



Public Law and Human Rights Forum

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National Security in the Courtroom: Judicial Implementation of the National Security Law and its Legal, Political, and Societal Implications in Hong Kong

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On July 13, 2024, the Centre for Public Law and Human Rights at **City University of Hong Kong's School of Law** successfully hosted a significant academic conference titled "National Security in the Courtroom: Judicial Implementation of the National Security Law and its Legal, Political and Societal Implications in Hong Kong." This event brought together distinguished legal scholars, practitioners, and policymakers from around the world to discuss the complexities and implications of Hong Kong's National Security Law on the legal system.



The conference began with an opening address by **Professor Lin Feng**, Dean of the School of Law at City University of Hong Kong, followed by an introduction from **Professor Zhu Guobin**,



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who set the stage for the conference by outlining its goals and framework. The discussions throughout the day covered various aspects of the National Security Law, from its legal foundations to its practical enforcement and effects on Hong Kong's legal framework.

The first session, chaired by **Professor Zhu Guobin**, was filled with enriching discussions. **Professor Lin Feng** spoke on the judicial protection of human rights in Hong Kong before and after the implementation of the National Security Law. **Professor Priscilla Leung** discussed the legislative intent of Article 23 of the Hong Kong SAR Basic Law and its implications for the 'One Country, Two Systems' principle. **Professor Guo Tianwu** from Sun Yat-sen University explored how the national security laws of Hong Kong and Macao have been integrated within the Greater Bay Area. **Barrister Dr. P.Y. Lo** spoke on the interpretative provisions of the Safeguarding National Security Ordinance and their judicial enforcement, highlighting the dynamic parts of the local system.



In the second session, which focused on comparative studies of national security provisions, **Professor Zhang Xiaoshan** addressed the prohibition of abuse of fundamental rights under Article 2 of the National Security Law. **Professor Zhu Han** provided insights into the definitions of state secrets in China and its special administrative regions, and **Professor Huang Mingtao** compared seditious intentions within the legal contexts of Hong Kong and the U.S. **Professor Jiang Zhaoxin** offered a comparative perspective on Hong Kong's national security case law vis-à-vis the U.S. National Security Constitution and framework cases.



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The afternoon discussions delved into the application and interpretation of the National Security Law in courtrooms. **Professor Huang Mingtao** chaired a session that included **Barrister Anson Wong Yu Yat's** analysis of judicial deference and national security. **Barrister Steven Kwan** highlighted the practical aspects of defending individuals accused under the national security law. **Solicitor Ms. Celeste Lo** provided an in-depth look at the challenges and difficulties in Hong Kong's national security proceedings. **Ms. Li Yueqi** and **Ms. Chen Yizhen** discussed the practical conditions for applying the bail system under the National Security Law.

The conference concluded with closing remarks by **Professor Zhu Guobin** and **Dr. P.Y. Lo**, summarizing the discussions and thanking all participants for their contributions to a fruitful dialogue on the rule of law and national security in Hong Kong.

This event was pivotal in discussing the direct impacts of the National Security Law on Hong Kong's legal, judicial, and law enforcement frameworks, fostering a deeper understanding among the legal community about localized law implementation and contributing to ongoing discussions about legal practices and judicial safeguards in Hong Kong.

Links to past events:

1. [National Security Law Roundtable Seminar Series \(VI\): Safeguarding National Security-- Basic Law Article 23 Legislation Forum Successfully Organized](#)



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2. [Roundtable Series on National Security Law \(V\): Hong Kong's National Security Law: Procedural and Sentencing Implications](#)
3. [Roundtable Series on National Security Law \(IV\) Hong Kong in the Post-National Security Law Era: Some Reflections from International Law and Relations Perspectives](#)
4. [Roundtable Series on National Security Law \(III\) - International Symposium on the National Security Law of Hong Kong: Theoretical and Practical Perspectives](#)
5. [Roundtable Series on National Security Law\(II\) Hong Kong's National Security Law: Implications for Companies and their Human Rights Responsibilities](#)
6. [Roundtable Series on National Security Law\(I\) : On "National Security Legislation of the HKSAR"](#)