# Clinical Legal Education Programme

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Department of Law Faculty of Law 4 March 2015

# The Project

 It is the first Clinical Legal Education programme established in Hong Kong to provide much needed pro bono legal service to the community

 Legal advice provided by experienced legal practitioners (with the support and research provided by law students) through the Free Legal Advice Scheme on campus

# Summary of Impact

Since the introduction of the Clinical Legal Education (CLE) programme in 2010,

- more than 600 clients have received free legal advice and gave very positive feedback to students;
- more than 10 successful appeals or legal aid applications upon free legal representation through the CLE programme;
- •an erroneous approach to the merits test by the Legal Aid Department was rectified upon a successful case handled by the CLE programme; and
- wide media coverage (including in a TVB documentary series) and burgeoning demand from the public for CLE service have been received.

# Underpinning Teaching & Learning: (1) Teachers (the nominees)

 Dissemination of sophisticated legal knowledge to lay clients in real-life cases and empowerment of the community

 Nominees facilitate / enable quadripartite collaboration between students, teachers (the nominees), outside pro bono lawyers and lay clients in the provision of legal service

# Underpinning Teaching & Learning: (2) Students

- 3. Learning 'law in action': Placing students in real life situations where they combine academic knowledge with practical lawyering skills to solve actual legal problems.
- 4. Nurturing in students a heart to serve the needy with passion and professionalism.

5. Apprenticeship with practising lawyers allows thinking out of the box and on-the-job mentoring.

# Underpinning Teaching & Learning: (3) Lay Clients

- 6. Filling a gap in society by providing wide-ranging non-means tested pro bono legal service, and through this enhancing citizens' rights and empowering the community.
- 7. Contributing to the rule of law in Hong Kong and rectifying 'miscarriage of justice'.

8. Community witness at first hand the impact of HKU legal expertise in their lives.

# Underpinning Teaching & Learning: (4) Practising Lawyers

8. Releases hitherto untapped resources of practising lawyers in educating and mentoring our students by pairing them up with students – lawyers become on-the-job trainers as they handle cases with students.

9. With the support and research provided by students under supervision of the nominees, volunteer outside lawyers are better empowered to provide quality legal advice and service to the clients.

# Underpinning Teaching & Learning: Quadripartite stakeholder synergy

10. All in all, the CLE programme designed by the nominees provides a platform for synergy that taps resources to generate and disseminate legal knowledge to meet unmet needs in real life situations in society.

11. It has now become an iconic programme of HKU.

## 1. Answering community needs

- Legal service is extremely expensive in Hong Kong, and legal aid for civil law cases is limited in scope and subject to a means test.
- Students often lack on-the-ground opportunities to learn law in action.
- The CLE programme bridges the gap by contextualising students' textbook knowledge and disseminating HKU's legal expertise to fill important legal knowledge and service gaps in the community.

# 2. Engaging local and overseas collaborators

- Extensive consultation with Professor Stacy Caplow at Brooklyn Law School, which runs a successful legal clinic, in setting up the CLE programme
- Shares experience with overseas experts and legal clinics at the International Journal of Clinical Legal Education Conference
- Collaborates with the Duty Lawyer Service (which is administered jointly by the Hong Kong Law Society and the Bar Association) in setting up the Free Legal Advice Scheme on campus for engaging volunteer lawyers to supervise students and provide legal advice to clients.
- Currently over 60 participating solicitors and barristers.

- 3. Provision of legal service to lay clients
  - The nominees (teachers running the CLE programme) shepherd students in interviewing clients, writing case summaries, conducting research, and pair them up with experienced practising lawyers in handling real cases.
  - Over 600 cases handled since the CLE programme was established in 2010.

- 4. Education of students and lay clients in a life-changing situation
  - Through handling real clients, students learn how to explain technical and sophisticated legal concepts in layman terms
  - Through helping some clients who feel distressed or are emotionally unstable as a result of the daunting legal process, students see the important role a conscientious and passionate lawyer can play and learn how to use soft lawyering skills
  - Lay clients acquire knowledge of the law pertaining to a case that affects them and feel relieved upon receiving proper practical legal advice

- 5. The media volunteered to help promote the CLE programme to the community at large :-
  - RTHK: <a href="http://utalks.etvonline.tv/article60.php">http://utalks.etvonline.tv/article60.php</a>
  - TVB: Pearl Report (2010)"For the Public Good"

http://programme.tvb.com/nevisode/20100829/

- --TVB: Tuesday Report(2013)
- "Fighting for What is Right"
- -- Various newspapers reports



1. Very positive and encouraging feedback from clients —out of 518 clients surveyed since 2010, 95% gave a very positive score of 4 or 5 out of a 5-point scale for their satisfaction level with the advice given

### Clients' Survey since Jan 2010

- Q3: How would you describe the level of satisfaction to the Advice Session of the Free Legal Advice Scheme?
- Very satisfied <--5, 4, 3, 2, 1--> Very Dissatisfied

	Score 5	Score 4	Score 3	Score 2	Score 1
Jan 2010	33	6	1	1	1
Sept 2010	28	7	0	1	0
Jan 2011	27	6	0	0	0
Sept 2011	23	7	2	0	2
Jan 2012	32	5	0	0	0
Sept 2012	26	3	0	0	0
Jan 2013	34	10	2	0	0
Jun 2013	28	4	1	1	0
Sep 2013	45	10	4	1	1
Jan 2014	58	15	6	0	0
Jun 2014	26	1	2	0	0
Sep 2014	49	7	2	0	0
Total	409 (78.96%)	81 (15.64%)	20 (3.86%)	4 (0.77%)	4 (0.77%)

- 2. Successfully assisted a client to obtain legal aid for leave to appeal to Court of Final Appeal despite contrary views of the Senior Counsel representing the client in the Court of Appeal
- 3. Successfully overturned an erroneous approach adopted by the Legal Aid Department on the merits test. Affirmation by professional bodies & reports in media:-
  - 'All Counsel need to be informed of this pitfall arising from the erroneous interpretation ... of the Merits Test', Bar Association statement (21 Feb 2014)
  - SCMP Repot (7 April 2014) and ONC Lawyers Newsletter (March 2014)





Newsletter • March 2014

### Litigation & Dispute Resolution

Relying on the Department's Assessment of Your Legal Aid Application? Think Twice!

#### Introduction

Legal aid is fundamental to the access to justice. In the case of <u>Chung Yuk Ying v the</u> <u>Registrar of High Court</u> [2013] HKCU 2449, the Court of First Instance criticized the Department of Legal Aid ("**DLA**") for its failure to apply the correct test to assess the merits of the Plaintiff's case, which resulted in the discharge of the Plaintiff's legal aid certificate. This article provides an overview of the legal aid scheme in Hong Kong.

### 4. Rectified miscarriage of justice

- Successfully represented wrongfully convicted defendants in over 10 appeal cases in the High Court (in a couple of these cases legal aid was originally refused because the Director of Legal Aid considered that there was no merits in the appeal)
- Successfully represented a cross-border truck driver in his application for leave to appeal to the CFA on the substantial and grave injustice ground (FAMC 16/2013, 24 September 2013) and subsequently in

the actual appeal (FACC 7/2013, 28 May 2014, reported in (2014) 17 HKCFAR 303)



"In this course, we met clients who seem to sufter injustice but cannot afford to use law as a tool to achieve remedies due to their financial situations. I agree that the significance of law is to provide a set of rules for all to comply with, which at least ensures equality and fair treatment of everyone. Yet, it seems that more is needed to be done to allow law to help more people in a more effective way."



- 5. Extensive positive coverage in media:
  - TVB: Pearl Report "For the Public Good" (29 August 2010)
  - TVB Tuesday Report programme "Fighting for What is Right" (26 November 2013)
  - Next Magazine (21 Feb 2013)
  - Numerous English and Chinese Newspapers



### 無償出頭攞實戰經驗 港大法律生義助洗冤



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【本報訊】「我唔知點樣多謝佢,無以為報。」商人雖 樹雄2010年被控刑股。審訊中途遭裁判官批評語無倫 次、臉顏保釋、鈍也遺梗等條架取精神報告、無辜坐監 14日;他其後向娄海大學法律系求助,由該院助理教授 張達明替他無償「出願」,最終在高院上訴得宜。張表

示,該校臨床法律教育中心三年前開始為市民提供免費

法律諮詢服務,攝上轉發情況會蓋務上底。今年紀人手

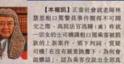


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■摄到漫大法律完助理數 摂張雄明 (左) 的幫助。 南人阿彻兹县约在高院上

### 港大義助爾系上訴得直

【本報訊】成功替兩案的兩名 · 但 他 · 義 経 為 市 民 提 供 注 來亦簡為傳奇。刑劉監的 亦曾雅官非,當時由張擔任其 上訴人糧有益,原本沒有律額 到張,主審法官逐邀請張協助



款的上游案件,頒下判詞、質疑 設備話」、認為乘客投設出全部直

· 故判司機上訴得直 · 撤請定罪馮官更似有所偿置 即使為人師表。在激怒下也會說相口。」

赞局病因助理,且每月兩天兼職的土司機,沒有犯 因無視她的道歉,不斷喝駕她,更腳踏車縮地板,令

交之際,高院法官馮驛(國)昨就 街店李之的士·拉示她您大坑這在雲景道威景台。徐 邁媽,從未越與她講報口。 一宗女的士司機講和口駕乘客被罰 中乘客抱掛號行錯路及車號太快,餘稱「喝識路使唱 使埋職粮度],更建設四次「X你老妹」。乘客下車接。 成、罰款 1,500 元。她不顧定算上訴。高院法官馮轉

李之機被控作點的士司機無合理難解下頭無禮及 上極盡根鄰的語言及總香再萬。 上訴人李麗屏現年52歳、曾任懲枚助理、後轉任 不守規矩罪。地不認罪、指乘客沒有就出確實目的地。

去年7月15日、一名男乘客雙稱在銅鑼筒百排新 20 元飯幣便離去、尚欠 4.5元。司機好友力酸她是好

李被京書東區裁判法契約委裁判官劉敦總裁官第 有最重编数下。也無理由會提釋結,可見雙方或均沒 司横「在沒有嚴重挑奪下,為何會 她雖下一句「你快×啲去死」使駛擊。乘客稍後報警。 於判詞中指出:「一般人說相口。可能是一般性格智 悟,亦可能是受扰量激怒下之發洩。」但一名司機即一直「臨床法律教育計劃」提供義務協助,足足花了兩天 使因沒有經驗乘客推示而被斥責。第一反應是不會用 旋服為官。對於成功難案。张说:「能單係計劃以來

> 悉官又謂。從法庭勝本可見故處玄根表思首思記 件,最難上訴。) 的人·多次張對框口每葉學未有即時控訴「司機講相 意件屬数:HCMA263/13

**高官协治、有人或會認為藥文的非受傷與、何必** 

代表专司縣的澳大法律學從召詢講報签律用。誘

### 張達明爲教學 首戰裁判法院

港大法律學院首席講師張達明昨爲 其法律系學生「以身作教」,親自上 陣爲「代客探監」案3名被告辯護。他 透露今次因臨床法律教育計劃、機緣 巧合造就在裁判法院「處子登場」, 昨以當值律師身分上陣,其學生則擔 當「最强後盾」

張達明一直積極參與港大臨床法律 教育計劃,義務爲市民提供法律服 務。他昨透露本案一些被告惹上官非

後,曾前來尋找免費法律意見,其中3 名被告鄧志紅(33歲)、潘定基(34 歲)及關巧用(38歲)希望由他代表 應審,遂透過當值律師服務延聘

張已非首次 披甲 上庭,過去曾在 高院處理裁判法院上訴案,爲被定罪 人士洗脱罪名。他昨完成首天聆訊 後,在庭外笑言首次出席裁判法院審 訊案,更戲言「唔係好識」,部分學生 則在審訊時坐在後方爲他整理資料。



港大法律學院首席講師張達明昨稱上演 處男作」,以當值律師身分首次在裁 判法院審訊為3名被告辯護。

(何偉畧攝)



您的位置。 文团百百 >> 用配 >> 正文

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CHRI CHRIS

**55** 技工证明15/参加

行人的按某事 请被上的程度 (数)

行人路踩單車 講師上訴甩罪

[2011-02-19] May 2/pager wereape con

批研計論(1)

■上訴得直講師夏速達(前右) 與港大法律 學系助理教授張達明(前左)及漢大法律學生庭外

香港文建報訊(記者 杜法祖)理大香港專上學 院講師騎軍車而惹上官非,雖然蘇竊遭他從後種倒的 立事主题供模糊不清、但裁判官錯誤理解案例、以為

在行人路上聯軍車就足以構成「不小心聯路軍車罪」。去年數定講師罪成業罰款

#### 牧師涉倫肥牛上訴得直

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**第**45個的問題

【丰賴誌】基督於團體思光使團證幹事林請約收訴。經於今年初在監団一問庭 藝市場協竊總值37元的節申和肉丸、寢塞試後被室費利四三萬。週刊三年。 林檎初不羅判決提出上訴。高等法院法官昨天指出,林芍能出於失魂才沒有付 談·料他上話導直。謝胡定雅·林聽刺後與在場十多名支持者隨用及效斯·然 後集體折請 +

## 6. Numerous thank you cards/emails from clients

港大校園免費法律諮詢計劃負責人:

你們好,今次我寫這電子郵件的目的,是想代表我家人表達感激及謝意。

上星期我透過電話熱線,希望你們能就著我哥哥的案件提供法律意見。雖然有違正常程序,但最後你們都願意耐情處理。我在為你們添加額外的麻煩而感到抱歉的同時,亦非常感激你們能在我們最無助的時候提供援助。

我哥最後被判社會服務令100小時。這個結果都令我們鬆一口氣,因為我哥都不希望坐 監。雖然我並不希望他背負此不光彩的罪名,但也要接受,因為是他自己作的決定。

縱然最後結果一樣,但透過今次法律咨詢,我們了解到我們所擁有的選擇,以及各選擇的後果。如果沒有你們的幫助,我們只能逆來順受,此時此刻必定仍有許多疑惑,質疑自己是否做得足夠。

非常非常感謝張律師特別抽時間來會見我們,並作出詳細分析講解,使我們能在足夠的資訊下,作出一個決定,而不是"被決定"。亦要多謝學生Evangeline,Sonia及男學生臨時抽時間會見我們以及在緊迫的時間下完成所需的文書。此外,多謝林律師肯酎情處理允許這次咨詢。多謝曾小姐的協調工作,安排時間場地以促成此事。因為你們的幫助,使得我們一家於判決過後,能心無芥蒂,重新上路。

這恩情,也許無以為報。我所能做的,是效法你們助人的精神,於自己所能做到的範圍中,略盡綿力幫助其他有需要的人,使他人亦得著援助。

最後,祝各位身體健康!

敬上

Wan

Dear Mr Chan/2 x Beautiful Students,

Thank you so much for your fruitful help to assist me presenting my unfair dismissal case with the previous employer -

Finally, I won the case with receiving the in lieu notice payment from them.

Have a good day!!!

Many thanks and warm regards

自案件的發生到完成所有的訴訟程序,至法官問下宣佈: 「羅名不成立」,歷時近、個月。期間不但令我身心能受格大的 歷力,也给家人造成了諸多因擾……所幸在我彷徨無助之際、 在我覺得無路可走之時,我遇見了您們!您們細心傾聽、剖析 案件的經過,您們東持專案解釋法律常識和當事人的權益,您 們依據法理給予中肯的分析和設身處地之建議,您們本著仁爱 之心加以關注和協助,真可謂當中送炭、濟因解危!在此借準 傳的信箋謹致深深的謝意。威謝香港大學法律學院臨床法律教 育服務中心!威谢陳文瀚大律師! 威謝 Rose 同學、Joe 同學!

曾有法律界人士說:這類案件實屬「小事一格」,但相對我 「鳳平浪靜」的生活却是一次難得的歷練。所幸求動了香港大

學法律學院臨床法律教育服務中心!所幸得到陳文瀚大律師的 指點和協助!更全我威動的是您們幫助了人却不留名,陳文瀚 大律師的高姓大名是我瀏覧賣校網頁時才發現,兩位同學的名 字就無法得知了(不知有否聽錯她們的英文名)!

「法理仁心 義助市民」是我的由衷感慨,在此特送上 錦旗一面以表感徵之情!在此,我和我的家人再次向您們致以 該擊的謝意!並祝願陳文瀚大律師培育出更多與己般「法理仁 心」的學生,祝願 Rose 同學、Joe 同學盡得導師的真傳,祝願 臨床法律教育服務中心工作順利! 蘇同學

多部价盡力的帮助,一意我们的背景和发生,我们们的特别。

2014.11.21.

在律師 多謝你仗義的幫助給我 稅數實賣的意見去處理 我的雜寫案。 無論結果如何,我都非常 成沒你。 再次結就你。 再次結就在律師! 此致 又一類上 2014.11.21.

林大律師尊鑑

您好!我十分履激您為我的人身傷害案件作出多番與而不 捨的努力。回想當初,當我在外工作的時候,在一座商業大 慶的大堂,因第三者的不小心而被绊倒,引致身體嚴重受傷。 我於是申請法律援助並獲批准,當時,我心想我可以為自己 取回公道。但是晴天鄒麗,法报署其後說我的理嫌不足,把 我的法接繼書撤回。我四出奔走,求助無門,但非常幸運地 得到正義藻然的林大律師及兩位見習律師義務及無償的幫 助,向高等法院就法接署撤消我的法接盡者的決定提出反對, 雖然當時未克成功,但最終也能成功地申請司法覆核,使我 可以繼續我的人身傷害案件的索償。我深深明自林大律師的 高風亮節及專業精神,令獨勢社群也可以沐浴司法正義,就 林大律師及兩位見習律師的幫助,我再实深表謝意,祝身心

日期: 2014年9月19日

Dear Bobo,

May I take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to you, the two law students, Mr. Chan and other staff members of the office in helping and assisting me in this legal matter.

I do appreciate it, it means a lot to me while I was very lost and had no direction on this issue. I do hope this issue will be set aside as time goes by.

I am very impressed by the two students who have been seeing me, they are very professional, I can foresee their bright futures in helping other needy in our society. May I also wish them very success in the years to come in their academic pursuit.

Thank you again for your help.

Wish you have a good night.

Regards,

**雞<b>吐**鱼絲上