



CCCL and CJER Seminar: Meeting Chinese Judges: Courts, Adjudicators, and Judicial Life (10 Nov 2021)

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Since 2009, the School of Law of City University of Hong Kong, the Supreme People's Court of the People's Republic of China, and the National Judges College have jointly organized judicial education programs for Chinese judges. Towards the end of the semester in 2021, the Centre for Judicial Education and Research (CJER) and the Centre for Chinese and Comparative Law Studies (CCCL) of the School of Law, City University of Hong Kong invited five graduating students from the programs to be speakers in the academic seminar on November 10, 2021, so that participants could learn more about the courts, judges and judicial system in Mainland China from the perspective of adjudicators.

During the seminar held both online and offline, it started with a welcoming speech by **Professor Tang Cheng Han**, Dean of the School of Law of City University, and then, to allow the participants know more about the five judges, **Professor Wang Jiang-Yu**, Director of the Center for Chinese Law and Comparative Law, provided a brief introduction to the judges before they started their speeches. The five invited speakers were **Judge Zhang Yanhong**, Vice President of Shenzhen Bao'an District People's Court; **Judge Rong Yan**, Vice President of Nanjing Bankruptcy Court, Nanjing Intermediate People's Court; **Judge Zhang Yan**, President of Criminal Division II, Chengdu Intermediate People's Court, Sichuan Province; **Judge Liu Jianhong**, President of Trial Supervision Division, Foshan Intermediate People's Court; and **Judge Sun Jixu**, Vice President of Beijing Huairou District People's Court. **Judge Zhang Yanhong** gave an in-depth presentation on "Court Management and Judges' Career." To begin with, she explained the relationship between the upper and lower courts in China, the internal organization of the courts, and also the internal trial organization. Indeed, she explained the management of court personnel and even the management of judges in details. **Judge Rong Yan** focused on the story behind the bankruptcy court, starting with the "Bankruptcy Law" at the end of the Qing Dynasty and explaining the history of China's bankruptcy law. Then, she turned to the modern bankruptcy court's procedures for handling bankruptcy petitions and examinations, and ending with a case study. Afterward, **Judge Zhang Yan** first pointed out that the daily interactions of criminal judges are actually narrower than expected, and then explained in depth the current criminal trial system of the court. She, at last, emphasized that "criminal law could not be seen as an intellectual game, it bears a considerable social responsibility." Then, **Judge Liu Jianhong** briefly introduced the necessity of the Trial Supervision Court, and then explained

the civil retrial review process and civil retrial process. Last but not the least, **Judge Sun Jixu**, who offered a microscopic view from the angle of grassroots courts in Mainland China. He explained the current status, problems, and future of the enforcement mechanism in Mainland China.

In the second part of the seminar, **Professor Lin Feng**, Director of the Center for Judicial Education and Research, was invited to moderate the Q&A session. Participants actively commented on the presentations and put forward acute questions to the speakers.

The seminar ended with the closing remark by **Professor Lin Feng** who again thanked all the participants for their active participation and valuable comments made during the seminar. Overall, the seminar gathered valuable opinions from Chinese judges on the rule of law in China, and was not only fruitful but also laid the foundation for a seminar series in which Chinese judges from laws programs will represent the main actors in the future.



A welcoming speech by Professor Tang Cheng Han.



Judge Zhang Yanhong, Judge Rong Yan and Judge Zhang Yan (from left to right).



Judge Liu Jianhong, Judge Sun Jixu and the Q&A session hold by Professor Lin Feng.



Group photo of the seminar in the end.