

JUDICIAL SYSTEM OF HONG KONG



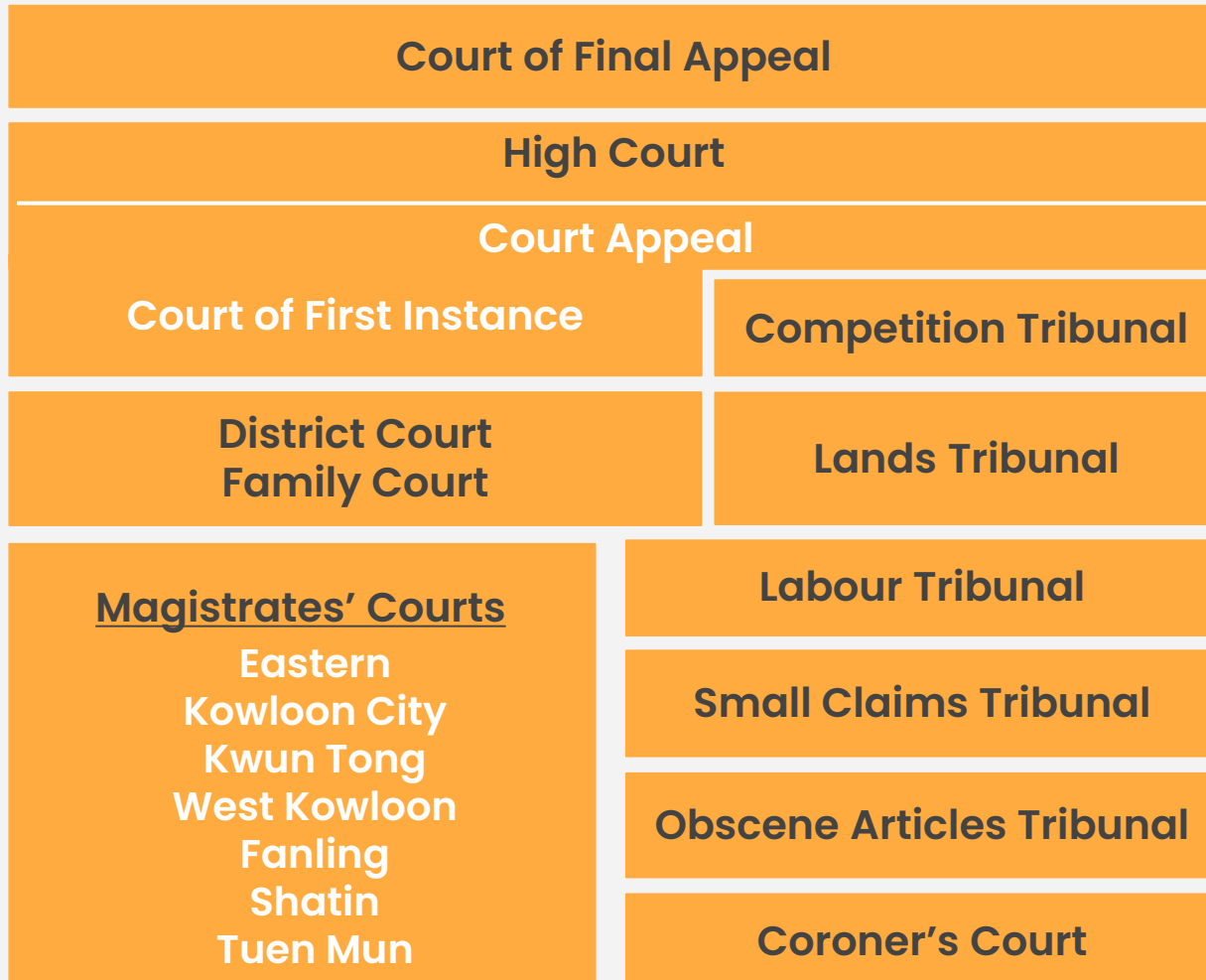
Functions of the Judiciary of Hong Kong



The Judiciary is responsible for the administration of justice and conducting hearings for criminal and civil litigation cases in Hong Kong.

They are independent of the executive authorities and the legislature.

Hong Kong Courts



Court of Final Appeal

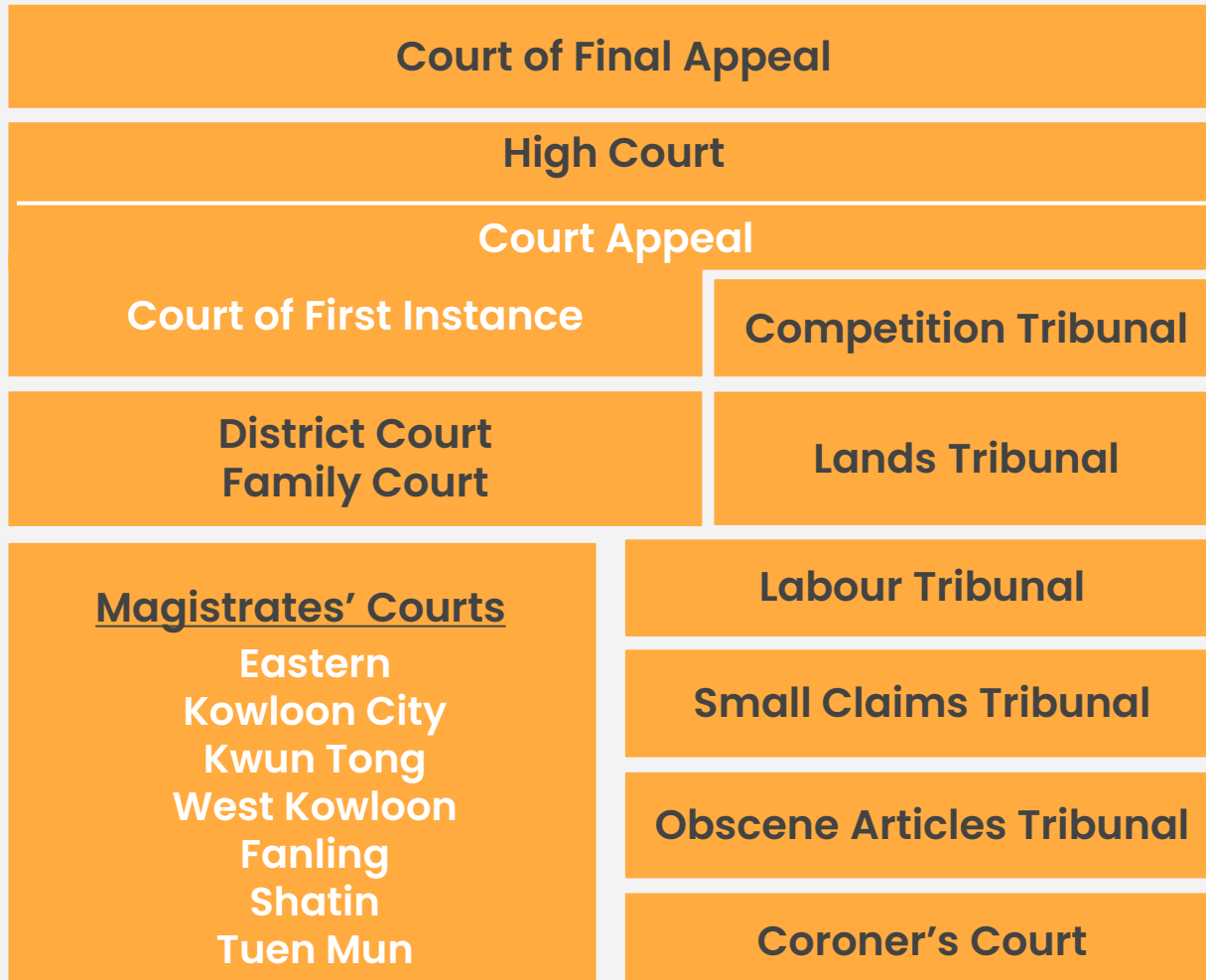
- ❑ The highest appellate court in Hong Kong. It hears appeals on civil and criminal matters from the High Court.

High Court

- ❑ Consists of the Court of Appeal and the Court of First Instance, which hear appeals and trials.



Hong Kong Courts



District Court

- ❑ Hears civil disputes of higher values and more serious criminal cases.

Magistrates' Courts

- ❑ There are 7 Magistrates' Courts in Hong Kong. They hear a wide range of criminal cases.



Hong Kong Courts

Specialist Division of the High Court – Hong Kong International Commercial Court (HKICC)

- Announced in May 2026, with the aim to establish the HKICC within one year
- In alignment with the National 15th Five-Year Plan
- Strengthening Hong Kong's position as both an international financial centre and a leading international dispute resolution hub
- To adjudicate complex, high-value international and cross-border commercial disputes
- Local judges with substantial experience in commercial law will sit on the HKICC
- Under the existing legal framework, eminent senior judges or practitioners from other common law jurisdictions may also be invited to sit on an ad hoc basis



Hong Kong Courts



Appeal mechanism is an important aspect of the rule of law. There are appeal mechanisms for both civil and criminal cases. In general, each case has **at least two opportunities for appeal.**

How to safeguard independent judicial power?

Independent judicial power is protected by the Basic Law.

The Basic Law protects the exercise of judicial power independently by Hong Kong courts free from any interference. Members of the judiciary shall be immune from legal action in the performance of their judicial functions.

When assuming office, judges must take the judicial oath to uphold the Basic Law, and safeguard the law and administer justice without fear or favour, self-interest or deceit.



How to safeguard independent judicial power?

Appointment of Judges

Recommendations made by the Judicial Officers Recommendation Commission

Appointment of the judges of the Court of Final Appeal and the Chief Judge of the High Court requires the endorsement of the Legislative Council and has to be reported to the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress for record

Appointment by the Chief Executive

Judicial oath taken by the judges



The terms of office of the judges, their remuneration and benefits are guaranteed by the law.

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