



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
UNDERSTUDY PROGRAMME

The Department of Justice invites barristers and solicitors with less than 5 years' post call/admission experience who are in full practice to participate in the Understudy Programme ("the Programme").

GOVERNMENT CIVIL WORK

The Programme aims to provide junior barristers and junior solicitors with more training opportunities and exposure to different types of civil work. We will identify suitable areas of civil work and engage junior barristers and junior solicitors having regard to their suitability and availability. Under the Programme, the work may take the form of -

- (a) **Assisting briefed-out Senior Counsel or senior junior counsel**, with fee payable at daily token rate of \$2,000 for hearing days; or
- (b) **Conducting legal research and/or providing advice** with remuneration negotiated on a case-by-case basis with reference to the daily token rate of \$2,000.

Other training opportunities such as acting as observers at hearings handled by Government Counsel or briefed-out counsel may also be offered without remuneration.

GOVERNMENT PROSECUTION WORK

To equip junior barristers with the experience and skills in prosecuting cases, the Prosecutions Division launched an Understudy Programme in 2011 to engage junior barristers to act as an understudy to Senior Counsel/Senior Junior Counsel who is briefed to prosecute on fiat for the Division.

The Programme has recently been reviewed with the following new features being implemented -



- (a) The Programme will be revised to cover both junior barristers and junior solicitors with up to 5 years' post call/admission experience;
- (b) The categories of cases covered under the Programme will be changed from complex and sensitive cases to cover generally more complex cases heard in the District Court or the Court of First Instance e.g. which involve longer trials or commercial crimes that need to be handled by more experienced fiat counsel. Lengthy magistracy cases will also be included;
- (c) The number of less experienced lawyers in private practice who could benefit from the Programme will be increased and a list of junior barristers and junior solicitors who apply to participate in the Programme will be kept by the Division; and
- (d) The daily token rate will be increased from \$1,000 to \$2,000.

Barristers and solicitors with less than 5 years' post call/admission experience who are in full practice and interested in participating in the Programme should complete the relevant Expression of Interest Form (Barrister/Solicitor) and submit it, together with copies of their full practising certificate and curriculum vitae, to <https://eform.one.gov.hk/form/doj005/en/>.

This Programme leaflet and Expression of Interest Forms (Barrister/Solicitor) can also be obtained from the DoJ website at <https://www.doj.gov.hk>. For enquiries, please contact -

		<u>phone</u>	<u>email</u>
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Department of Justice
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