does not operate as a rescission ab initio, and does not negative the historical subsistence of the contract. Nor does it automatically operate to denude transfers of property made under the contract during its currency of all legal basis.

In the circumstances, there was no need or scope for bringing in the law of restitution and the judge's declaration was thus set aside.

The full judgment can be accessed [here](#).

03

***HKSAR v Huang Ruifang* [2025] HKCA 234**

On 5 March 2025, the Court of Appeal handed down judgment in *HKSAR v Huang Ruifang* [2025] HKCA 234, in which the Court revised the sentencing guidelines for trafficking in heroin, cocaine and methamphetamine hydrochloride (commonly referred to as "Ice"). In addition, the Court reiterated that "foreign" drug traffickers having to serve their sentences in an alien jurisdiction is not a mitigating factor – those who enter this jurisdiction in order to break the law will not be treated any differently, and certainly not more leniently, than those who normally reside in Hong Kong.

The full judgment can be accessed [here](#).

Wong Chi Hung v Lo Wing Pun and Another [2025] HKCA 370

On 17 April 2025, the Court of Appeal handed down judgment in *Wong Chi Hung v Lo Wing Pun and Another [2025] HKCA 370*. The plaintiff sued a money exchange shop that operated an “underground bank” in Mainland China for the return of RMB that he had deposited into the defendant’s bank account in Mainland China but for which he was not paid the agreed equivalent amount in HKD in Hong Kong.

This was the first case in which the principles of foreign illegality were applied to a claim for unjust enrichment. The Court of Appeal, dismissing the appeal, held that, in general, a plaintiff who has paid money to a defendant pursuant to a contract that the defendant has not performed, and which has been rendered ineffective due to foreign illegality (as in the present case), should be entitled to restitution of the money. However, there may be exceptions where the underlying agreement involves egregious foreign illegality, in which case considerations of comity and public policy may demand refusal of assistance to the plaintiff.

The full judgment can be accessed [here](#).

So Kwai Chung v Wong Wai Ying Anita and Others [2025] HKCFA 8

On 20 May 2025, the Court of Final Appeal handed down its judgment in *So Kwai Chung v Wong Wai Ying Anita and Others [2025] HKCFA 8*. The Court held that a single tenant in common may validly grant an easement over the entire co-owned property in favour of a third party without the concurrence of the other co-owner(s). However, the easement must not exceed what is reasonable and incidental to the grantor's non-exclusive possession, use and enjoyment of the property, nor interfere with the equally non-exclusive possession, use and enjoyment of the property by the other co-owner(s).

The full judgment can be accessed [here](#).

Cb v Commissioner of Police, Secretary for Justice and Secretary for Security [2025] HKCFA 10

On 11 June 2025, the Court of Final Appeal handed down its judgment in *Cb v Commissioner of Police, Secretary for Justice and Secretary for Security [2025] HKCFA 10*, addressing whether bespoke legislation criminalising forced labour is required for the Government to meet its positive obligations under Article 4(3) of the Hong Kong Bill of Rights to provide practical and effective protection against forced labour.

The Court held that the proper approach is a fact-specific, remedy-based one, focusing on the particular findings of breach in the case and asking whether, in light of those findings, such legislation constitutes the only effective solution for providing the required protection.

On the facts of the instant case, the Court answered that question in the negative.

The full judgment can be accessed [here](#).

Re Up Energy Development Group Ltd (in liquidation) [2025] HKCA 555

On 16 June 2025, the Court of Appeal delivered its judgment in *Re Up Energy Development Group Ltd (in liquidation) [2025] HKCA 555*, addressing the second threshold requirement for a Hong Kong court to exercise its jurisdiction to wind up a foreign company – namely, whether there is a reasonable possibility that the winding-up order would benefit those applying for it.

Allowing the appeal, the Court held that this threshold requirement was not satisfied on the facts. There was insufficient evidence to demonstrate that the Company had assets in Hong Kong of meaningful value that would enure to the benefit of creditors if it were wound up in Hong Kong.

Importantly, the Court emphasized that what must be shown is a real, and not merely theoretical, possibility of benefit. The mere fact that a petitioner would obtain more extensive powers under the Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance (Cap 32) – beyond those that could, with proper legal basis, be conferred on a foreign liquidator by way of a recognition order – is not sufficient to satisfy the threshold requirement. Rather, the petitioner must demonstrate that, on the facts of the case, there is a real possibility of some discernible benefit arising from the possession of such statutory powers.

Chen Wencan and Another v Secretary for Justice and Another[2025] HKCA 595

On 4 July 2025, the Court of Appeal handed down its judgment in *Chen Wencan and Another v Secretary for Justice and Another* [2025] HKCA 595, addressing the constitutionality of ss 204, 205 and 207(e) of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap 571) ("SFO").

Under ss 204(1), 205(1) and 207(e) of the SFO, the SFC may impose a prohibition or requirement on a licensed corporation if it appears to the SFC that it is "desirable in the interest of the investing public or in the public interest". The applicants argued that "public interest" was too broad a concept to delineate the area of risk in a meaningful manner and the safeguards against abuse of power were insufficient.

The Court held that whilst in the present case, the concept of "public interest" is a broad one, the powers to impose relevant restrictions under the statutory regime are circumscribed by the fact that it may only be imposed on a licensed corporation, and can only be exercised for the purpose of performing the SFC's statutory functions.

Further, there are a number of safeguards collectively or cumulatively sufficient to provide a system of reasonable protection against abuse of power by the SFC, including the duty to give reasons and the right of any person affected by a prohibition or requirement imposed to apply to the SFC for the withdrawal, substitution or variation of the same.

In the light of the above, the appeal was dismissed.

The full judgment can be accessed [here](#).

Yim Tin Fook, since deceased (Yim Lok Man Winne, appointed by Order dated 10 May 2024 to represent the Estate of Yim Tin Fook, deceased) and Another v Yu Chor Lai, Kong Wai Hung and Sou Ka Lun trading as Wang Cheung Industrial Chemicals Co and Another [2025] HKCA 675

On 18 July 2025, the Court of Appeal handed down judgment in *Yim Tin Fook, since deceased (Yim Lok Man Winne, appointed by Order dated 10 May 2024 to represent the Estate of Yim Tin Fook, deceased) and Another v Yu Chor Lai, Kong Wai Hung and Sou Ka Lun trading as Wang Cheung Industrial Chemicals Co and Another [2025] HKCA 675*, addressing questions of law concerning a sub-lease being for a term exceeding the original term of the Government lease.

The Court held that the *Milmo v Carreras* rule is part of Hong Kong law and applies to Government leases, such that a sub-lease being for a term exceeding the original term of the Government lease operated as an assignment of it to the sub-lessee. Further, the statutory extension of Government leases under the New Territories Leases (Extension) Ordinance (Cap 150) only operated to extend the terms of the leases, rather than to grant the extended terms to any specified person. Accordingly, whoever held the lease took the benefit of the extension.

However, the Court held that s 3(2) of the Land Registration Ordinance (Cap 128) can affect the validity of instruments and in effect confer a larger interest on a purchaser than his predecessor-in-title had, and applies even though the property was transferred to a “volunteer” before being purchased by the purchaser. Section 3(2) makes a prior unregistered instrument absolutely null and void as against “any” subsequent bona fide purchaser for value, not just as against one who has purchased directly from a party to the prior instrument, and it is rendered null and void “to all intents and purposes”, not just for the purpose of the first assignment of the property after that instrument.

The full judgment can be accessed [here](#).

Tenwow International Holdings Limited (in liquidation) and Another v 普华永道中天会计师事务所(特殊普通合伙) Pricewaterhousecoopers Zhong Tian LLP [2025] HKCFA 17

On 16 October 2025, the Court of Final Appeal handed down its judgment in *Tenwow*

International Holdings Limited (in liquidation) and Another v 普华永道中天会计师事务所(特殊普通合伙) Pricewaterhousecoopers Zhong Tian LLP [2025] HKCFA 17, examining the jurisdiction of a Hong Kong court to issue a letter of request (“LOR”) to a court in another jurisdiction for assistance in obtaining documents in a party’s possession for use in Hong Kong litigation. The decision also considered the scope and application of the Arrangement on Mutual Taking of Evidence in Civil and Commercial Matters between the Courts of the Mainland and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (“Mutual Arrangement”).

The Court held that the jurisdiction of a Hong Kong court to issue a LOR derives from its inherent jurisdiction to do such acts as are necessary to maintain its character as a court of justice. In the present case, where a party was prevented by Mainland laws and regulations from transferring its documents to Hong Kong in order to comply with its discovery obligations, and it had been established by evidence that requesting assistance from the Mainland court was the appropriate channel to obtain the necessary approval, there was no good reason to limit the court’s inherent jurisdiction to issue a LOR.

The Court further held that the LOR sought in this case fell squarely within the scope of the Mutual Arrangement. The Mutual Arrangement is an administrative scheme and is not to be construed restrictively. There was no reason to suppose that the Mainland court would be unreceptive to the request.

The full judgment can be accessed [here](#).

11

HKSAR v Mak Kwong Yiu, Chan Lai Yee, Wong Shuk On and Lee Yick Ming [2025] HKCFA 20

On 5 November 2025, the Court of Final Appeal handed down its judgment in *HKSAR v Mak Kwong Yiu, Chan Lai Yee, Wong Shuk On and Lee Yick Ming [2025] HKCFA 20*, holding that to constitute a connected transaction under the Listing Rules of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, the transaction need not be made directly between a listed company and a connected person. Intermediate steps serving no commercial purpose can be disregarded. Further, the Court held that dishonest concealment of conflict of interest by a director accompanied by the realisation that such concealment may cause economic loss or put the economic interests of the company at risk is sufficient to ground a conviction of conspiracy to defraud.

The full judgment can be accessed [here](#).

Judges and Judicial Officers



Court of Final Appeal

◆ Chief Justice of the Court of Final Appeal

- The Hon Chief Justice Andrew CHEUNG, GBM

◆ Permanent Judges of the Court of Final Appeal

- The Hon Mr Justice R A V RIBEIRO, GBM
- The Hon Mr Justice Joseph FOK
- The Hon Mr Justice Johnson LAM

◆ Non-Permanent Judge of the Court of Final Appeal

- The Hon Mr Justice Kemal BOKHARY, GBM
- The Hon Mr Justice Patrick CHAN, GBM
- The Hon Mr Justice Robert TANG, GBM, SBS
- The Hon Mr Justice Frank STOCK, GBS

- The Rt Hon the Lord HOFFMANN, GBS
- The Rt Hon the Lord NEUBERGER of Abbotsbury, GBS
- The Hon Mr Justice William GUMMOW
- The Hon Mr Justice Patrick KEANE
- The Hon Mr Justice James ALLSOP
- The Hon Sir William YOUNG

◆ **Registrar of the Court of Final Appeal**

- Mr WONG King Wah

High Court

◆ **Chief Judge of the High Court**

- The Hon Mr Justice Jeremy POON

◆ **Justices of Appeal of the Court of Appeal of the High Court**

- The Hon Mr Justice Andrew MACRAE, V-P
- The Hon Madam Justice Susan KWAN, V-P
- The Hon Madam Justice Carlye CHU, V-P
- The Hon Mr Justice Peter CHEUNG, JA
- The Hon Mr Justice Aarif BARMA, JA
- The Hon Mr Justice Derek PANG, JA
- The Hon Mr Justice Kevin ZERVOS, JA

- The Hon Mr Justice Thomas AU, JA
- The Hon Mr Justice Godfrey LAM, JA
- The Hon Mr Justice Anderson CHOW, JA
- The Hon Mr Justice Anthony CHAN, JA

◆ **Judges of the Court of First Instance of the High Court**

- The Hon Mr Justice Barnabas FUNG, GBS
- The Hon Mrs Justice Judianna BARNES
- The Hon Mr Justice Jonathan HARRIS
- The Hon Madam Justice Queeny AU-YEUNG, SBS
- The Hon Madam Justice Esther TOH
- The Hon Mr Justice Andrew CHAN
- The Hon Madam Justice Mimmie CHAN
- The Hon Mr Justice Peter NG
- The Hon Mr Justice David LOK
- The Hon Madam Justice Susana D'ALMADA REMEDIOS
- The Hon Mr Justice Wilson CHAN
- The Hon Madam Justice Lisa WONG
- The Hon Mr Justice Tony POON
- The Hon Mr Justice Alex LEE
- The Hon Mr Justice Russell COLEMAN
- The Hon Mr Justice Keith YEUNG

- The Hon Madam Justice Linda CHAN
- The Hon Mr Justice Johnny CHAN
- The Hon Madam Justice Anna LAI, BBS
- The Hon Madam Justice Yvonne CHENG
- The Hon Mr Justice Herbert AU-YEUNG
- The Hon Madam Justice Winnie TSUI
- The Hon Mr Justice Simon LEUNG
- The Hon Mr Justice Douglas YAU
- The Hon Mr Justice Anthony KWOK
- The Hon Madam Justice Amanda WOODCOCK
- The Hon Mr Justice William TAM
- The Hon Mr Justice Eugene FUNG

◆ **Recorders of the Court of First Instance of the High Court**

- Mr Martin HUI, SC
- Ms SIT Yat Wah, SC
- Ms Rachel LAM, SC
- Mr WONG Ming Fung, BBS, SC
- Mr Victor DAWES, BBS, SC
- Mr Richard KHAW, SC
- Mr José-Antonio MAURELLET, SC
- Mr Abraham CHAN, SC

- Mr PAO Jin Long, SC
- Miss Maggie WONG, SC
- Mr Derek CHAN, SC
- Mr Jenkin SUEN, SC
- Mr Eric KWOK, BBS, SC

◆ **Registrar of the High Court**

- Mr Simon KWANG

◆ **Senior Deputy Registrars, High Court**

- Mr Andy HO
- Mr WONG King Wah
- Mr HUI Ka Ho

District Court

◆ **Chief District Judge**

- His Honour Judge Justin KO

◆ **District Judges**

- His Honour Judge Stanley CHAN
- His Honour Judge Eddie YIP
- His Honour Judge Frankie YIU
- His Honour Judge Josiah LAM

- His Honour Judge Jack WONG
- His Honour Judge Gary LAM
- His Honour Judge Harold LEONG
- His Honour Judge Kent YEE
- His Honour Judge Simon LO
- His Honour Judge Isaac TAM
- Her Honour Judge Angela KOT
- His Honour Judge George OWN
- Her Honour Judge Grace CHAN
- His Honour Judge Ivan WONG
- His Honour Judge M K LIU
- His Honour Judge Edmond LEE
- His Honour Judge Clement LEE
- His Honour Judge Ernest LIN
- Her Honour Judge A N TSE CHING
- His Honour Judge K C CHAN
- Her Honour Judge Phoebe MAN
- Her Honour Judge Lily WONG
- Her Honour Judge Kathie CHEUNG
- Her Honour Judge Thelma KWAN
- His Honour Judge Jonathan WONG

- Her Honour Judge Elaine LIU, BBS

- His Honour Judge Dick HO

- Her Honour Judge Ada YIM

- His Honour Judge Lawrence YIP

- Her Honour Judge Grace CHOW

- His Honour Judge Alan KWONG

- Her Honour Judge Phillis LOH

- Her Honour Judge Liza CRUDEN

- His Honour Judge C C LAM

- Her Honour Judge Michelle LAM

- His Honour Judge S H LEE



Lands Tribunal

◆ Member, Lands Tribunal

- Mr Lawrence PANG



Magistrates' Courts and other Tribunals

◆ Chief Magistrate

- Mr Victor SO

◆ Principal Magistrates

- Mr Simon LUI
- Mr Don SO
- Miss Ivy CHUI
- Mr David CHEUNG
- Mr Timon SHUM

◆ Magistrates

- Mr CHEANG Kei Hong
- Mr Raymond WONG
- Ms Amy CHAN
- Miss Josephine CHOW
- Mr Jason WAN
- Mr LI Chi Ho
- Ms Susan WONG
- Ms Winnie LAU
- Mr Daniel TANG
- Mr CHENG Lim Chi
- Mr David CHUM
- Mr David KO
- Miss HO Wai Yang
- Miss Debbie NG

■ Ms Veronica HEUNG

■ Ms Catherine CHENG

■ Mr Kenneth CHAN

■ Mr Raymund CHOW

■ Ms Isabella CHU

■ Mr David CHAN

■ Ms Peony WONG

■ Mr Colin WONG

■ Ms Rita SO

■ Miss Jacqueline LEE

■ Mr Stanley HO

■ Ms Michelle SOONG

■ Ms LEUNG Ka Kie

■ Ms Stephanie TSUI

■ Ms Jocelyn LEUNG

■ Mr Norton PANG

■ Ms May CHUNG

■ Miss Louise CHAN

■ Mr Edward WONG

■ Mr LAM Tsz Kan

■ Mr Matthew LEUNG

■ Miss Betty LAU

- Mr Andrew MOK
- Miss Frances LEUNG
- Mr Arthur LAM
- Ms Monica CHOW
- Ms Anny CHAK
- Mr Maurice LAM
- Ms Eleanor YEUNG
- Miss Jo SIU
- Mr LUNG Gwun Ting
- Miss Minnie WAT
- Mr Peter YU
- Mr Jeffrey SZE
- Mr Dominic PUN
- Ms Charmaine LO
- Ms Vivian HO
- Mr Philip CHAN
- Mr TSANG Chung Yiu
- Miss Vivian LEE
- Mr Patrick TSANG
- Mr Gary CHU
- Mr Ross LI

- Mr Kestrel LAM
- Miss Vienne LUK
- Ms Minnie WONG
- Ms Doris LI
- Mr Eric YAO
- Ms Claudia NG
- Mr Tobias CHENG
- Mr George LAM
- Ms Jennifer NG
- Ms Shirley HUNG



Judges and Judicial Officers who retired/left the Judiciary in 2025

◆ Non-Permanent Judge of the Court of Final Appeal

- The Hon Mr Justice Robert FRENCH
(Left service in 2025)

◆ Justices of Appeal of the Court of Appeal of the High Court

- The Hon Madam Justice Maggie POON, GBS, JA
(Retired in 2025)
- The Hon Madam Justice Anthea PANG, GBS, JA
(Retired in 2025)

◆ Principal Family Court Judge

- His Honour Judge C K CHAN

(Retired in 2025)

◆ District Judges

- His Honour Judge W K KWOK

(Retired in 2025)

- His Honour Judge Andrew LI

(Retired in 2025)

- His Honour Judge C P PANG

(Retired in 2025)

◆ Member, Lands Tribunal

- Mr Alex NG

(Retired in 2025)

◆ Magistrates

- Mr Brian MAK

(Retired in 2025)

- Ms June CHEUNG

(Left service in 2025)

- Ms Kelly SHUI

(Retired in 2025)

Caseload, Case Disposal and Waiting Time at Different Court Levels



 Court of Final Appeal



 High Court



 Competition Tribunal



 District Court



 Lands Tribunal



 Magistrates' Courts



 Labour Tribunal >



 Small Claims Tribunal >



 Obscene Articles Tribunal >



 Coroner's Court >

Court of Final Appeal

(up to 30 Sep 2025)



Total Caseload (1)

192



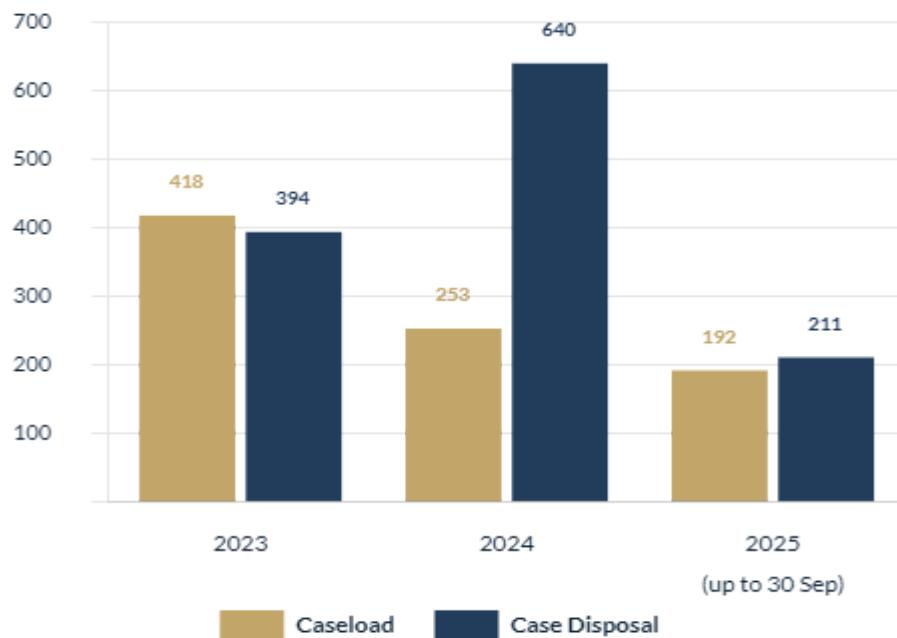
Case Disposal (2)

211



1. Caseload refers to the number of cases filed
2. Case disposal refers to applications for leave to appeal/appeals which have been allowed, dismissed, withdrawn, abandoned or discontinued

■ Caseload and Case Disposal



Caseload and Case Disposal



	Caseload			Case Disposal *		
	2023	2024	2025 (up to 30 Sep)	2023	2024	2025 (up to 30 Sep)
Applications for leave to appeal						
Criminal	43	43	44	46 (24)	48 (33)	40 (36)
Civil	352	186	141	326 (250)	572 (536)	159 (146)
Total	395	229	185	372	620	199
Substantive appeals						
Criminal	13	12	2	11	9	6
Civil	10	12	5	11	11	6
Total	23	24	7	22	20	12
Miscellaneous proceedings	0	0	0	0	0	0

* Case disposal refers to applications for leave to appeal/appeals which have been allowed, dismissed, withdrawn, abandoned or discontinued

The figures in brackets indicate the number of applications dismissed under Rule 7 of the Court of Final Appeal Rules, Cap. 484A

Average waiting time



	Target	Average Waiting Time (days)		
		2023	2024	2025 (as at 30 Sep)
Applications for leave to appeal <i>From notice of hearing to hearing</i>				
Criminal	45	36	37	37
Civil	35	31	31	31
Substantive appeals <i>From notice of hearing to hearing</i>				
Criminal	100	89	97	96
Civil	120	89	95	94

High Court

(up to 30 Sep 2025)



Total Caseload (1)

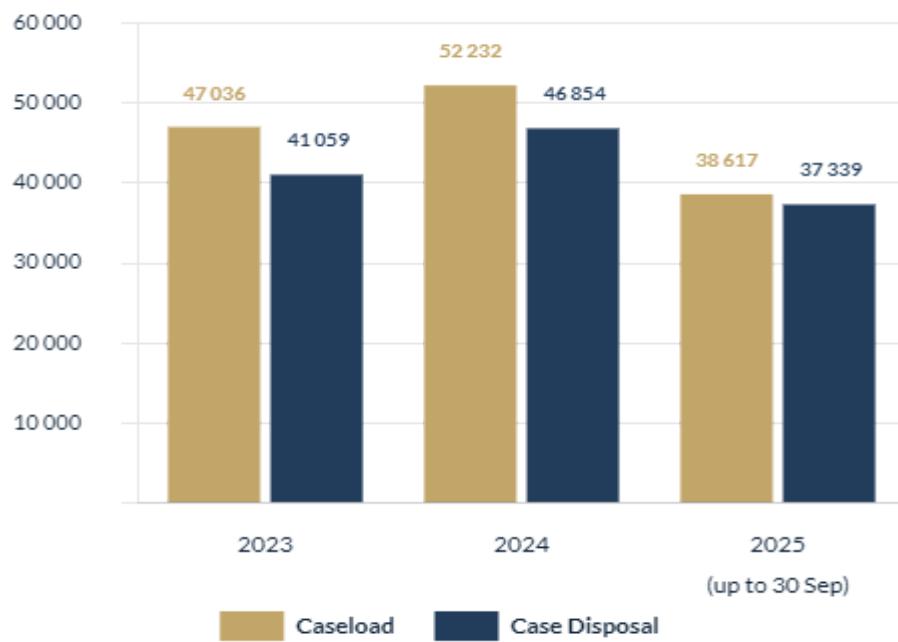
38 617

Case Disposal (2)

37 339

1. Caseload refers to the number of cases filed
2. Case disposal refers to appeals/reviews which have been allowed, dismissed, withdrawn, discontinued or abandoned with or without a court order; criminal cases where defendants have been convicted or acquitted; and civil cases where claims have been successfully made or dismissed

■ Caseload and Case Disposal



Caseload and Case Disposal



Court of Appeal

	Caseload			Case Disposal *		
	2023	2024	2025 (up to 30 Sep)	2023	2024	2025 (up to 30 Sep)
Appellate						
Criminal						
Appeals from the Court of First Instance	75	82	242	72	85	56
Appeals from the District Court	171	190	149	178	179	134
Sub-total	246	272	391	250	264	190
Civil						
Appeals from the Court of First Instance	413	537	800	331	414	411
Appeals from the District Court	10	15	7	22	15	9
Miscellaneous Appeals	16	25	10	14	17	10
Sub-total	439	577	817	367	446	430
Review of Sentences						
Criminal						
Reviews from the Court of First Instance	1	0	0	4	0	1

	Caseload			Case Disposal *		
	2023	2024	2025 (up to 30 Sep)	2023	2024	2025 (up to 30 Sep)
Reviews from the District Court	3	4	11	8	3	2
Reviews from the Magistrates' Courts	1	0	2	2	0	0
Sub-total	5	4	13	14	3	3
Total	690	853	1 221	631	713	623
Miscellaneous Proceedings	381	249	194	421	340	158
Other cases #	0	1	0	0	0	0

* Case disposal refers to appeals/reviews which have been allowed, dismissed, withdrawn, discontinued or abandoned with or without a court order

Other cases include Secretary for Justice's Reference and Reservation of Question of Law which statistics are provided in the Annual Report since 2024

■ Court of First Instance

	Caseload			Case Disposal *		
	2023	2024	2025 (up to 30 Sep)	2023	2024	2025 (up to 30 Sep)
Appellate						
Criminal						
Appeals from Magistrates' Courts	496	506	350	351	539	385
Civil						
Appeals from Labour Tribunal	32	48	27	17	37	36

	Caseload			Case Disposal *		
	2023	2024	2025 (up to 30 Sep)	2023	2024	2025 (up to 30 Sep)
Appeals from Small Claims Tribunal	41	75	33	49	62	36
Appeals from Minor Employment Claims Adjudication Board	1	0	2	2	0	1
Miscellaneous Appeals	6	2	0	4	4	4
Sub-total	80	125	62	72	103	77
Total	576	631	412	423	642	462

First Instance

Criminal Jurisdiction

Criminal Cases	446	452	315	301	371	333
Confidential Miscellaneous Proceedings	749	698	542	749	698	542
Application for Discharge	0	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous Proceedings (Criminal)	882	1 012	768	833	980	739
Sub-total	2 077	2 162	1 625	1 883	2 049	1 614

Civil Jurisdiction

High Court Actions	2 113	2 586	1 841	1 164	1 444	1 328
--------------------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------

	Caseload			Case Disposal *		
	2023	2024	2025 (up to 30 Sep)	2023	2024	2025 (up to 30 Sep)
Miscellaneous Proceedings	2 488	2 826	1 725	1 630	1 876	1 507
Bankruptcy & Companies Winding-up ⁺	9 134	10 958	9 049	8 904	10 518	8 723
Personal Injuries Actions	367	375	233	348	323	280
Other cases #	2 912	3 256	2 722	1 937	2 340	3 054
Sub-total	17 014	20 001	15 570	13 983	16 501	14 892
Total	19 091	22 163	17 195	15 866	18 550	16 506
Masters Chambers						
Interlocutory hearings **	20 938	24 236	18 307	18 741	21 455	16 334
Taxation bills	414	437	318	403 ⁽¹⁾	324 ⁽¹⁾	239 ⁽¹⁾
Probate						
Applications	26 298	28 335	19 595	23 718 ⁽²⁾	26 609 ⁽²⁾	19 590 ⁽²⁾

* Case disposal refers to appeals which have been allowed, dismissed, withdrawn, discontinued or abandoned with or without a court order; criminal cases where defendants have been convicted or acquitted; and civil cases where claims have been successfully made or dismissed

+ Cases include Bankruptcy Proceedings, Companies Winding-up Proceedings, Applications for Interim Order (Bankruptcy) and Applications to Set Aside Statutory Demands

Other cases include Constitutional and Administrative Law Proceedings, Admiralty Actions, Adoptions, Bill of Sale Registrations, Book Debt Registrations, Commercial Actions, Construction and Arbitration Cases, Matrimonial Causes, Applications under the Mental Health Ordinance, Probate Actions, Stop Notices, Confidential Miscellaneous Proceedings (Civil), Intellectual Property Cases and High Court Reciprocal Enforcement Cases (a new case type created for handling registration applications made under the Mainland Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters (Reciprocal Enforcement) Ordinance (Cap. 645), Order 71 and Order 71A of The Rules of the High Court (Cap. 4A) and Mainland Judgments in Matrimonial and Family Cases (Reciprocal Recognition and Enforcement) Ordinance (Cap. 639) in the Court of First Instance with effect from 29 January 2024)

** The caseload figure represents the number of interlocutory applications listed with hearings, and the disposal figure represents the number of the interlocutory applications heard in the reporting period

(1) Case disposal refers to taxation bills processed

Average waiting time

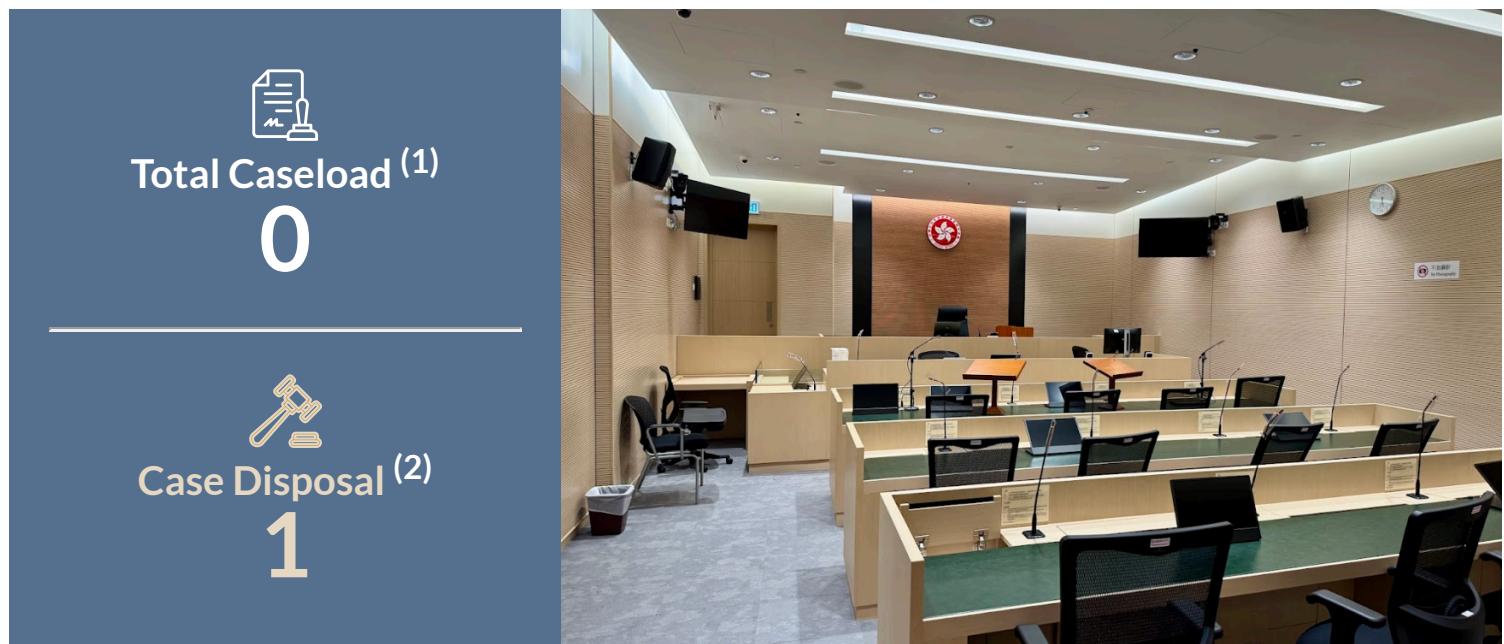


	Average Waiting Time (days)			
	Target	2023	2024	2025 (as at 30 Sep)
Court of Appeal				
Criminal - <i>from setting down of a case to hearing</i>	50	47	47	47
Civil - <i>from application to fix date to hearing</i>	90	64	66	86
<hr/>				
Court of First Instance				
Criminal Fixture List - <i>from filing of indictment to hearing</i> *	-	352	369	355
Civil Fixture List - <i>from application to fix date to hearing</i>	180	158	172	136
Civil Running List - <i>from not-to-be-warned date to hearing</i>	30	26	16	26
Appeals from Magistrates' Courts - <i>from lodging of Notice of Appeal to hearing</i>	90	208	131	115

* A new Practice Direction on criminal proceedings in the Court of First Instance of the High Court was promulgated in June 2017 to enhance management of criminal proceedings. Having regard to the new procedures under the Practice Direction, consideration is being given to review how the average waiting time for the Criminal Fixture List should be measured. In addition, the Criminal Expedited List has replaced the Criminal Running List. The way to measure the average waiting time of the Criminal Expedited List and the setting of its target are being considered in the light of the operation of the new measures

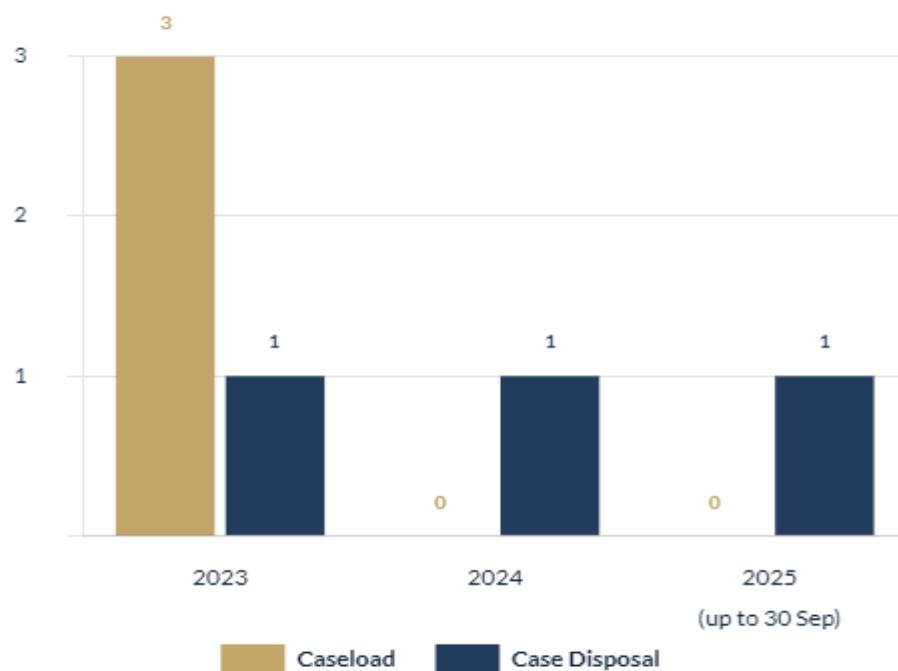
Competition Tribunal

(up to 30 Sep 2025)



1. Caseload refers to the number of cases filed
2. Case disposal refers to applications / claims which have been successfully made or dismissed

■ Caseload and Case Disposal



Caseload and Case Disposal



	Caseload			Case Disposal *		
	2023	2024	2025 (up to 30 Sep)	2023	2024	2025 (up to 30 Sep)
Application for Review	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enforcement Action	3	0	0	1	1	1
Action	0	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous proceedings	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	3	0	0	1	1	1

* Case disposal refers to applications / claims which have been successfully made or dismissed

Average waiting time



As there are only ten cases being set down for trial/substantive hearing in the Competition Tribunal, the waiting time is inapplicable. The target average waiting time will be considered when more cases are set down for trial/substantive hearing at the Tribunal

District Court

(up to 30 Sep 2025)



Total Caseload ⁽¹⁾

40 169



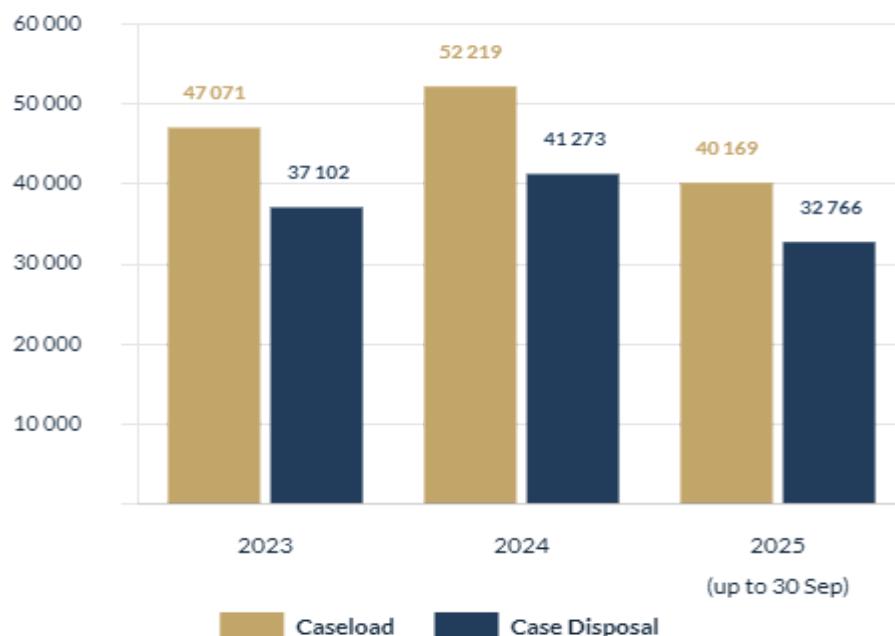
Case Disposal ⁽²⁾

32 766



1. Caseload refers to the number of cases filed
2. Case disposal refers to cases where defendants have been convicted or acquitted and those where claims have been successfully made or dismissed

■ Caseload and Case Disposal



Caseload and Case Disposal



	Caseload			Case Disposal *		
	2023	2024	2025 (up to 30 Sep)	2023	2024	2025 (up to 30 Sep)
Criminal Jurisdiction						
Criminal Cases	1 331	1 623	1 391	1 136	1 334	1 078
Civil Jurisdiction						
Civil	5 954	7 736	5 441	4 426	5 572	3 979
Tax Claim	643	477	794	575	429	683
Distress for Rent	4 979	7 529	6 710	4 712	7 329	6 542
Employee's Compensation	2 892	2 839	2 089	2 631	2 618	2 098
Other civil cases ⁺	10 358	11 689	9 143	5 448	4 756	3 704
Sub-total	24 826	30 270	24 177	17 792	20 704	17 006
Family Jurisdiction						
Matrimonial Causes	14 831	13 858	9 727	13 105	13 515	9 571
Joint Applications	5 790	6 131	4 640	4 814	5 423	4 889
Miscellaneous Proceedings	230	273	198	213	240	186
Adoption Applications	52	51	26	40	48	28
Reciprocal Enforcement Proceedings	11	13	10	2	9	8
Sub-total	20 914	20 326	14 601	18 174⁽¹⁾	19 235⁽¹⁾	14 682⁽¹⁾

	Caseload			Case Disposal *		
	2023	2024	2025 (up to 30 Sep)	2023	2024	2025 (up to 30 Sep)
Total (Civil)	45 740	50 596	38 778	35 966	39 939	31 688
Total	47 071	52 219	40 169	37 102	41 273	32 766
Masters Chambers						
Interlocutory hearings **	11 956	13 814	11 381	8 881	10 391	8 464
Taxation bills						
Divorce	483	450	335	474	438	299
Others	487	510	334	200	198	102
Sub-total	970	960	669	674 ⁽²⁾	636 ⁽²⁾	401 ⁽²⁾
Total	12 926	14 774	12 050	9 555	11 027	8 865

+ Other civil cases include Miscellaneous Proceedings, Stamp Duty (Ordinance) Appeals, Equal Opportunities Actions, Personal Injuries Cases, Occupational Deafness (Compensation) Appeals, Pneumoconiosis (Compensation) Appeals, Estate Agents Appeals and Stop Notice Cases

* Case disposal refers to cases where defendants have been convicted or acquitted and those where claims have been successfully made or dismissed

** The caseload figure represents the number of interlocutory applications listed with hearings, and the case disposal figure represents the number of the interlocutory applications heard in the reporting period

(1) Case disposal refers to Decree Absolute granted and Adoption Orders made

(2) Case disposal refers to taxation bills processed

Average waiting time



	Target	Average Waiting Time (days)		
		2023	2024	2025 (as at 30 Sep)
Criminal - <i>from first appearance of defendants in District Court to hearing</i>	100	442	397	338
Civil Fixture List - <i>from date of listing to hearing</i>	120	115	110	113
Civil Running List - <i>from not-to-be-warned date to hearing</i>	30	14	14	20
Dissolution of marriage - <i>from setting down of a case to hearing</i>				
■ Special Procedure List	35	35	35	34
■ Defended List (all hearings)	110	53	42	34
■ Financial applications <i>from setting down of a case to hearing</i>	110-140	71	73	77

Lands Tribunal

(up to 30 Sep 2025)



Total Caseload ⁽¹⁾

3 685



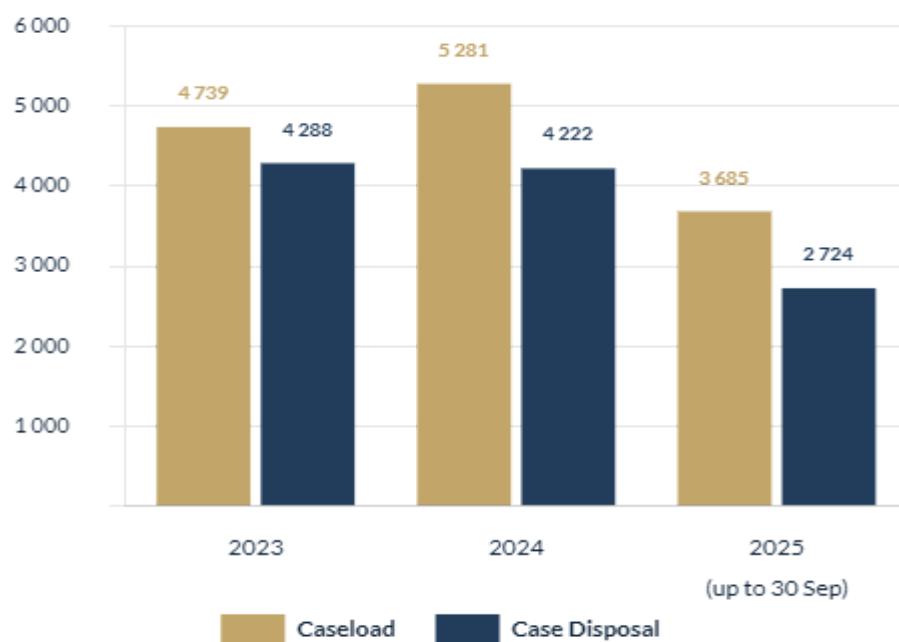
Case Disposal ⁽²⁾

2 724



1. Caseload refers to the number of cases filed
2. Case disposal refers to appeals which have been allowed or dismissed and trials or hearings which have been concluded

■ Caseload and Case Disposal



Caseload and Case Disposal



	Caseload			Case Disposal *		
	2023	2024	2025 (up to 30 Sep)	2023	2024	2025 (up to 30 Sep)
Appeal cases	674	833	516	426	552	152
Compensation cases	8	10	10	5	6	5
Building management cases	174	232	144	173	166	127
Tenancy cases	3 872	4 201	3 007	3 659	3 488	2 432
Lands compulsory sale applications	5	1	4	25	8	6
Miscellaneous proceedings applications	6	4	4	0	2	2
Total	4 739	5 281	3 685	4 288	4 222	2 724

* Case disposal refers to appeals which have been allowed or dismissed and trials or hearings which have been concluded

Average waiting time



	Target	Average Waiting Time (days)		
		2023	2024	2025 (as at 30 Sep)
From setting down of a case to hearing				
Appeal cases	90	8	6	-*
Compensation cases	90	15	46	52
Building management cases	90	32	34	47
Tenancy cases	50	15	18	32

* As there is no appeal case filed, the waiting time is inapplicable

Magistrates' Courts

(up to 30 Sep 2025)



Total Caseload ⁽¹⁾

279 291



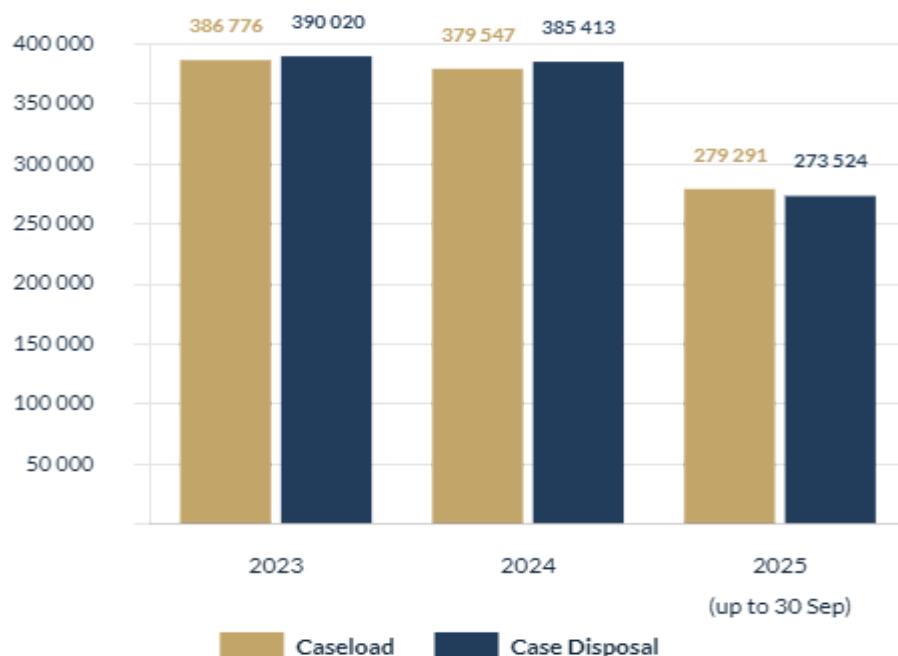
Case Disposal ⁽²⁾

273 524



1. Caseload refers to the number of cases filed
2. Case disposal refers to cases where defendants have been convicted or acquitted after trial or hearing, pre-hearing payments of all penalties and costs, and applications which have been granted, refused, withdrawn or struck out

■ Caseload and Case Disposal



Caseload and Case Disposal



	Caseload			Case Disposal *		
	2023	2024	2025 (up to 30 Sep)	2023	2024	2025 (up to 30 Sep)
Charge Cases	24 167	26 449	19 877	23 883	25 876	18 155
Hawker Cases	942	809	399	944	801	394
Departmental & Private Summons	177 589	169 702	130 213	174 650	172 411	126 048
Driving-Offence Points Summons	2 686	2 696	1 704	2 562	2 613	1 770
Taxi-Driver-Offence Points Summons #	-	0	0	-	0	0
Fixed Penalty Summons (Traffic)	592	682	461	636	640	520
Fixed Penalty Summons (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction)	72	136	132	78	120	134
Fixed Penalty Summons (Smoking Offences)	30	30	19	18	36	20
Fixed Penalty Summons (Vehicle Idling)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fixed Penalty Summons (Mandatory Window Inspection)	11	7	1	10	9	1

	Caseload			Case Disposal *		
	2023	2024	2025 (up to 30 Sep)	2023	2024	2025 (up to 30 Sep)
Fixed Penalty Summonses (Plastic Shopping Bag)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fixed Penalty Summonses (Gathering Offence)	10	0	0	45	8	1
Fixed Penalty Summonses (Mask Not Worn)	93	2	0	200	42	8
Fixed Penalty Summonses (Compulsory Testing)	1	0	0	1	0	0
Fixed Penalty Summonses (Premises Direction)	19	0	0	39	4	3
Fixed Penalty Summonses (Vaccine Pass)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fixed Penalty Summonses (Plastic Product) %	-	0	2	-	0	1
Fixed Penalty Summonses (Feed Wild Animals/Pigeons) @	-	0	12	-	0	10

	Caseload			Case Disposal *		
	2023	2024	2025 (up to 30 Sep)	2023	2024	2025 (up to 30 Sep)
Penalty Summons (Boothless Mode Toll)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous Proceedings	12 132	13 941	10 460	11 954	13 184	8 127
Departmental Notice	315	224	179	356	206	186
Fixed Penalty Notice (Traffic)	163 877	151 222	97 879	169 837	156 534	101 264
Fixed Penalty Notice (Public Cleanliness and Obstruction)	2 465	2 070	1 782	2 482	2 108	1 672
Fixed Penalty Notice (Smoking Offences)	551	973	621	444	1 011	663
Fixed Penalty Notice (Vehicle Idling)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fixed Penalty Notice (Mandatory Window Inspection)	301	117	29	325	143	27
Fixed Penalty Recovery Order (Plastic Shopping Bag)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fixed Penalty Recovery Order (Gathering)	98	0	0	269	0	0

	Caseload			Case Disposal *		
	2023	2024	2025 (up to 30 Sep)	2023	2024	2025 (up to 30 Sep)
Offence)						
Fixed Penalty Recovery Order (Mask Not Worn)	338	0	0	732	68	0
Fixed Penalty Recovery Order (Compulsory Testing)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fixed Penalty Recovery Order (Premises Direction)	349	0	0	529	0	0
Fixed Penalty Recovery Order (Vaccine Pass)	5	0	0	6	0	0
Fixed Penalty Recovery Order (Plastic Product) %	-	0	1	-	0	1
Fixed Penalty Recovery Order (Feed Wild Animals/Pigeons) @	-	0	20	-	0	19
Penalty Notice (Boothless Mode Toll)	133	10 487	15 500	20	9 599	14 500
Total	386 776	379 547	279 291	390 020	385 413	273 524

* Case disposal refers to cases where defendants have been convicted or acquitted after trial or hearing, pre-hearing payments of all penalties and costs, and applications which have been granted, refused, withdrawn or struck out

% New case types pursuant to section 83 of the Product Eco-responsibility Ordinance, Cap. 603 came into effect on 22 April 2024

@ New case types pursuant to section 5 of Schedule 9 of the Wild Animals Protection Ordinance , Cap. 170 came into effect on 1 August 2024

New case type pursuant to the Taxi-Driver-Offence Points Ordinance, Cap. 647 came into effect on 22 September 2024

Average waiting time



	Target	Average Waiting Time (days)		
		2023	2024	2025 (as at 30 Sep)
<i>Summons - from plea to date of trial</i>	50	74	45	42
Charge cases except for Juvenile Court - from plea to date of trial				
■ For defendants in custody	30-45	48	40	39
■ For defendants on bail	45-60	66	53	47
Charge cases for Juvenile Court - from plea to date of trial				
■ For defendants in custody	30-45	40	54	- *
■ For defendants on bail	45-60	76	69	61

* As there is no charge case for the Juvenile Court where the defendant is remanded in custody, the waiting time is inapplicable

Labour Tribunal

(up to 30 Sep 2025)



Total Caseload⁽¹⁾

3 925



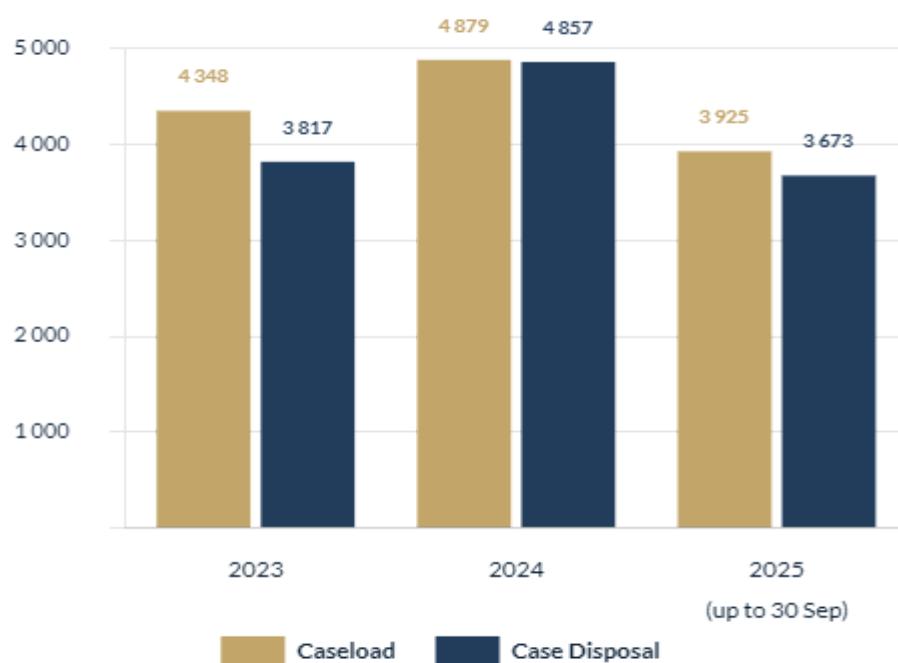
Case Disposal⁽²⁾

3 673



1. Caseload refers to the number of cases filed
2. Case disposal refers to claims which have been concluded, including claims awarded, dismissed, settled, withdrawn and transferred

■ Caseload and Case Disposal *



* Caseload and case disposal in the graphics refer to claims only

Caseload and Case Disposal



	Caseload			Case Disposal *		
	2023	2024	2025 (up to 30 Sep)	2023	2024	2025 (up to 30 Sep)
Claims	4 348	4 879	3 925	3 817	4 857	3 673
Reviews	125	152	96	130	131	105
Restore claims	57	65	61	54	62	49
Set-aside awards	99	95	106	99	88	95
Total	4 629	5 191	4 188	4 100	5 138	3 922

* Case disposal refers to claims which have been concluded, including claims awarded, dismissed, settled, withdrawn and transferred

Average waiting time



	Average Waiting Time (days)			
	Target	2023	2024	2025 (as at 30 Sep)
From appointment to filing of a case	30	38	36	33
From filing of a case to first hearing	30	23	23	23

Small Claims Tribunal

(up to 30 Sep 2025)



Total Caseload ⁽¹⁾

42 531



Case Disposal ⁽²⁾

42 233

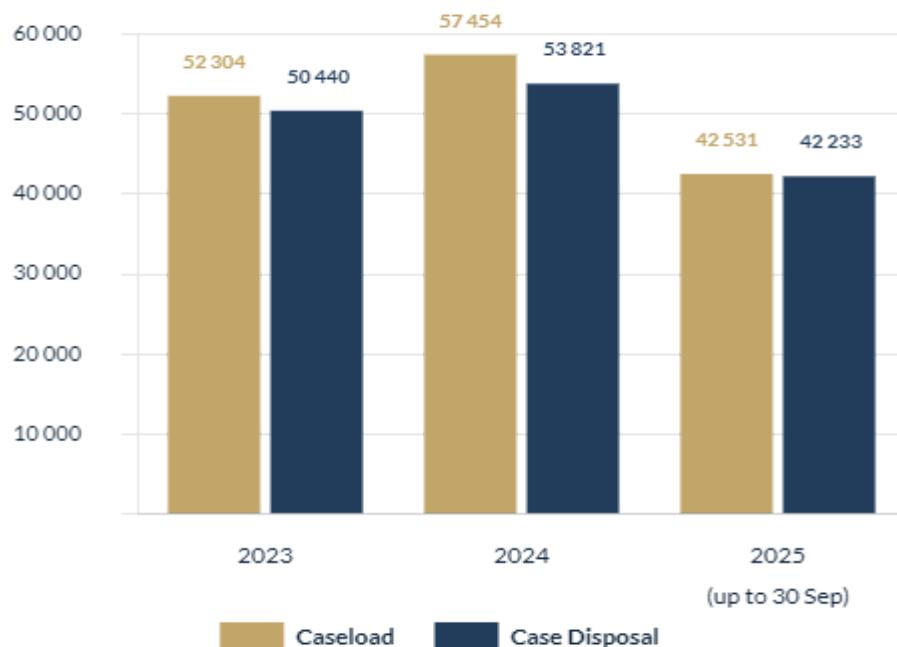


1. Caseload refers to the number of cases filed

2. Case disposal refers to claims which have been made successfully or dismissed

On or before 2023, the definition of case disposal was based on party disposal, i.e. a case was treated as disposed of once one party in a case had been disposed of. Since 2024, the definition has been refined to the effect that a case is considered as disposed of only when all the parties involved have been disposed of

■ Caseload and Case Disposal *



* Caseload and case disposal in the graphics refer to claims only

■ Caseload and Case Disposal



	Caseload			Case Disposal * ^		
	2023	2024	2025 (up to 30 Sep)	2023	2024	2025 (up to 30 Sep)
Claims	52 304	57 454	42 531	50 440	53 821	42 233
Reviews	188	224	170	208	213	157
Total	52 492	57 678	42 701	50 648	54 034	42 390

* Case disposal refers to claims which have been made successfully or dismissed

^ On or before 2023, the definition of case disposal was based on party disposal, i.e. a case was treated as disposed of once one party in a case had been disposed of. Since 2024, the definition has been refined to the effect that a case is considered as disposed of only when all the parties involved have been disposed of

■ Average waiting time



	Average Waiting Time (days)			
	Target	2023	2024	2025 (as at 30 Sep)
From filing of a case to first hearing	60	35	41	41

Obscene Articles Tribunal

(up to 30 Sep 2025)



Total Caseload ⁽¹⁾

110



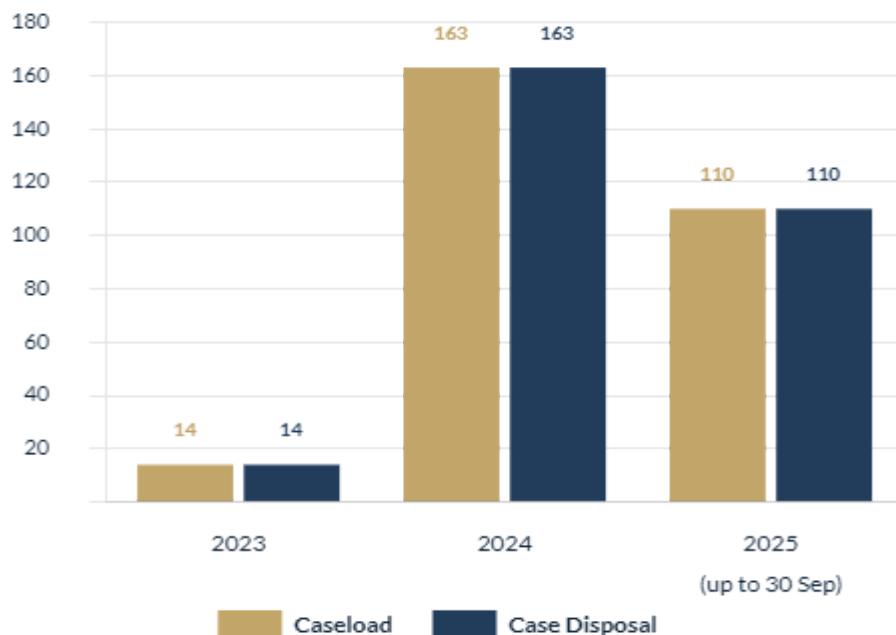
Case Disposal ⁽²⁾

110



1. Caseload refers to the number of cases filed
2. Case disposal refers to those articles which have been determined or classified and those in respect of which determination or classification is not required with consent of both parties

■ Caseload and Case Disposal *



* Caseload and case disposal in the graphics refer to articles for determination and articles for classification only

Caseload and Case Disposal



	Caseload			Case Disposal *		
	2023	2024	2025 (up to 30 Sep)	2023	2024	2025 (up to 30 Sep)
Articles for determination	0	8	0	0	8	0
Articles for classification	14	155	110	14	155	110
Articles for review	0	0	0	0	0	0
Articles for reconsideration	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	14	163	110	14	163	110

* Case disposal refers to those articles which have been determined or classified; those in respect of which determination or classification is not required with consent of both parties; and those in respect of which determination or classification has been reviewed or reconsidered

Average waiting time



	Target	Average Waiting Time (days)			2025 (as at 30 Sep)
		2023	2024		
From referral by a magistrate to determination	21	- #	18	- #	
From receipt of application to classification	5	2	3	2	
From receipt of application to review	35	- ^	- ^	- ^	
From receipt of application to reconsideration	35	- *	- *	- *	

As there is no application for determination filed, the waiting time is inapplicable

^ As there is no application for review filed, the waiting time is inapplicable

* As there is no application for reconsideration filed, the waiting time is inapplicable

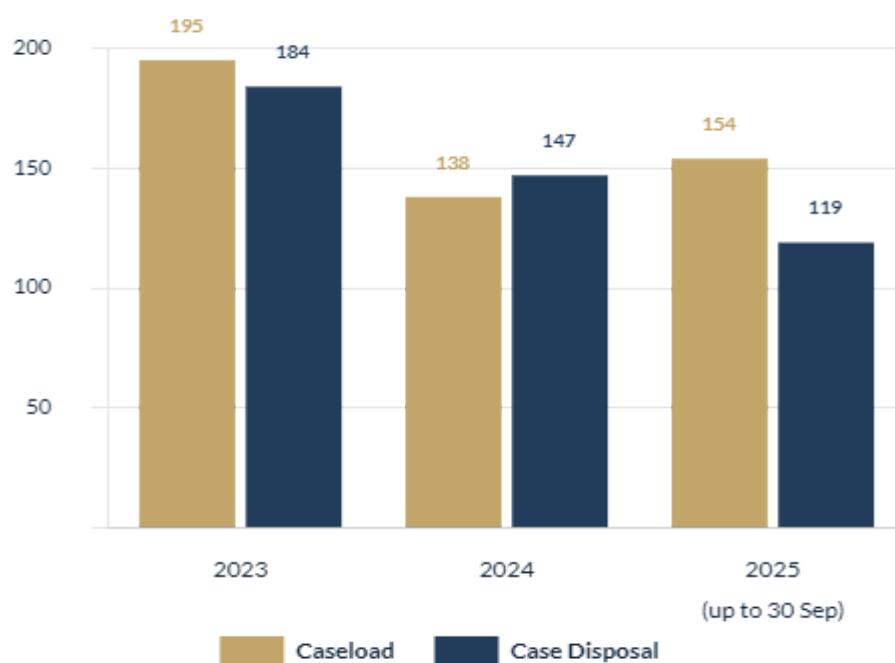
Coroner's Court

(up to 30 Sep 2025)



1. Caseload refers to the number of cases filed
2. Case disposal refers to death inquests concluded

■ Caseload and Case Disposal



Caseload and Case Disposal



	Caseload			Case Disposal *		
	2023	2024	2025 (up to 30 Sep)	2023	2024	2025 (up to 30 Sep)
Death inquests with jury	183	120	107	172	128	112
Death inquests without jury	12	18	47	12	19	7
Total	195	138	154	184	147	119

* Case disposal refers to death inquests concluded

Average waiting time



	Average Waiting Time (days)			
	Target	2023	2024	2025 (as at 30 Sep)
From date of listing to hearing	42	34	32	32

Membership List of the Advisory Committee on Complaints against Judicial Conduct

The Advisory Committee on Complaints against Judicial Conduct

◆ Chairman

- The Hon Chief Justice Andrew CHEUNG, GBM
Chief Justice of the Court of Final Appeal

◆ Members

- The Hon Mr Justice Johnson LAM
Permanent Judge of the Court of Final Appeal
- The Hon Mr Justice Patrick CHAN, GBM
Non-Permanent Judge of the Court of Final Appeal
- The Hon Mr Justice Jeremy POON
Chief Judge of the High Court
- The Hon Madam Justice Susan KWAN, V-P
Justice of Appeal of the Court of Appeal of the High Court
- Dr CHENG Wai Chee, Christopher, GBS, JP
- Ms LAU Yin Hing, Connie, SBS, JP
- Ms FUNG Yuen Mei, Anita, BBS, JP
- Mr FUNG Pak Tung, Patrick, BBS, SC

Information on Complaints against Judges and Judicial Officers in 2025 is available at the webpage.

Membership List of the Rules Committees

Court of Final Appeal Rules Committee

◆ Chairman

- The Hon Chief Justice Andrew CHEUNG, GBM
Chief Justice of the Court of Final Appeal

◆ Members

- The Hon Mr Justice R A V RIBEIRO, GBM
Permanent Judge of the Court of Final Appeal
- The Hon Mr Justice FOK
Permanent Judge of the Court of Final Appeal
- Mr WONG King Wah
Registrar of the Court of Final Appeal
- Mr Anson WONG, S.C.
- Mr Johnny MA, S.C.
- Mr Amirali B. NASIR
- Mr Ronald SUM
- Mr Clifford TAVARES
Department of Justice

◆ Secretary

- Mr WONG King Wah
Registrar of the Court of Final Appeal



High Court Rules Committee

◆ Chairman

- The Hon Mr Justice Jeremy POON
Chief Judge of the High Court

◆ Members

- The Hon Madam Justice Susan KWAN, V-P
Justice of Appeal of the Court of Appeal of the High Court
- The Hon Mr Justice Anderson CHOW
Justice of Appeal of the Court of Appeal of the High Court
- Mr Simon KWANG
Registrar, High Court
- Mr Christopher CHAIN, S.C.
- Ms Queenie LAU, S.C.
- Mr Christopher YU
- Mr HAU Pak Sun
- Mr Mark CHAN
Department of Justice

◆ Secretary

- Mr Simon KWANG
Registrar, High Court



District Court Rules Committee

◆ Chairman

- The Hon Mr Justice Jeremy POON
Chief Judge of the High Court

◆ Members

- His Honour Judge Justin KO
Chief District Judge

- His Honour Judge M K LIU
District Judge

- His Honour Judge Kent YEE
District Judge

- Ms Michelle SOONG
Registrar, District Court

- Ms Angel WONG

- Mr Calvin CHENG

- Ms CHAN Pui Shan, Joyce
Department of Justice

◆ Secretary

- Ms Michelle SOONG
Registrar, District Court

Criminal Procedure Rules Committee

◆ Chairman

- The Hon Mr Justice Jeremy POON
Chief Judge of the High Court

◆ Members

- The Hon Mr Justice Andrew MACRAE, V-P
Justice of Appeal of the Court of Appeal of the High Court
- The Hon Mr Justice Alex LEE
Judge of the Court of First Instance of the High Court
- Mr HUI Ka Ho
Senior Deputy Registrar of High Court
- Mr Benson TSOI, S.C.
- Mr Calvin CHENG
- Mr Derek LAU
Department of Justice
- Mr Ben LI
Legal Aid Department

◆ Secretary

- Mr HUI Ka Ho
Senior Deputy Registrar of High Court



Family Procedure Rules Committee

◆ Chairman

- The Hon Mr Justice Jeremy POON
Chief Judge of the High Court

◆ Members

- The Honourable Mr Justice Herbert AU-YEUNG
Judge of the Court of First Instance of the High Court

- His Honour Judge Ivan WONG
Principal Family Court Judge
- Her Honour Judge Grace CHAN
Family Judge
- Mr LUNG Gwun Ting
Family Court Master
- Ms Mairéad RATTIGAN, S.C.
Representative of the Hong Kong Bar Association
- Mr Eugene YIM
Representative of the Hong Kong Bar Association
- Ms Catherine POR
Representative of the Law Society of Hong Kong
- Ms Rita KU
Representative of the Law Society of Hong Kong
- Mrs Annie WILLIAMS
Department of Justice

◆ **Secretary**

- Mr Simon KWANG
Registrar, High Court

Membership List of the Working Party on Mediation



The Working Party on Mediation

◆ Chairman

- The Hon Mr Justice Johnson LAM
Permanent Judge of the Court of Final Appeal

◆ Members

- The Hon Mr Justice Barnabas FUNG, GBS
Judge of the Court of First Instance of the High Court
- The Hon Madam Justice Lisa WONG
Judge of the Court of First Instance of the High Court
- The Hon Mr Justice Herbert AU-YEUNG
Judge of the Court of First Instance of the High Court
- The Hon Mr Justice Simon LEUNG
Judge of the Court of First Instance of the High Court (w.e.f. 11.7.2025)
- Mr Simon KWANG
Registrar, High Court
- His Honour Judge Justin KO
Chief District Judge
- His Honour Judge Ivan WONG
Acting Principal Family Court Judge

- Master Elaine LIU, BBS
Master of the High Court
- Mr Simon LUI
Principal Adjudicator of Small Claims Tribunal
- Master LUNG Gwun Ting
Master of the Family Court
- Ms Leona CHEUNG
Department of Justice
- Ms Juliana CHAN, JP
Legal Aid Department (up to 2.4.2025)
- Ms Nancy KEUNG
Legal Aid Department (w.e.f. 3.4.2025)
- Mr HEW Yang Wahn
- Mrs Cecilia WONG
- Ms Sylvia SIU, JP
- Ms Melissa PANG, BBS

◆ In Attendance

- Ms Karyn CHAN
Deputy Judiciary Administrator (Operations)
- Ms April LAM
Chief Judiciary Executive (Mediation Affairs)
- Ms Eva KONG
Chief Mediation Affairs Officer (w.e.f. 2.7.2025)
- Ms Mimi HO
Mediation Co-ordinator

◆ Secretary

- Ms Emily HO
Mediation Co-ordinator

Membership List of the Court Users' Committees

Civil Court Users' Committee

◆ Chairman

- The Hon Madam Justice Queeny AU-YEUNG, SBS
Judge of the Court of First Instance of the High Court

◆ Members

- Mr Simon KWANG
Registrar, High Court

- His Honour Judge Justin KO
Chief District Judge

- Miss Joyce CHAN
Department of Justice

- Ms Nancy KEUNG
Legal Aid Department
(up to 30.3.2025)

- Mr Simon LAU
Legal Aid Department
(w.e.f. 31.3.2025)

- Mr Alvin SIN
Official Receiver's Office
(up to 2.2.2025)

- Ms Mabel YUEN
Official Receiver's Office
(w.e.f. 3.2.2025)

- Mr Paul SHIEH, SC

- Mr Brian GILCHRIST

- Dr Eric CHOW

◆ In Attendance

- Ms Karyn CHAN
Deputy Judiciary Administrator (Operations)
- Ms Carol FUNG
Chief Judiciary Executive (Support to Judge)2

◆ Secretary

- Ms Vienna WONG
Chief Judiciary Executive (Operations)

Criminal Court Users' Committee

◆ Chairman

- The Hon Mrs Justice Judianna BARNES
Judge of the Court of First Instance of the High Court

◆ Members

- Mr Simon KWANG

Registrar, High Court

- His Honour Judge Justin KO

Chief District Judge

- Mr Victor SO

Chief Magistrate

- Ms Catherine KO

Department of Justice

- Mr Ben LI

- Mr Henry Fung
The Duty Lawyer Service
- Mr Paul LAU
Independent Commission Against Corruption
- Ms YU Hoi Kwan
Hong Kong Police Force
- Mr Francis CHAN
Correctional Services Department
- Mr Graham HARRIS, SC
- Mr Kenneth NG
- Mr Rex SHAM

◆ In Attendance

- Ms Karyn CHAN
Deputy Judiciary Administrator (Operations)
- Ms Pauline KWOK
Chief Judiciary Executive (Support to Judge)3

◆ Secretary

- Ms Vienna WONG
Chief Judiciary Executive (Operations)



Family Proceedings Court Users' Committee

◆ Chairman

- The Hon Mr Justice Johnson LAM

◆ Members

- The Hon Madam Justice Queeny AU-YEUNG, SBS
Judge of the Court of First Instance of the High Court
- The Hon Mr Justice Herbert AU-YEUNG
Judge of the Court of First Instance of the High Court
- Mr Simon KWANG
Registrar, High Court
- His Honour Judge Ivan WONG
Acting Principal Family Court Judge
- Her Honour Judge Thelma KWAN
Family Court Judge
- Ms Michelle SOONG
Registrar, District Court
- Ms Bebe CHU, SBS
Retired Judge of the Court of First Instance of the High Court
- Ms Wendy CHAU
Social Welfare Department
- Mr Ted LEE
Legal Aid Department
- Ms LEE Kwok Ming
Official Solicitor's Office
- Mr Eugene YIM
- Mr Anthony James HUNG
- Ms Karen LAM

◆ In Attendance

- Ms Karyn CHAN
Deputy Judiciary Administrator (Operations)
- Ms April LAM
Chief Judiciary Executive (Mediation Affairs)
- Miss Wendy SHUM
Chief Judicial Clerk (Family Court)

◆ Secretary

- Ms Vienna WONG
Chief Judiciary Executive (Operations)

Membership List of the Governing Body of the Hong Kong Judicial Institute

The Governing Body of the Hong Kong Judicial Institute

◆ Chairman

- The Hon Chief Justice Andrew CHEUNG, GBM
Chief Justice of the Court of Final Appeal

◆ Members

- The Hon Mr Justice Jeremy POON
Chief Judge of the High Court
- The Hon Madam Justice Carlye CHU, V-P
Justice of Appeal of the Court of Appeal of the High Court
- The Hon Mr Justice Tony POON
Judge of the Court of First Instance of the High Court
- His Honour Judge Justin KO
Chief District Judge
- Mr Victor SO
Chief Magistrate
- Ms Esther LEUNG
Judiciary Administrator

Judiciary Administration



Ms Esther LEUNG (front row, middle), Judiciary Administrator and directorate staff of the Judiciary Administration.

The Judiciary Administration is headed by the Judiciary Administrator, who assists the Chief Justice in the overall administration of the Judiciary. It provides support to the courts in the administration of justice and their operations.

Judiciary Administration

◆ Judiciary Administrator

- Ms Esther LEUNG

Chief Justice's Private Office

◆ Deputy Judiciary Administrator (Policy Support) cum Administrative Assistant to the Chief Justice

- Ms Wendy CHEUNG

◆ Chief Justice's Private Office

- Mr Rayson CHAN
Assistant Judiciary Administrator (Policy Support) 2

Operations Division

◆ Deputy Judiciary Administrator (Operations)

- Ms Karyn CHAN

◆ Operations Division

- Ms Nancy MAK
Assistant Judiciary Administrator (Operations)
- Ms Vienna WONG
Chief Judiciary Executive (Operations)

◆ Support to Judges Section

- Ms Terri TANG
Chief Judiciary Executive (Support to Judges)1
- Ms Carol FUNG
Chief Judiciary Executive (Support to Judges)2
- Ms Pauline KWOK
Chief Judiciary Executive (Support to Judges)3

◆ Clerk of Court's Office

- Ms Twinky LO
Clerk of Court

◆ Court of Final Appeal Registry

- Ms Mickey LAI
Senior Judicial Clerk I (Court of Final Appeal)

◆ High Court Registry

- Ms Wendy CHUI
Chief Judicial Clerk (High Court Registry)

◆ Competition Tribunal Registry

- Ms Priscilla WONG
Senior Judicial Clerk I (Competition Tribunal)

◆ District Court

- Ms Anny TAM
Chief Judicial Clerk (Registry, District Court)
- Mr Jack SUEN
Chief Judicial Clerk (Courts, District Court)

◆ Family Court Registry

- Ms Wendy SHUM
Chief Judicial Clerk (Family Court)

◆ Lands Tribunal Registry

- Ms Ada LAW
Chief Judicial Clerk (Lands Tribunal)

◆ Magistrates' Courts General Office

- Ms Eva LEE
Senior Judiciary Executive (Magistracies)

◆ Probate Registry

- Ms Jolly LAM
Chief Probate Officer

◆ Labour Tribunal Registry

- Ms Clare TSANG
Registrar (Labour Tribunal)

◆ Small Claims Tribunal Registry

- Mr Perseus CHIU
Chief Judicial Clerk (Small Claims Tribunal)

◆ Court Language Section

- Ms Vivien WONG
Chief Judiciary Executive (Court Language)1
- Mr Nigel MA
Chief Judiciary Executive (Court Language)2
- Ms Barbara WONG
Chief Judiciary Executive (Court Language)3

◆ Bailiff Section

- Ms F L CHIM
Chief Bailiff (Administration and Admiralty)
- Mr T S YU
Chief Bailiff (Operations)

◆ Mediation Section

- Ms April LAM
Chief Judiciary Executive (Mediation Affairs)
- Ms Eva KONG
Chief Mediation Affairs Officer

Policy Support Division

◆ Deputy Judiciary Administrator (Policy Support) cum Administrative Assistant to the Chief Justice

- Ms Wendy CHEUNG

◆ Policy Support Office

- Mr David LAU
Assistant Judiciary Administrator (Policy Support) 1

◆ Secretariat for Complaints against Judicial Conduct

- Ms Erica WONG
Chief Judiciary Executive (Secretariat for Complaints against Judicial Conduct)

◆ Press & Public Relations Office

- Ms Esther LI
Chief Information Officer (Judiciary)

Planning and Development Division

◆ Deputy Judiciary Administrator (Planning and Development)

- Mr José YAM

◆ Planning and Development Division

- Ms Sandra LAM
Assistant Judiciary Administrator (Planning and Development)

◆ Accommodation Section

- Mr K K CHAN
Assistant Judiciary Administrator (Accommodation)
- Mr Eric YIP
Chief Judiciary Executive (Accommodation)1
- Ms Katy YAM
Chief Judiciary Executive (Accommodation)2
- Mr Gary LAU
Chief Judiciary Executive (Court Security)
- Ms Susanna LEE
Senior Architect

◆ Information Technology Office (Technical)

- Mr Quentin WONG
Chief Systems Manager (Information Technology)
- Mr Patrick LAI
Senior Systems Manager (1)
- Mr Edward WONG
Senior Systems Manager (2)
- Mr Ryan WONG
Senior Systems Manager (3)

- Mr Norris YU
Systems Manager (3) [temporarily sharing the duties of Senior Systems Manager (4) from 8.10.2025]
- Mr Wilson WONG
Systems Manager (6) [temporarily sharing the duties of Senior Systems Manager (4) from 8.10.2025]

◆ **Information Technology Office (Operational)**

- Ms Vivian NGAN
Assistant Judiciary Administrator (Quality and Information Technology)
- Mr Dicky SO
Chief Judiciary Executive (Information Technology Office) 1
- Ms Christine YIP
Chief Judiciary Executive (Information Technology Office) 2

◆ **Digital Audio Recording and Transcription Services Section**

- Ms Peggy LAI
Chief Judiciary Executive (Digital Audio Recording and Transcription Services)

◆ **Management Review and Information Section**

- Ms Susanna TSANG
Chief Judiciary Executive (Management Review and Information)

◆ **Complaints Office**

- Ms Winnie LEE
Senior Judiciary Executive (Complaints)



Corporate Services Division

◆ Assistant Judiciary Administrator (Corporate Services)

- Ms Florence WAI

◆ Finance Section

- Ms Tiffany WONG
Chief Treasury Accountant

◆ Judges and Judicial Officers Section

- Ms Becky LEUNG
Chief Judiciary Executive (Judges and Judicial Officers)

◆ Support Staff Section

- Ms Mabel TSANG
Chief Judiciary Executive (Support Staff)

◆ Legal Reference and Library Section

- Ms Yvonne YU
Senior Judiciary Executive (Legal Reference and Library)

Greater Use of Technology in Court Operations



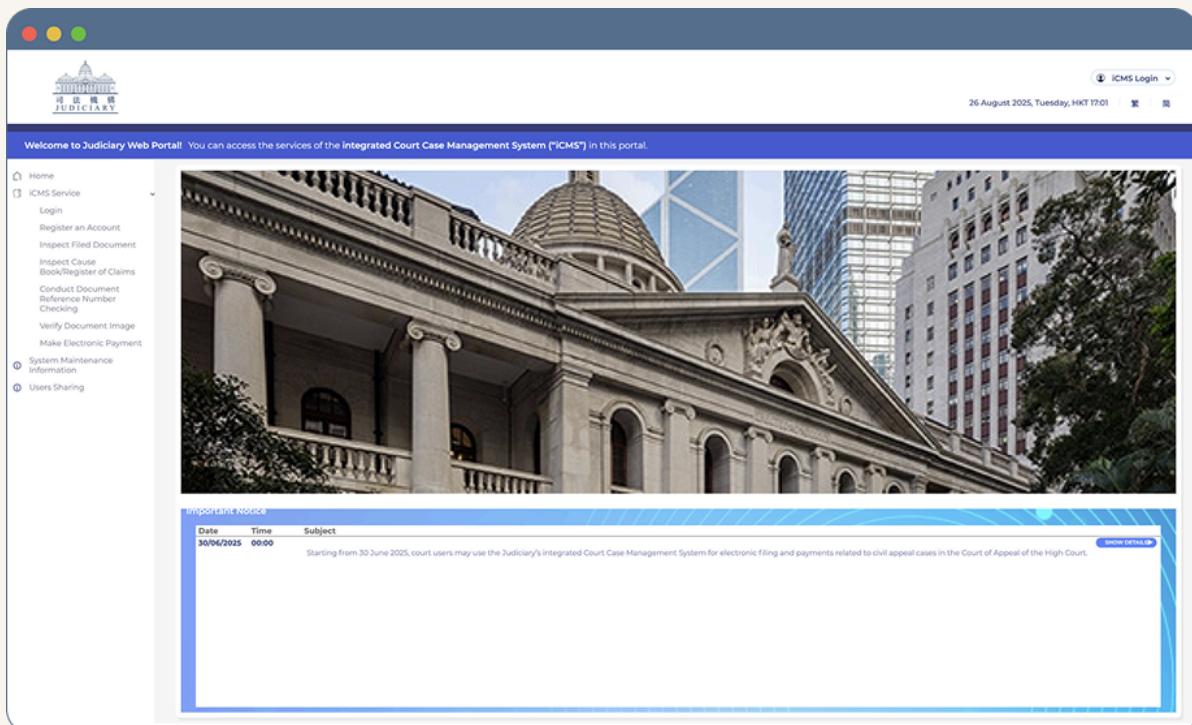
The progress of key technology initiatives is summarised below.



integrated Court Case Management System (“iCMS”)



The iCMS is an e-platform developed in phases to handle court-related documents and payments electronically across various levels of court since 2022. The major electronic services provided under the iCMS include: sending and receiving case-specific court documents to and from the courts; inspecting or searching filed documents and other case-related information held by the courts; searching cause books; and making electronic payments for court services.



The iCMS in Judiciary Web Portal

<https://www.judwebportal.judiciary.hk/judportal-web/>

622 law firms are registered users, representing about 67% of all law firms registered with the Law Society of Hong Kong

Around **772 300** new cases initiated since the launch of iCMS in May 2022, representing about 71% of the total number of relevant new cases during the period



July 2020

The Court Proceedings (Electronic Technology) Ordinance (Cap. 638) was enacted

Provides a legislative framework to enable the use of electronic technology in relation to proceedings in court (which includes specified tribunals) and other court-related purposes.



May 2022

The launch of iCMS in the District Court

Started to implement in the District Court, currently covering personal injuries actions, tax claims, civil actions and employees' compensation cases.



December 2022

Extended to the Magistrates' Courts

Rolled out in summons cases of the Magistrates' Courts.



October 2024

Extended to the Small Claims Tribunal

Launched in bulk claims of the Small Claims Tribunal.



June 2025

Extended to the High Court

Started to implement in the civil proceedings of the High Court, currently covering civil appeal, commercial, construction and arbitration, intellectual property, personal injuries and civil action cases.



Next steps

- Scheduled to extend to the Court of Final Appeal, the criminal proceedings of the High Court and District Court, the non-Summons Courts of the Magistrates' Courts, as well as non-bulk claim cases of the Small Claims Tribunal incrementally starting from 2026.
- Mandatory use of the iCMS is planned to begin in the second half of 2026 for all legally represented litigants in case types where the electronic mode is available. The legal profession and other key stakeholders were consulted regarding the implementation arrangements in January 2024.

Know More About iCMS →



E-bundle hearings*

Between December 2020 and December 2025, 205 e-bundle hearings were successfully conducted in the High Court, the District Court, the Family Court and the Shatin Magistrates' Court. Most of these hearings pertained to civil trials in the Court of First Instance, such as hearings relating to complex commercial disputes, company disputes and winding-up and bankruptcy matters.

Efforts will focus on encouraging greater adoption of e-bundle hearings, drawing from operational experience and lessons learned.



205

E-bundle hearings



* Through the use of computer software, bulky documents and files can be converted to electronic bundles in advance. Judges, legal representatives and parties to the proceedings can view the files and information on the screen of various sizes in court. Evidence can be adduced with flexibility, and the efficiency of court proceedings is enhanced.



Remote hearings*



2 500

Around 2 500 remote hearings conducted since 2020



Phased implementation,
expanding scope



Phone hearing option



Browser-based video conferencing option



* Remote hearing refers to a proceeding ordered by the court to be conducted through a remote medium including a live audio link: (e.g. telephone) and a live audio-visual link (e.g. video-conferencing facilities)



Early 2020

Started conducting remote hearings

Started conducting remote hearings for civil proceedings through telephone or video-conferencing facilities.



March 2025

The Courts (Remote Hearing) Ordinance (Cap. 654) was enacted on 28 March 2025

Provides a clear legal basis for judges and judicial officers to order remote hearings at various levels of courts and tribunals where appropriate.



January 2026

Started conducting remote hearings in criminal proceedings

Started conducting remote hearings in bail applications.



Live broadcasting of court proceedings outside court premises*

A pilot scheme on the live broadcasting of all substantive appellate proceedings in the Court of Final Appeal (excluding cases that are considered not suitable for live broadcasting) was launched in April 2025 for two years by setting up our own in-house platform.

After the live webcast ends, the videos of the court proceedings will be uploaded to and kept on the Court of Final Appeal website for one month after the hearing date to allow easy access and flexible viewing.

Upon completion of the pilot scheme in March 2027, the Judiciary will review and consider the long-term arrangements for live broadcasting of court proceedings outside court premises.



* Subject to the overriding consideration of the due administration of justice, live broadcasting of judicial proceedings outside court premises will enhance the transparency of court procedures and strengthen public confidence in the judicial process.

CFA Live Broadcast

Webcast Playback



Use of voice-to-text technology (an artificial intelligence technology) for recording court proceedings and facilitating transcript production

Incremental deployment of voice-to-text ("VTT") technology across various levels of court began in late 2024, aimed at streamlining the note-taking process for judges and judicial officers during hearings.

Incremental deployment of VTT-generated texts to facilitate transcript production,

starting from a pilot arrangement of producing transcripts using texts generated by the Judiciary's VTT system for selected court hearings in the Court of Final Appeal Building and High Court Building from November 2025.



Voice-to-text

Incremental deployment of VTT technology



Deployment across various levels of court



Keyword search available with instant playback



Supporting judges and judicial officers with real-time note-taking during hearings



Guidelines on the use of generative artificial intelligence

In July 2024, the Judiciary promulgated its first set of guidelines on the use of generative artificial intelligence ("AI") for judges and judicial officers and support staff.

At present, the Judiciary does not recommend the use of generative AI for judicial work (including legal analysis and judgment writing) as there is yet to be a generative AI model with proven ability to protect confidential, restricted and private information as well as adequate built-in checking and verification mechanism to ensure accuracy and reliability. On the other hand, generative AI may be used in non-judicial work such as summarising information, speech/presentation writing, legal translation and administrative tasks (e.g. drafting e-mails/memoranda/letters) where necessary and appropriate.

Guidelines



Information technology infrastructure

The Judiciary is proceeding with the detailed implementation arrangements for the provision of information technology ("IT") infrastructure in the new District Court Building at Caroline Hill Road and upgrading of IT infrastructure of the Judiciary with reference to modern international courtroom standards and the highest IT security requirements stipulated by the Government.

The new District Court Building will be equipped with systems and equipment which incorporate the latest IT and audio-visual technologies, including a new primary data centre for supporting all court premises. The IT infrastructure systems in the West Kowloon Law Courts Building data centre will also be upgraded as the backup data centre for all premises in the Judiciary.

The project is targeted for completion by the end of 2027 to coincide with the commissioning of the new District Court Building.



IT security

The IT security policy has been updated in 2025, and the IT security measures are being strengthened across various areas in alignment with the relevant IT security standards and requirements stipulated by the Government.

The IT infrastructure facilities of the new District Court Building have been designed to meet the highest level of IT security mandated by the Government, ensuring robust protection and compliance.

The core technologies and technical services adopted conform to the highest government standards in data management and protection, service stability and sustainable development. These measures address three key aspects of information and data security: confidentiality, integrity and availability. A Security Operation Centre will be established to manage and monitor IT security protection more effectively.

Judicial Training



Local Judicial Training Activities Organised by the Hong Kong Judicial Institute

6.1, 22.1, 11.2, 6.3, 28.4, 2.6, 16.7, 25.7, 20.8, 18.11 & 3.12.2025

Induction Briefings for Deputy Magistrates / Adjudicators

18.1.2025

Visit to Lo Wu Correctional Institution

22.1, 22.4 & 10.7.2025

Seminar on IT Security for the Judiciary

21.2 & 21.3.2025

Training on Mediation Referral and Settlement Conference

24.2.2025

Talk entitled “The International Character of Maritime Law and the Importance of the Jurisprudence of Asia” by The Honourable Mr Justice James Leslie Bain Allsop, Non-Permanent Judge of the Court of Final Appeal

3.3 & 10.3.2025

iCMS training for High Court Judges

7.4.2025

Lexis Demonstration

26.4.2025

Vulnerable Witnesses in Sexual Offences - Experts' Sharing Session

5.7.2025

Masters Sharing Session

Aug, Sep, Oct & Nov 2025

Putonghua Courses

30.8 & 13.9.2025

Workshops on Handling Vulnerable Witnesses

15.9.2025

Talk entitled "The relationship between courts and the arbitration community" by The Honourable Sir William Gillow Gibbes Austen Young, Non-Permanent Judge of the Court of Final Appeal

28.11.2025

Lecture on Fundamental Principles of Judgment Writing

Other Local Judicial Training Activities Attended by Judges and Judicial Officers

31.3.2025

Seminar entitled “Having Second Thoughts about Foreign Judgments”, organised by the University of Hong Kong

2.9.2025

Seminar entitled “Temple Chambers Law Lecture Series: Injunctions – an expanding universe?”, organised by the University of Hong Kong

8.9.2025

Lecture entitled “Des Voeux Chambers Oxford-Cambridge-HKU Visiting Fellowship Lecture: Two Perspectives on Guest v Guest”, organised by the University of Hong Kong

19.9.2025

Family Law Exchange with Guangzhou Lawyers Association and Case Update Seminar 2025

21.10.2025

Seminar entitled "Purposive, Holistic and Contextual Interpretation", organised by the University of Hong Kong

10.11.2025

Webinar entitled "Book Talk on Digitization, Copyright, and the Law. Copyleft and the Future of Intellectual Property", organised by the Chinese University of Hong Kong

Judicial Training Activities Organised with/by Other Jurisdictions/Organisations

28.8.2025

INSOL International Shanghai Seminar

Number of Visits and Visitors to the Judiciary



Number of Visits
2025

276

Total Number of Visitors
2025

8 002

■ Number of Visitors by Origin

	Number	
	2024	2025
Local		
No. of visits	252	242
Number of visitors	7 442	7 349
The Mainland		
No. of visits	19	18
Number of visitors	476	341
Overseas		
No. of visits	10	16
Number of visitors	178	312
Total		
No. of visits	281	276
Number of visitors	8 096	8 002

■ Number of Visitors by Category

	Number	
	2024	2025
Judges and legal profession	384	342
Government officials	127	113
Students and others	7 585	7 547
Total		
Number of visitors	8 096	8 002

Expenditure and Revenue of the Judiciary in 2024-25



**Total Recurrent Expenditure
(\$'000)**

2,578,392

**Total Revenue
(\$'000)**

768,621

■ Financial Summary

	2024 - 25
	(\$'000)
Recurrent Expenditure	
Staff Costs	1,549,304
Departmental Expenses	1,018,749
Other Expenses	10,339
Revenue	
Fees & Charges	312,395
Fines, Forfeitures & Penalties	350,500
Other Revenue	105,726
Total	
Recurrent Expenditure	2,578,392
Revenue	768,621

Complaints against Judges and Judicial Officers



An enhanced mechanism with a two-tier structure for handling complaints against judicial conduct was introduced in August 2021. The two-tier system comprises:

- (a) Tier 1 – A Panel of Judges, consisting of more than one judge at the High Court level, to investigate into serious or complex pursuable complaints against judicial conduct or those which have attracted wide public attention;
- (b) Tier 2 – The Advisory Committee on Complaints against Judicial Conduct ("the Advisory Committee"), chaired by the Chief Justice and comprising judges and members from the community, to review and advise on these cases before the Chief Justice makes a final decision on each complaint.

In 2025, a total of 61 complaints were disposed of, including 24 pursuable complaints against judicial conduct and 37 non-pursuable complaints that were mainly related to judicial decisions. In accordance with the principle of judicial independence, complaints against judicial decisions cannot and will not be dealt with under the complaint handling mechanism. Any dissatisfaction with judicial decisions must be addressed through appeal or review using the existing legal procedures.



Among these complaints, six of them were serious, complex or attracted wide public attention.

There were two partially substantiated pursuable complaints in 2025.

Complaints related to judicial conduct are broadly classified according to their nature. Among the pursuable complaints against judicial conduct, five cases were related to attitude and behaviour in court,

12 cases were related to the handling of court proceedings and seven cases were of a mixed nature.

Information regarding the complaints disposed of is summarised below.

Total Number of Complaints disposed of (2025)

61

Number of Complaints disposed of ¹		2025 Total
a)	Pursuable complaints against judicial conduct	24
	(i) <i>pursuable complaints which are serious, complex or attract wide public attention</i>	6 ²
	(ii) <i>other pursuable complaints against judicial conduct</i>	18 ^{3 4}
b)	Non-pursuable complaints (judicial/statutory decisions or frivolous/vexatious complaints)	37 ⁵
	Total	61⁶

1. Under the enhanced mechanism, the investigation findings of all pursuable complaints against judicial conduct are reviewed either by the Advisory Committee (for complaints which are serious, complex, attract wide public attention, or directly pertain to judicial conduct of specific judges) or by High Court judges (for other pursuable complaints against judicial conduct) before disposal. In addition, the disposal of other pursuable complaints, as well as non-pursuable complaints, is summarily reported to the Advisory Committee periodically.
2. The figure refers to complaints involving two court cases and have been reviewed by the Advisory Committee in the year.
3. These are other pursuable complaints against judicial conduct that have been reviewed by High Court judges before disposal. They have been or will be summarily reported to the Advisory Committee periodically.
4. Among the pursuable complaints under (a)(ii), there are two partially substantiated cases. Details of the cases are as follows:
(a) A claimant in a Labour Tribunal case complained against a Deputy Presiding Officer's manner at a call-over hearing. The complainant alleged that the Deputy Presiding Officer "roared" at and "reprimanded" him and displayed a contemptuous attitude towards him concerning the issue of interest. The Court Leader found that when the complainant refused to issue a receipt to the Defendants for the interest, the Deputy Presiding Officer did raise her voice when speaking to the complainant.
(b) A claimant in a Labour Tribunal case complained against a Deputy Presiding Officer for failing to maintain courtroom decorum, mocking his language proficiency, displaying bias and unduly intervening in the hearing, and repeatedly raising her voice. The Court Leader noted that at the pre-trial review, when the complainant requested to examine an employee of the Defendant Company, the Deputy Presiding Officer at one point spoke in a raised voice, expressing remarks in a tone that exceeded reasonable strictness, had the character of a rebuke and lacked the solemnity and caution expected of a judicial officer, which were unnecessary and lacking in restraint.
The Court Leader's investigation findings on these two cases were reviewed by two High Court judges and were summarily reported to the Advisory Committee.

5. These non-pursuable complaints have been or will be summarily reported to the Advisory Committee periodically.
6. The number of complaints disposed of only includes complaints that included the mandatory information (i.e. the complainant's name and correspondence address).

Membership List of the Advisory Committee on Complaints against Judicial Conduct

Complaints against the Judiciary Administration



Total Number of Complaints

223

■ Number of Complaints by Nature

Nature of Complaints

Procedures

Facilities

The judicial support services

Staff of the Judiciary Administration

