

High Court granted an Interim Injunction Order on “doxxing and harassment against Judicial Officers and their Families” (HCA 1847/2020)

Since June 2019, there have been numerous public order events in which, regrettably, a sizeable number of members of the public have been resorting to the use of violence purportedly as a way to express their dissatisfaction towards the Government, the Police, Judicial Officers and/or other members of the public holding views contrary to their own.

The social unrests have also given rise to a pervasive culture among netizens to “doxx” those they disagree with, or those whose political stance or beliefs are in conflict with theirs. Doxxing activities against the Judicial Officers have been identified on social media platforms since November 2019, and such activities have worsened in recent months. These doxxing activities caused nuisance to the affected Judicial Officers and their family members.

The Secretary for Justice as guardian of the public interest, in seeking to uphold the rule of law and to safeguard the administration of justice, applied to the Court today for an ex parte injunction (HCA 1847/2020 – formerly High Court Intended Action 212/2020) to restrain persons from unlawfully and wilfully conducting themselves in any of the following acts :-

(a) using, publishing, communicating or disclosing to any other person the personal data of and concerning any Judicial Officer(s) (as defined in section 2 of the Judicial Officers Recommendation Commission Ordinance (Cap. 92)), Deputy/Temporary Judge(s), District Judge(s), Magistrate(s), Presiding Officer(s), Coroner(s) and Member(s) of courts of record (collectively as “**Judicial Officer(s)**”) and/or their spouse and/or family members (namely parents, children or siblings), including but not limited to their name, job title, residential address, office address, email address, education, age, date of birth, telephone number, Hong Kong Identity Card number, Facebook Account ID, Instagram Account ID, car plate number and photograph (“**Personal Data**”), intended or likely to intimidate, molest, harass, threaten or pester any Judicial Officer(s) and/or their spouses and/or their respective family members (namely parents, children or siblings), without the consent of the person concerned;

(b) intimidating, molesting, harassing, threatening or pestering any Judicial Officer(s) and/or their spouses and/or their respective family members (namely parents, children or siblings); and

(c) assisting, causing, counselling, procuring, instigating, inciting, aiding, abetting or authorizing others to commit or participate in any of the

aforesaid acts.

The Court has granted an interim injunction on 30 October 2020 which will remain in force up to and including Friday, 13 November 2020 at 10:30 a.m.