



## CJER & CCCL Seminar: Internet Courts in Mainland China (25 Jan 2022)

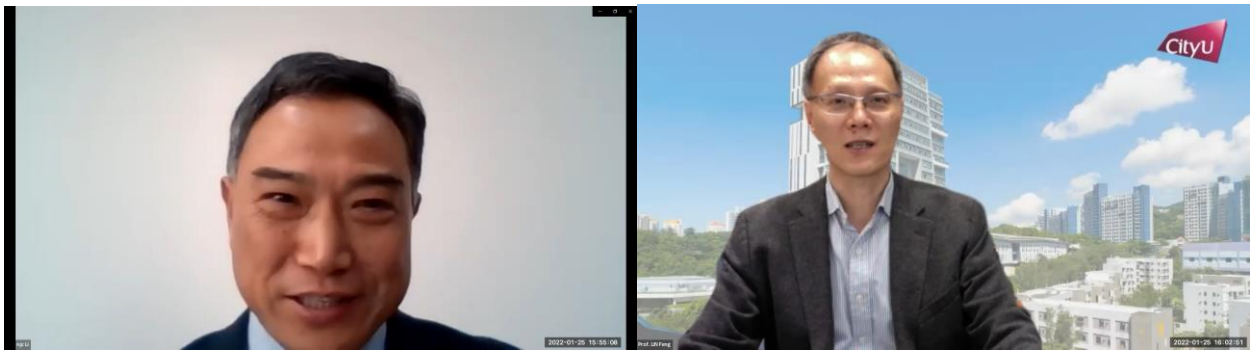
28 Jan 2022

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With the rapid development of technology, China's judiciary has been cooperating with the Internet since 2017, with the establishment and operation of Hangzhou Internet Court, Beijing Internet Court, and Guangzhou Internet Court. Given the new model of online litigation pioneered by Chinese justice, the Centre for Judicial Education and Research (CJER) of the School of Law of the City University of Hong Kong, in collaboration with the Centre for Chinese and Comparative Law (CCCL), organized an online seminar on January 25, 2022, inviting **Professor Li Xiao-min** as a guest speaker to talk about the internet courts in the mainland China.

The seminar kicked off with a welcoming speech by **Professor Lin Feng**, Director of the CJER. **Professor Li Xiao-min**, Vice President of the National Judges College, is a researcher, a doctor of law at the China University of Political Science and Law, a post-doctoral fellow at the Institute of Law of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, a senior visiting scholar at the Law Department of the London School of Economics and Political Science, and has studied at the Institute of Public Administration at the University of Georgia in the United States and the University of Hamburg in Germany. He has worked in the local government and is now mainly responsible for the teaching and supervision of judges, research on trial theory, and applied jurisprudence. He first introduced the current development of online litigation, and then explained the differences of online litigation between China and other countries. He pointed out that countries should provide a legal basis for remote judicial proceedings in order to establish internet courts. He argued that the mainland Internet Courts have adopted an approach to adjudicating cases with the view of resolving all aspects of a case online, including filing, mediation, filing, exchange of evidence, pre-trial preparation, trial, sentencing, service, and enforcement. He emphasized that most online trials now last about half an hour, saving about three-quarters of the time compared to regular offline litigation. He also explained the operation of the current live trial by using the case of iQIYI, who lost a lawsuit for charging paid subscribers extra for early access in 2020. Last but not least, he ensured the success of mainland internet courts by stating that from January 1, 2020, to May 31, 2021, 12 million cases were filed online in Chinese courts, accounting for nearly 29% of all cases filed; and 1.28 million court sessions were held online, with an average length of about 42 minutes.

After Professor Li's thought-provoking speech, we moved on to a discussion session led mainly by **Professor Wang Jianguy**, Director of CCCL, who presented his insightful views on China's Internet courts. Professor Li invited **Senior Judge Li Wenchao**, who is the Deputy Director of the Beijing Internet Court Office (Research Office), to answer the participants' questions in more detail. The seminar concluded with a closing speech by **Professor Lin Feng**, who thanked the speaker for his valuable contributions and all the participants for their attendance, which made the seminar a fruitful one.



Professor Li Xiaomin and Professor Lin Feng (from left to right).



Professor Wang Jianguy and Senior Judge Li Wenchao (From left to right).