



**HONG KONG BAR ASSOCIATION
DEBATING COMPETITION 2018**

GRAND FINALS
MEDIA INVITATION & PRESS RELEASE

The question of access to justice and legal aid has sparked a great deal of impassioned debate in Hong Kong in recent years.

On Saturday, 2 June 2018, the Hong Kong Bar Association will be hosting the Grand Finals of its annual Debating Competition for secondary school students at the High Court, where the city's top judges, ministers and legislators will be adjudicating on this issue.

THE GRAND FINALS

Date: Saturday, 2 June 2018
Time: 2:30 – 4:00PM (Chinese Tournament) and 4:30 – 6:00PM (English Tournament)
Venue: Court No. 32 and Jurors' Assembly Room,
High Court Building, 38 Queensway, Admiralty, Hong Kong

Chinese Tournament

Motion: “香港應放寬批准法律援助的門檻。”

Adjudicators: **The Honourable Mr. Justice Robert Tang**, SBS,
Permanent Judge of the Court of Final Appeal;
Ms. Teresa Cheng, GBS, SC, JP, Secretary for Justice; and
The Honourable Mr. Alvin Yeung, Member of the Legislative Council

Proposition: Heep Yunn School
Opposition: Good Hope School

English Tournament

Motion: “This House would increase the ease of obtaining legal aid in Hong Kong.”

Adjudicators: **The Honourable Chief Justice Mr. Geoffrey Ma**, GBM;
The Honourable Mr. Justice Johnson Lam,
Vice President of the Court of Appeal; and
Mr. José-Antonio Maurellet, SC,
Vice Chairman of the Hong Kong Bar Association

Proposition: St. Paul's Convent School
Opposition: Marymount Secondary School

Each debate will be followed by a prize presentation ceremony and a cocktail reception at the Jurors' Assembly Room where there will be plenty of opportunities to speak with the distinguished adjudicators, the student debaters, being some of the city's best, and their coaching teachers. The ceremony and reception for the Chinese and English Tournaments will take place from 3:30 – 4:00PM and 5:30 – 6:00PM respectively. Members of the press are warmly welcome to attend the debates themselves and / or the ceremony and reception.

This year marks the 15th Anniversary of the Competition. The Hong Kong Bar Association has long been at the forefront of raising awareness of the rule of law amongst the young and the Debating Competition is one example thereof. Specifically, the Competition remains the only one in Hong Kong that focuses exclusively on issues relating to the rule of law. This year, issues debated in earlier rounds include whether a national anthem law should be enacted and whether the appointment of Non-Permanent Judges from foreign jurisdictions to the Court of Final Appeal should be continued.

Moreover, the Competition also remains the only one that promises all students will be adjudicated by, and only be adjudicated by, members of the Bench and the Bar i.e. individuals who have had advocacy training and made advocacy a centrepiece of their professional lives. And lastly, the Competition is the only one that enables students to debate in a courtroom, a precious opportunity that is ordinarily available only to qualified lawyers and litigants in person.

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Ryan Law at 9720 7396 or ryanlaw@bernacchichambers.com.