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.

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

Please email Flora Leung at fkleung@hku.hk to reserve a place.