

## SEMINAR

**Prosecutorial freedom:  
Why Hong Kong needs an  
independent Director of Public  
Prosecutions****Grenville Cross, SC***Vice-Chairman of the Senate, International Association of Prosecutors***Tuesday, 29 May 2012, 1:00 - 2:00 pm****Room LG102, LG1 Floor, KK Leung Building, The University of Hong Kong**

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In recent years, many common law jurisdictions have recognised the need for the director of public prosecutions to have the control of prosecutions, and for the political master to disengage from the prosecution process. In 2009, the attorney general of England and Wales transferred the bulk of prosecution powers to the DPP, and this provides a model for Hong Kong. The secretary for justice, who reports to the chief executive, is a government minister, appointed by the central authorities, yet he is also the chief prosecutor, which involves a clear conflict of roles. If the secretary disengages from prosecutions in favour of the DPP, this will promote public confidence in the integrity of the criminal justice system, and align Hong Kong with international trends.

*I Grenville Cross SBS, QC, SC* is the Vice-Chairman of the Senate of the International Association of Prosecutors. He was appointed Director of Public Prosecutions of Hong Kong, China, after the reunification in 1997, and held this post until 2009. Mr Cross served on the Executive Committee of the International Association of Prosecutors from 2007 to 2010. A member of the Bars of England and Wales, and of Hong Kong, he was appointed Queen's Counsel (QC) in 1990, becoming Senior Counsel (SC) in 1997. Mr Cross is Honorary Professor of Law, University of Hong Kong, Visiting Professor of Law, Chinese University of Hong Kong, and Adjunct Professor of Law, China University of Political Science and Law, Beijing. He is Sentencing Editor of *Hong Kong Cases* and of *Archbold Hong Kong*, and Co-author of *Sentencing in Hong Kong*. In 2010, he was awarded the Silver Bauhinia Star (SBS), for his contribution to the development of prosecution services in Hong Kong, and the Certificate of Merit of the International Association of Prosecutors, for his contribution to global efforts to prosecute crime.

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