

## Chinese Judges interviewed for CityU LLM Programme

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- *Scarlette Cheung*



(from left to right) Gu Minkang, Dr Simon Ip, Prof Wang Guiguo, Prof Brian Gibson listen attentively to the candidate.

Following the tripartite agreement signed by the National Judges College (NJC) of the Supreme People's Court of China (SPC), Columbia University Law School and the CityU in 2008, the School of Law (SLW) of CityU has provided legal education for the Chinese judiciary outside the Mainland. It also marks a milestone for legal education in Hong Kong while widening exposure of China's judiciary to international legal systems that enables them to better deal with overseas cases.

On 15 and 16 September 2010, selection interviews were conducted in Beijing for the third intake of the Master of Laws (LLM) programme for Chinese judges. The Selection Panel comprised of Dean Wang Guiguo, Dr Simon Ip, Co-Chairman of the School's International Advisory Board, Associate Dean Gu Minkang of the Law School and Dean Brian Gibson of the International and Comparative Law Program of Columbia University Law School.

Judge candidates were recommended by the SPC through their respective court at all levels. Prior to the interviews, they took a written test which assessed their capability of English comprehension.

The Selection Panel looked for the best qualified among the judges. Several criteria were set in the assessment. They



(from left to right) Gu Minkang, Dr Simon Ip, Prof Wang Guiguo, Prof Brian Gibson discuss with a candidate on her education and working experience.

include (i) use of English capability; (ii) relevant working experience; (iii) perspectives and desire on studying in the LLM programme.

Shortlisted judge candidates will be invited to attend a three-month training programme in which they will profess their skills in use of English. After the three-month intensive training, candidates will be invited to take a second-round of interview before they are admitted to the LLM programme which will start in January 2011.

The programme has been considered highly in the Chinese judiciary. At a banquet in honour of President Way Kuo of CityU hosted by Justice Wan E'xiang, Vice

President of the SPC, Justice Wan expressed his gratitude to CityU and those who had participated in this endeavour. He also strongly stated the importance of maintaining the high standard in selecting candidates. President Kuo said that CityU was proud to be part of this most significant project in improving the Chinese judiciary and that CityU would do its best in making it a complete success.



(from left to right) Mr Fu Yueyu (Assistant to Justice Wan), Gu Minkang, Dr Simon Ip, Secretary General Kroner (Permanent Court of Arbitration), Justice Wan E'xiang, Prof Way Kuo (President of CityU), Prof Wang Guiguo, Dr Gao Jinhong, Dr Sun Benpeng (Director of Training of NJC) attended the banquet hosted by Justice Wan.