



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 Government Counsel or briefed-out Counsel at hearings**, 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 and junior solicitors with the experience and skills in prosecuting cases, the Prosecutions Division is running an Understudy Programme to engage them to act as an understudy to briefed-out Senior Counsel, senior junior counsel or Government Counsel.

The key features of the Programme include -

- (a) The Programme covers both junior barristers and junior solicitors with up



to 5 years' post call/admission experience;

- (b) The categories of cases under the Programme cover complex and sensitive cases, and 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 counsel. Lengthy magistracy cases are also included;
- (c) A list of junior barristers and junior solicitors who apply to participate in the Programme is kept by the Division; and
- (d) The daily token rate is set at \$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.cefs.gov.hk/form/doj005/en/>. If you have registered your "iAM Smart+" account with digital signing function, you may submit the Expression of Interest Form via <https://eform.cefs.gov.hk/form/doj009/en/> (Barrister) or <https://eform.cefs.gov.hk/form/doj011/en/> (Solicitor).

For enquiries, please contact -

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Department of Justice
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