



Statement by The Law Society of Hong Kong on Condemning Intimidation of Judges

1. The Law Society notes from media reports that on 28 May 2021, a District Judge received threatening telephone calls after the Judge delivered her sentencing decisions in a case on the same day. The Law Society strongly condemns acts of intimidation or attempted intimidation against judges.
2. Article 85 of the Hong Kong Basic Law provides that the courts of Hong Kong shall exercise judicial power independently, free from any interference.
3. The constitutional role of judges is to apply only the law. Article 84 of the Hong Kong Basic Law states that judges shall adjudicate cases in accordance with the law. The Judicial Oath taken by all judges requires adherence to the law and the safeguarding of the law without fear or favour. We reiterate our confidence in the compliance by judges with their Judicial Oath and in their impartial administration of justice without fear or favour.
4. Intimidation of judges is not only a serious criminal offence, but also a threat to judicial independence and the rule of law. Any attempt to pressure and/or influence judges in their decision making process must immediately cease.
5. We urge all parties to respect the rule of law and the constitutional role of judges in upholding the rule of law.

The Law Society of Hong Kong

31 May 2021