

**For discussion on
24 February 2026**

**Legislative Council Panel on
Administration of Justice and Legal Services**

**Department of Justice’s progress and work plan on rule of law education
and promotion**

I. Introduction

A robust rule of law is the cornerstone of Hong Kong’s high-quality development under “One Country, Two Systems”. It is also the core strength that positions Hong Kong as an international legal hub. To continuously consolidate and enhance Hong Kong’s rule of law infrastructure, promoting rule of law education in the community is a crucial component. To actively advance the long-term policy priority of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government of continuously reinforcing the rule of law, the Department of Justice (DoJ) attaches great importance to its work on rule of law education and actively collaborates with different stakeholders to foster a correct understanding and awareness of the rule of law across all sectors of the community in a diverse manner.

2. Further to the DoJ’s report to Members on the progress and plan on the work of rule of law education and promotion in 2025 at the meeting of this Panel on 31 March 2025¹, this paper seeks to report to Members on the latest progress and work plan in 2026 of DoJ’s “ROLE Stars Train-the-Leaders Programme” (TTL Programme) and its other initiatives on promotion of rule of law education in 2026.

II. Steering Committee on Rule of Law Education

3. The DoJ has been receiving strong support from different sectors in the community on its work on promotion of rule of law education and has made useful references to comments and suggestions received. In February 2023, the DoJ established the Steering Committee on Rule of Law Education (Steering

¹ LC Paper No. CB(2)538/2025(03)

Committee) to advise and assist the DoJ on the strategy and programme for the promotion of the rule of law education in Hong Kong. The Steering Committee is chaired by the Secretary for Justice, vice-chaired by the Deputy Secretary for Justice, and its broad membership comprises not only representatives from the relevant government bureaux, but also judicial and legal sectors as well as the three law schools in Hong Kong.

4. At the first meeting of the Steering Committee held on 28 February 2023, it was agreed that the Working Group on Course Design and Teaching Materials, (WG on Course Design) and the Working Group on Co-ordination and Liaison (WG on Liaison) be set up:

- (1) WG on Course Design was established in March 2023 and chaired by the Non-Permanent Judge of the Court of Final Appeal, The Hon Patrick Chan Siu-oi, GBM. It is mainly responsible for guiding, co-ordinating and examining the structure and key contents of the training course, the design and preparation of the relevant teaching materials under the TTL Programme.
- (2) WG on Liaison was established in April 2023 and currently chaired by Barrister-at-Law Ms Sabrina Ho Shuk Ying. It is mainly responsible for the recruitment of students, the promotion and publicity of the TTL Programme, the direction and co-ordination of the strategy for further promoting the rule of law in the community.

5. The Steering Committee held its fifth meeting on 5 February 2026 at which members discussed and approved the work plan for the fourth phase of the TTL Programme and other rule of law education projects. The DoJ will continue to proceed with the work of the fourth phase of the TTL Programme with the assistance of the Steering Committee and its two Working Groups.

III. Overview of the first three phases of the TTL Programme

6. With the support of the Steering Committee, the DoJ officially launched the TTL Programme, themed “Rule of law Education (ROLE) Stars”, in November 2023. Through an easy-to-understand approach, supplemented by concrete practical examples and interactive means, the TTL Programme provides training for members of the public from different sectors by elucidating the

fundamental topics related to the rule of law and legal system of Hong Kong, thereby promoting rule of law education on all fronts.

7. The TTL Programme consists of three stages of courses:

- (1) Foundation Course: Focusing on the concepts and principles of the rule of law, the DoJ invited various star mentors (including the Secretary for Justice, the Deputy Secretary for Justice and Dr the Hon Starry Lee Wai-king, GBS, JP, etc.) to lecture on the relationship between Hong Kong's rule of law and national laws such as the Constitution, the Basic Law, and the Hong Kong National Security Law under the "One Country, Two Systems" principle; the basic outline of the legal system of Chinese Mainland; and the key contents of Hong Kong's common law system.
- (2) Advanced Course: Focuses on strengthening trainees' understanding of the rule of law in practice, covering the following two parts:
 - (a) Visits by trainees to different institutions related to the rule of law (such as law enforcement agencies); and
 - (b) Participation by trainees in mock court activities.
- (3) Extended Course: Focuses on enhancing and applying knowledge of the rule of law, comprising the following two parts:
 - (a) Thematic talks on topics related to law organised by the DoJ; and
 - (b) Taking part in or organisation of activities for promoting the rule of law for no less than two hours.

8. At the end of 2025, a total of around 380 trainees participated in the first three phases of the TTL Programme. The trainees are of diverse backgrounds from the following groups:

- (1) Representatives from 21 organisations engaged in promoting youth-related and community work;
- (2) Teachers from more than 100 secondary schools in Hong Kong; and
- (3) Students from The Education University of Hong Kong.

9. The latest number of trainees of the TTL Programme is summarised as follows:

- (1) Over 330 trainees have completed the Foundation Course;
- (2) Over 80 trainees have completed the Advanced Course; and
- (3) 40 trainees have completed the Foundation Course, the Advanced Course and the Extended Course, thereby qualifying as ROLE Ambassadors.

IV. Courses of the fourth phase of the TTL Programme

10. As set out in the Chief Executive's 2025 Policy Address Supplement, the DoJ will continue to implement the TTL Programme. In view of the positive response from the trainees and the community, the specific suggestions from the Steering Committee, and the active support of various stakeholders, we will continue to take forward various courses under the next phase of the TTL Programme. At the same time, we will suitably adjust the content and introduce fresh elements having regard to the latest developments and needs to ensure that the TTL Programme aligns with the policy objectives of the DoJ.

11. The courses to be conducted under the fourth phase will continue to consist of the following components:

- (1) Organising a new round of the Foundation, Advanced and Extended Courses with contents based on the third phase courses with suitable modifications; and
- (2) Organising an award ceremony-cum-sharing session to give formal recognition to the ROLE Ambassadors.

Foundation Course of the TTL Programme

12. The DoJ will re-run the Foundation Course in the second quarter of this year to further expand the scope of participants in the training, covering more trainees from diverse sectors as well as groups which have demand for and are committed to rule of law education.

13. Based on the content of the previous courses, the Foundation Course will adopt appropriate modifications. For instance, we will emphasise that the executive-led system is the political structure of the HKSAR under “One Country, Two Systems” and include more real-life examples and cases in order to enhance the trainees’ understanding of the political structure and its implementation.

14. The DoJ plans to recruit around 120 trainees, targeting groups from the following organisations:

- (1) Youth members of the District Youth Development and Civic Education Committees and District Youth Community Building Committees in 18 districts (collectively, the District Youth Committees);
- (2) Members of the Lions Clubs International District 303 Hong Kong & Macao, China (Lions Clubs of Hong Kong & Macao) who are responsible for or involved in organising youth or community activities; and
- (3) Members of the Rotary Club of Hong Kong who are responsible for or involved in organising youth or community activities.

15. The main factors considered by the DoJ in planning to recruit the above target trainees are as follows:

- (1) District Youth Committees: They promote knowledge of the rule of law they acquired in general community activities and play a pivotal role in promoting the rule of law in the community. They also represent the more active group of participants in the TTL Programme. They would organise rule of law activities on their own from time to time (such as holding talks and leading members of their organisations to visit the thematic exhibition on the Hong Kong National Security Law). At present, about 40% of the ROLE Ambassadors are District Youth Committee members, which reflects their great enthusiasm for the mission of the TTL Programme and their ongoing demand for the courses.

- (2) The Lions Clubs of Hong Kong & Macao and the Rotary Club of Hong Kong: Both organisations are key stakeholders in social services. Empowering their members who are responsible for or involved in organising youth or community activities will enhance their confidence in disseminating messages on the rule of law. It is believed that, by leveraging the extensive community service networks of these organisations, proper messages on the rule of law can be disseminated to different sectors of the community effectively. Both the Lions Clubs and the Rotary Club are international bodies whose members engage in external exchanges from time to time. If members of their Hong Kong chapters gain a better understanding of the rule of law in Hong Kong, it will help them tell good stories of Hong Kong on different occasions.

Advanced Course of the TTL Programme

16. The DoJ plans to continue organising the Advanced Course of the TTL Programme in the second and third quarters this year for trainees who have completed the Foundation Course, with a view to further deepening their understanding of the legal system and the implementation of procedures.

17. Based on the activities held last year, the Advanced Course will include visits to various law enforcement agencies and mock court activities with appropriate modifications:

- (1) Visits to law enforcement agencies: Considering that the content of last year's visit activities aligns with the training objectives of the TTL Programme and received positive feedback from the trainees, the DoJ plans to continue to organise visits to the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department, Correctional Services Department and Hong Kong Police Force. In terms of the visit programme, the DoJ plans to enhance the parts on presentations by and interactions with law enforcement officers to enhance exchanges between the trainees and the law enforcement officers.
- (2) Mock court activity: The DoJ plans to continue co-organising the activity with SideBySide. Given the positive synergy from the

participation of the ICAC's "ELITE Youth Leaders" for the first time last year, the DoJ is considering to continue inviting ambassadors or leaders of other similar programmes to participate in the mock court activity. Not only will this help enrich trainees' learning experience, it will also facilitate their networking with individuals with different backgrounds, thereby paving their way for future collaborations in promoting the rule of law in the community.

18. The DoJ plans to recruit about 80 trainees who have completed the Foundation Course to join the Advanced Course.

Extended Course of the TTL Programme

19. The Extended Course will continue to comprise two components: a thematic talk on specific legal topics and the trainees' participation in or organisation of practice activities for promotion of the rule of law, aiming to enhance trainees' knowledge of the rule of law and its practice:

- (1) Thematic talk on specific legal topics: To strengthen the trainees' understanding of the law in specific areas, the DoJ plans to organise a thematic talk on specific legal topics in the fourth quarter of this year. Given the increasing prevalence of criminal activities and civil disputes relating to the cyber world in recent years, and in light of the trainees' positive response to the theme of cyber world last year, the DoJ plans to retain the theme of "Common Criminal Offences and Civil Disputes in the Cyber World" for this year's thematic talk. Based on the course content of last year, this year's talk will be suitably modified and updated to incorporate the latest developments in cybercrimes (such as crimes involving deepfake technology) and civil disputes with more relevant real-life examples and cases.
- (2) Practice activities for promoting the rules of law: To support the trainees' completion of this part, the DoJ will continue to provide opportunities for the trainees to practise the promotion of the rule of law through participating as ROLE leaders in rule of law activities organised by the DoJ from time to time (such as serving as facilitators in the Foundation Course and docents in the Rule of Law

Journey activities). Moreover, the DoJ plans to strengthen collaboration with relevant government bodies in order to offer more opportunities for trainees to participate in practice activities for promotion of the rule of law and to provide more information on relevant activities. The DoJ will also continue to encourage trainees to take the initiative to organise rule of law activities and submit to the DoJ their reports on the relevant details of the practice activity afterwards.

ROLE Ambassadors

20. To further promote participation in and completion of the Foundation, Advanced and Extended Courses under the TTL Programme, and to give due recognition, encouragement and commendation to trainees active in rule of law promotion in their respective capacities in the community, the DoJ officially launched the ROLE Ambassador recognition scheme last year.

21. The scheme was well-received by the trainees since its launch. In practice, the scheme has proven effective in motivating trainees to learn about and promote the rule of law. Last year, 40 trainees successfully qualified as ROLE Ambassadors, which is an ideal result. The DoJ will hold in March 2026 an award ceremony-cum-sharing session, during which these trainees will be invited to share their experience and their plans to continue promoting rule of law education.

22. To ensure the ROLE Ambassadors would meet the required performance standards, the DoJ plans to set a two-year validity period for their qualification and specify the conditions for renewal (such as having organised activities to promote the rule of law and participating in the DoJ's rule of law activities for a minimum number of hours), thereby encouraging ROLE Ambassadors to make sustained efforts in actively promoting the rule of law in their daily work and life. The DoJ will maintain close contact with the trainees and ROLE Ambassadors, establish partnerships, and provide timely assistance and support for the trainees and ROLE Ambassadors to participate in or organise activities to promote the rule of law. The DoJ will closely monitor the implementation of the above arrangements and continue to improve and adjust them.

V. Other rule of law education programmes and promotion activities

23. Apart from launching activities under the fourth phase of the TTL Programme, the DoJ will also organise the following programmes relating to rule of law education in 2026:

“Rule of Law through Drama” and DoJ’s Rule of Law Drama Day

24. Since its launch in 2021, the “Rule of Law through Drama” project has delivered over 360 drama performances to participating primary schools across all districts of Hong Kong. More than 90,000 primary school students watched the drama performances and overwhelmingly positive feedback was received. The DoJ proceeded with the project in the fourth quarter of 2025.

25. To further promote rule of law education from schools to families and the wider community, the DoJ held its first Rule of Law Drama Day on 3 and 4 May last year. A fun and interactive drama was staged to promote rule of law education. It drew around 2,000 primary school students and parents and proved distinctively popular.

26. To continue promoting rule of law education in engaging and interactive ways, the DoJ plans to hold another Rule of Law Drama Day at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre on 16 and 17 May 2026, which aims to reach upper primary school students and parents who have yet to experience last year’s programme. It is anticipated that the drama will revolve around the rule of law themes from last year’s production, with suitable refinements in the content to enhance its appeal. The two performances are expected to attract a total audience of about 1,500.

Rule of Law Journey: Guided Tour of Landmarks of the Hong Kong Legal Hub

27. The DoJ has been organising the Rule of Law Journey: Guided Tour of Landmarks of the Hong Kong Legal Hub upon requests from various institutions and organisations (including secondary schools and youth organisations). Visitors are guided to historic buildings such as the Justice Place (formerly housing the Central Government Offices) and the former French Mission Building (formerly home to the Court of Final Appeal), whereby they would learn

about Hong Kong's legal system, the role of the DoJ and other rule of law related information.

28. The Rule of Law Journey adopts an interactive approach, which allows students to learn about the rule of law through interacting with docents and to deepen their understanding of the activity content in a relaxed atmosphere, making it particularly educational. The Rule of Law Journey has been highly popular among schools and is suitable to form an integral part of rule of law education and promotion activities. As such, the DoJ made the Rule of Law Journey a regular activity in 2025, and organised sessions for around 700 teachers and students from 21 secondary schools in September and November 2025. To provide more opportunities for the trainees of the TTL Programme to participate in practice activities promoting the rule of law and to complete the Extended Course, the DoJ colleagues collaborated with approximately 30 trainees in 2025 through which trainees served as docents and led students on Rule of Law Journeys together with DoJ colleagues.

29. The DoJ plans to continue organising these activities in 2026 to deepen the secondary school teachers' and students' understanding of the rule of law in Hong Kong. The DoJ will further discuss the details with relevant government departments (including the Education Bureau) to pursue this work.

30. In addition, the DoJ will continue to actively take forward rule of law education and promotion through diverse channels, including publications, online platforms, social media and the dedicated website (<https://www.role-ttl.gov.hk>).

VI. Conclusion

31. Looking ahead, the DoJ will continue to maintain close collaboration with relevant government departments and community stakeholders to promote rule of law education, enhance the public's understanding and application of proper messages on the rule of law, and instil a law-abiding culture through diverse initiatives, hence working hand in hand with various sectors to uphold the rule of law in society.

Department of Justice
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