

CityU hosted a conference on 'The Potential and Future of ODR'

25 September 2020

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With the COVID-19 lockdown, traditional in-person justice must often now be pursued online. As a result, more practitioners and scholars are putting the spotlight on ODR - online dispute resolution. The online conference, entitled 'The Potential and Future of ODR', discussed the advantages, drawbacks and potential impacts of ODR and its development in an international context.

This conference was co-organized by the School of Law, CityU and CityU Law Review, a student-edited, peer-reviewed academic law journal published by the CityU Law School. With the aim of raising scholars' and students' awareness of the potential influence of ODR on the future of our legal industry, the CityU Law Review brought together scholars to discuss issues pertaining to the field of ODR. It was a valuable opportunity for practitioners, scholars and students to share their insights about the future of ODR. About seventy guests attended the conference.

The invited speakers for the conference were Ms. Kim Rooney, Barrister, Gilt Chambers; Director, eBRAM Intl. ODR Centre Ltd, who presented on the topic 'ODR Legal Process and the New York Convention: The need for, and contents, of a fair and transparent legal process for ODR that meets the criteria of the New York Convention'; Prof. David Allen Larson, Professor of Law, Mitchell Hamline School of Law, who spoke on the theme 'ODR Can Improve Access to Justice But Must Include Everyone'; Dr. Christopher To, Adjunct Professor, City University of Hong Kong School of Law; Barrister, Gilt Chambers, who delivered a presentation entitled 'Every Cloud has a Silver Lining – the impact of Coronavirus on Online Dispute Resolution'; Dr. Alessandro Palombo, CEO & Co-Founder, smart dispute resolution start-up 'JUR', who presented 'Decentralized 'Justice': today and tomorrow - How blockchain can impact the dispute



resolution sector’; and Dr. Faye Wang, Senior Lecturer in Law, Brunel Law School, who presented the topic ‘Online Arbitration in the Age of Artificial Intelligence’. Dr. Julia Tomassetti (Coordinator and Assistant Professor, School of Law) moderated the roundtable discussion among the speakers.

The conference ended with the closing remarks of Dr. Julia Tomassetti who thanked all the conference speakers for their contributions to the conference. She also encouraged the speakers and participants to submit papers to the CityU Law Review. The conference was fruitful and thought-provoking, and the atmosphere throughout the whole conference was interactive.



The CityU Law Review Team and Dr Julia Tomassetti