

Tentative Programme

“Mediate First” Pledge Event 2025

Mediate First : With Great Dialogue Comes Great Understanding

Date: 9 May 2025 (Friday)
Venue: N101, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre
Time: 9:30 – 12:30 (morning session)
14:00 – 18:00 (afternoon session)
Language: Cantonese (with Simultaneous Interpretation in English and Putonghua)

Synopsis: Under the theme “Mediate First: With Great Dialogue Comes Great Understanding”, the event aims to encourage the community to first explore the use of mediation as an effective and accessible tool for dispute resolution. The event will kick off with a Mediation Forum spanning the morning and the afternoon: the morning session will explore the Judiciary’s role in promoting mediation, and the afternoon session will include experience sharing from representatives of various government departments and stakeholders on how to deepen the mediation culture through different mediation schemes. Besides, students who have participated in the peer mediation training will, through a lively manner, showcase the role and advantages of mediation in resolving peer conflicts.

The event will culminate in a “Mediate First” Pledge Signing Ceremony, a Star Logo Awards Presentation Ceremony and a networking session. The event highlights the latest developments and achievements of the Judiciary, the Government, and stakeholders in deepening the mediation culture in Hong Kong.

Time	Activity
MEDIATION FORUM	
09:30 - 09:45 (15 mins)	Opening Remarks <i>Mr Paul T K Lam, SBS, SC, JP</i> <i>Secretary for Justice, Hong Kong SAR Government</i>
09:45 - 10:00 (15 mins)	Keynote Speech <i>Mr Jack Chan</i> <i>The Ombudsman, Office of the Ombudsman, Hong Kong</i>
10:00 - 12:30 (2 hrs 30 mins)	Judiciary Panel Collaboration between the Judiciary and the Mediation Advocates – Composing Harmonious Rhythm with Stakeholders <i>This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Judiciary's effort in advocating mediation. The Judiciary launched its first voluntary mediation scheme in 2000 for matrimonial/family cases, with promising results. Since then, the Judiciary has explored numerous ADR mechanisms for handling various court cases, including Building Management, Compulsory Sales, Small Claims cases and District Court cases.</i> <i>With the concerted effort by all stakeholders, the foundation of family mediation has been well established in the Judiciary and the community as well. Family mediators embody the spirit of mediation by promoting understanding, respect, and cooperation among parties with disputes of divorce. Family mediators have long been placing the welfare of the children as their paramount concern throughout the mediation process. Family mediators also put great effort in enhancing the divorcing parties to engage into a peaceful and constructive dialogue and, most importantly, to maintain their roles of parent ensuring the growth of the children would not be jeopardized by the divorce.</i> <i>The Judiciary would like to take this opportunity to have family mediators and organizations from different sectors to share in this</i>

Time	Activity
	<i>Conference their valuable insights and reflections, to review the experience regarding family mediation for the past 25 years, to understand the operation mode of various service platforms and to explore the way forward of family mediation.</i> Welcome Remarks by Moderator <i>Ms Mimi Ho</i> <i>Mediation Co-ordinator of the Judiciary</i> <u>Host:</u> <i>Master Bryan Lung</i> <i>Family Court, the Judiciary</i> <u>Session 1:</u> Holistic Experience Sharing from Local Family Mediators from Various Organizations / Sectors <u>Guest speakers:</u> <i>Ms April Lam</i> <i>Chief Judiciary Executive (Mediation Affairs) of the Judiciary</i> <i>Mr Patrick Chung</i> <i>Senior Coordinator (Mediation Services), Hong Kong Family Welfare Society</i> <i>Ms Katrina Wu</i> <i>Centre Supervisor (Marriage Mediation Counselling Service Centre), The Hong Kong Catholic Marriage Advisory Council</i> <i>Ms Elsie Liu</i> <i>Partner, Haldanes</i> <i>Mr Ringo Lam</i> <i>Senior Social Work Officer, Social Welfare Department</i>

Time	Activity
	<u>Session 2:</u> Experience sharing on Shenzhen Family Trial Center Involving Hong Kong-Macao-Taiwan and Foreign Factors <i>Judge Zhao Manqi</i> <i>Chief Judge of the Civil Division, Shenzhen Longhua District People's Court</i> Q & A Concluding Remarks <i>The Hon Mr Justice Johnson Lam PJ</i> <i>Chairman of the Judiciary's Working Party on Mediation</i>
12:30–14:00 (1 hr 30 mins)	Lunch
14:00–15:30 (1 hr 30 mins)	Dispute Resolution for All: Government and Community Efforts in Mediation <i>The panel will begin with an introduction to the Government's Deepening Mediation Culture Initiative, which encompasses the Government-wide Mediation Clause Policy and the Pilot Scheme on Community Mediation.</i> <i>In the second part of the panel, representatives from a government department, a statutory body and a non-profit organisation will share their experiences and success stories related to various mediation schemes in Hong Kong.</i> <i>The discussion will highlight the collective efforts and commitment of the Government and stakeholders in promoting mediation as an effective and accessible tool for dispute resolution.</i> <u>Moderator:</u> <i>Miss Tracy Choi</i> <i>Senior Assistant Law Officer (Civil Law)(ADR)(Ag.), Department of Justice, Hong Kong SAR Government</i>

Time	Activity
	<u>Speakers:</u> Ms Leona Cheung Principal Governmental Counsel (Legal Enhancement and Development Office)¹, Department of Justice, Hong Kong SAR Government Dr Thomas So, JP Chairman, eBRAM International Online Dispute Resolution Centre Mr Francis Ho Deputy Chief Executive, Consumer Council Mr Au Yeung Lik, Nick, JP Deputy Secretary for Home and Youth Affairs (Home Affairs), Home and Youth Affairs Bureau, Hong Kong SAR Government Q & A
15:30–15:45 (15 mins)	Break
15:45–16:45 (1 hr)	Peer Mediation
16:45–16:55 (10 mins)	Closing Remarks Dr Cheung Kwok-kwan, SBS, JP Deputy Secretary for Justice, Hong Kong SAR Government
CEREMONY	
17:00–17:15 (15 mins)	Star Logo Award Presentation Ceremony Awards Presented by Ms Christina Cheung, JP Law Officer (Civil Law), Department of Justice, Hong Kong SAR Government
17:15–17:30 (15 mins)	Signing Ceremony of the “Mediate First” Pledge

Time	Activity
17:30–18:00 (30 mins)	Toast and Photo-taking <i>Dr Cheung Kwok-kwan, SBS, JP, Deputy Secretary for Justice, Hong Kong SAR Government and representative(s) from Supporting Organisations</i> Networking Session

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