

主席回顧

Chairman's Review

我很高興以法律援助服務局(法援局)主席身份，為大家介紹2024-2025年度報告。

法律援助是法律制度中不可或缺的一部分，對維護香港法治至關重要。法援服務由法律援助署(法援署)提供，其核心使命旨在確保任何持有合理理據提出司法訴訟的人士，不會因經濟能力有限而無法尋求公義。自1996年成立以來，法援局負責監督法援署的管理，並就法律援助政策向政府提供意見。法援局致力促進法律面前人人平等和可訴諸司法，並就提升法援署的營運效率提出建議。

I am pleased to present the Annual Report 2024-2025 in my capacity as Chairman of the Legal Aid Services Council (the Council).

Legal aid forms an integral part of the legal system as it contributes to the upholding of rule of law in Hong Kong. The services of legal aid are provided by Legal Aid Department (LAD) with a core mission to guarantee that no one who has reasonable grounds for taking a legal action in court is denied justice due to lack of means. Starting from 1996, the Council has been established to oversee the administration of LAD and to advise the Government on legal aid policy. The Council strives to promote equality for everyone before the law with access to justice and to suggest possible enhancement on the operational effectiveness of LAD.



梁永祥教授 GBS, JP (主席)

**Prof. LEUNG Wing Cheung, William GBS, JP
(Chairman)**



在現行的法律援助制度下，申請人需同時通過法援署的案情審查和經濟審查，方可獲批法律援助。案情審查評估申請人是否有合理理據提出法律訴訟或進行抗辯，而經濟審查則評核申請人的財務資源會否超出普通法律援助計劃和法律援助輔助計劃所規定的財務資格限額。為符合市場一般物價水平，政府每年會參考丙類消費物價指數的變動，檢討財務資格限額。在2024年10月的最新一輪檢討中，政府參照2023年7月至2024年7月期間的丙類消費物價指數變動，將財務資格限額上調2.0%。相關調整經政府向立法會提交決議案後已正式生效。同時，法援署署長第一押記亦根據丙類消費物價指數的變動進行年度檢討，有關指定款額亦於本年度上調2.0%。

Under the current legal aid system, legal aid will be granted if applicants are deemed qualified by passing both the merits test and means test conducted by LAD. While the merits test examines whether an applicant has reasonable grounds for pursuing or defending a legal case, the means test is a way to assess if the applicant's financial resources exceed the statutory financial eligibility limit (FEL) under both the Ordinary Legal Aid Scheme and the Supplementary Legal Aid Scheme. To get in line with the price level in the general market, the FELs are subject to annual review by the Government with reference to the Consumer Price Index (C) (CPI(C)). In the latest round of review in October 2024, an increase of 2.0% of CPI(C) from July 2023 to July 2024 was taken into consideration for the adjustment of FELs and the Government accordingly moved a resolution in the Legislative Council to put it into effect. Same as the FELs, the Director of Legal Aid's First Charge is reviewed annually based on the CPI(C) changes and it was also adjusted by 2.0% upwards this year.

主席回顧 Chairman's Review

此外，政府亦於2024年就刑事法律援助費用、檢控費用及當值律師費用進行了兩年一度的檢討，在進行有關檢討時，政府主要參考一般物價變動情況以及委聘大律師和律師時有否出現困難。鑑於2022年7月至2024年7月的丙類消費物價指數上升了3.9%，政府因而將有關費用作出相同調整，法援局對此建議表示歡迎。該調整經立法會通過決議案後已於2024年12月生效。

法援署作為面向公眾的部門，公眾對法援署工作的參與非常重要。在2024年，法援署接納我的建議，制定了一個與公眾溝通的計劃，致力加強公眾信心及促進與持分者之間的合作。過去一年，法援署以多個社會關注的議題作為社交媒體的宣傳重點，透過為學生及本地社區舉辦講座以擴展法援服務的接觸層面。此外，法援署成立了一個快速回應小組，及時澄清社會上流傳的不實信息，並積極爭取持分者的支持以應對複雜的議題。這些努力對鞏固法援署形象及保障公眾免受錯誤信息影響方面，發揮了重要的作用。

Furthermore, the Government also conducted a biennial review on the criminal legal aid fees, prosecution fees and duty lawyer fees in 2024 by taking into consideration the movement of general market price level and the difficulty in engaging the services of counsel and solicitors. Noting that the CPI(C) for the reference period from July 2022 to July 2024 increased by 3.9%, the Government adjusted these fees upwards by the same percentage and the Council welcomed this proposal. Upon resolution in the Legislative Council, the adjustments then took effect in December 2024.

As a public facing department, public engagement of the work of LAD is of paramount importance. Taking into account my recommendation to work out a public communication plan in 2024, LAD has endeavoured to boost public confidence and foster collaboration among stakeholders. Throughout the year, LAD identified several common issues of public concern as focal points on social media platforms. It also broadened the outreach of legal aid services by organising talks for students and the local community. Moreover, LAD has established a quick response team to make prompt clarifications for false information spreading in the society and to actively engage stakeholders for their support to address complicated issues. All these efforts have played a vital role in reinforcing the image of LAD and safeguarding the public from any misinformation related to legal aid services in Hong Kong.



除宣傳工作外，法援署亦優化了處理法援申請的行政和程序。繼2021年實施的完善法援制度措施後，法援署於2024年進一步優化內部審批流程，並引進新指引顯著加快處理家暴個案。此外，法援署亦配合技術創新的趨勢，於2025年推出虛擬助手聊天機械人「法寶寶」，自動回應市民的一般查詢，並引導他們有效地完成基本申請程序。上述法援服務的改善皆源于法援署的充分投入，我藉此機會感謝他們為完善香港法援服務作出的貢獻。

Apart from the publicity initiatives, LAD has also enhanced the administration and processing of legal aid applications. Building on the successful implementation of enhancement measures upon the legal aid review in 2021, LAD further refined their internal procedures in handling legal aid applications and introduced new guidelines to expedite the processing of domestic violence cases considerably in 2024. To embrace the latest technological innovations, LAD also launched a virtual assistant chatbot called Aidie in 2025, which is a tool designed to support the public by automatically answering general questions and to navigate them into the standard application procedures efficiently. All these service improvements to the users of legal aid services could not have happened without the full commitment of LAD. For that, I would like to extend my appreciation for their dedications in advancing the legal aid services in Hong Kong.

主席回顧

Chairman's Review



為進一步推廣法援服務，我出席了多項活動，包括2025年法律年度開啟典禮及香港崇德社於2024年12月舉辦的午餐會。在午餐會上，我就本地法援制度及數個重要議題作出演說。在2025年3月，我亦聯同法援署署長到訪入境事務處總部，了解處理免遣返聲請的程序及減少司法覆核制度被濫用的措施。這些經驗均充滿啟發性，我亦十分珍惜與法律界專業人士及相關持分者交流的機會，藉此豐富我對法援領域發展的知識及堅定我對服務社會的信念。

To further promote the legal aid services, I attended a number of events including the ceremonial opening of the legal year 2025 and a luncheon organised by the Zonta Club of Hong Kong in December 2024, in which I had given a talk on the local legal aid system and certain important issues. In March 2025, I also paid a visit with the Director of Legal Aid to the Immigration Headquarters to look into their procedures in handling non-refoulement claims and the measures to alleviate the abuse of judicial review system. These experiences were deeply inspiring and I valued every opportunity to interact with legal professionals and stakeholders across the sector. The insights gained from these occasions have enriched my knowledge in the evolving legal aid landscape and reaffirmed my commitment to serving the community dedicatedly.

完善的法律援助制度是社會公義中重要的基石，確保每人都能尋求公義和依法維護自身權利。憑藉法援局成員堅定不移的支持及多年來累積的成果，香港的法援制度得以持續成為全球最佳制度之一。來年，我將在法援署的支持下繼續帶領法援局，推動香港法律援助服務邁向更高水平。

A well-established legal aid framework stands as a cornerstone of justice to the society in which every person should have access to fairness and the ability to assert their own rights under the law. With the unwavering support of our Council Members as well as the achievements we have built up over the years, the legal aid system in Hong Kong continues to be one of the best in the world with enduring success. In the year to come, I will continue to steer the Council with the support of LAD for the betterment of legal aid services in Hong Kong.

