



Public Law and Human Rights Forum

香港城市大學
City University of Hong Kong

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10th Hong Kong Human Rights Moot 2021

Co-organised by: Vidler & Co. Solicitors and the Public Law and Human Rights Forum (CPLR), School of Law, City University of Hong Kong

Michelle Fong
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The 10th Hong Kong Human Rights Moot (HKHR Moot) was an inter-university competition co-organised by Vidler & Co. Solicitors and the Public Law and Human Rights Forum (CPLR) of CityU Law School and co-hosted by the University of Hong Kong (HKU) and the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). The competition was first launched in 2010 by Vidler & Co. Solicitors to raise awareness amongst law students of Hong Kong human rights issues. Previous moot questions have touched upon a diverse range of issues – including the right to demonstrate, recognition of foreign registered same-sex marriages, prisoners' rights, race discrimination and freedom of expression.

On 6 February 2021, the three law schools conducted their own Preliminary Rounds and selected a winning team to represent each school in the finals; 89 teams (17 from CityU, 42 from HKU and 30 from CUHK) making up a total of 178 students participated in the Preliminary Rounds. Garnet Li and Marcus Wong from the CityU, Jill Lam and Kenny Chan of the HKU, as well as Kerry Poon and Thomas Wong from the CUHK overcame fierce competition for their places in the Final Round. Dr. Mark Kielsgard (CityU School of Law), Mr. Geoffrey Yung (Denis Chang’s Chambers) and Mr. Joshua Baker (Prince’s Chambers) were invited to act as mentors for the teams, respectively.

Due to Covid-19 social distancing rules, on 27 March 2021, the Final Round took place at the CityU Moot Court without live audiences and was live-streamed in front of an online audience registering of over 100. The moot was adjudicated by a distinguished panel of judges: Mr. Justice Kevin Zervos, JA (Justice of Appeal of the Court of Appeal of the High Court); Mr. Abraham Chan, SC (Temple Chambers); and Mr. Timothy Parker (Denis Chang’s Chambers).



Mr. Abraham Chan, SC (Left); Mr. Justice Kevin Zervos, JA (Middle); Mr. Timothy Parker (Right)

The finalist teams from the CityU, HKU and CUHK competed against each other in three hypothetical appeals before the Court of Appeal. The appeals comprised issues on (1) government quarantine requirements related to Covid-21 (a dangerous virus that has spread worldwide); (2) privacy concerning the secret use of potentially unlawful facial recognition technology as part of “track and trace” procedures; (3) protection of a confidential journalistic “whistle-blower” source; and (4) the tort of misfeasance in public office by Commissioner of Police in ignoring independent legal advice that the surveillance system was unlawful. This year’s moot problem was kindly drafted by Mr. Timothy Parker (Denis Chang’s Chambers) and Mr. Albert Wong (Bernacchi Chambers).



“Winner Award” – Thomas Wong and Kerry Poon (CUHK)



*“Best Skeleton Argument Award”
– Garnet Li and Marcus Wong (CityU)*



“Best Oralist Award” – Jill Lam (HKU)

The “Winner Award” of the 10th HKHR Moot 2021 went to Kerry Poon and Thomas Wong of CUHK. The “Best Skeleton Argument Award” was given to Garnet Li and Marcus Wong from CityU. The “Best Oralist Award” went to Jill Lam of HKU. Congratulations to all winners and thank all participants for their very committed contributions.

On behalf of the organisers, we would like to thank the sponsors (Mr. Michael Vidler of Vidler & Co. Solicitors and Dr. Mark Kielsgard of CPLR of CityU), the distinguished adjudicating panel, the mentors of finalists. Our thanks also go to Mr. Suhail Bindra (Trainee Solicitor at Vidler & Co. Solicitors) and Ms. Michelle Fong (Research Assistant of CPLR of CityU) who organised this year’s moot with the able assistance of Ms. Clare Li and her team from the HKU Advocacy and Mooting Society, as well as Ms. Bianca Reyes and her team from the CUHK Mooting Society.