

The Hon Prof. Andrew Li's Talk on Judicial Independence in Hong Kong

Jasmine Lin

25 April 2017

On 20 April 2017, **The Hon Prof. Andrew Li**, the First Chief Justice of the Court of Final Appeal delivered a lecture on Judicial Independence in Hong Kong upon the invitation of **Prof. Lin Feng**, Associate Dean of School of Law, CityU and Director of the Centre for Judicial Education and Research, CityU. The lecture was well received by the LLM and JSD Chinese judge students and teachers of SLW.



Prof. Geraint Howells, Dean of School of Law, CityU chaired the lecture. Prof. Li's lecture started after a brief opening remark and speaker introduction by Prof. Howells. The lecture evolved from the topic of the Judicial Independence in Hong Kong. Prof. Li pointed out that "the rule of law with an independent Judiciary is universally recognized as a cornerstone of Hong Kong under 'One Country, Two Systems'." The arrangements for the appointment and removal of judges are designed to guarantee judicial independence. The Hong Kong Judiciary has also laid a guidance to judicial conduct, making sure that a judge must be independent, impartial and must display integrity and propriety in all matters of conduct both in and out of court.

Besides, Prof. Li also introduced some interesting features of the Hong Kong Judiciary, for example, the expatriate judges, the undertaking that judges at District Court and above shall not return to private legal practice in HK without the consent of the CE, the purpose of audio recording during all court proceedings, etc.



During the Q & A Session, the Chinese judge students had an in-depth discussion with Prof. Li, sharing their thoughts and views towards legal and social issues in both Hong Kong and Mainland China.

Two hours slipped away almost unnoticed, and the judge students still longed for more time listening to Prof. Li. They thought the lecture had provided a platform for them to better understand the difference in the two judicial systems.

