

# Senior judicial appointment: non-permanent judge from another common law jurisdiction of Court of Final Appeal

The Chief Executive, Mr John Lee, has accepted the recommendation of the Judicial Officers Recommendation Commission (JORC) on the appointment of the Honourable James Leslie Bain Allsop as a non-permanent judge from another common law jurisdiction of the Court of Final Appeal. Subject to the endorsement of the Legislative Council, the Chief Executive will make the appointment under Article 88 of the Basic Law.

Mr Lee said, "I am pleased to accept the JORC's recommendation on the appointment of Mr Allsop as a non-permanent judge from another common law jurisdiction of the Court of Final Appeal. Mr Allsop retired from the judicial office of Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Australia in April 2023. He is a judge of eminent standing and reputation. I am confident that he will greatly contribute to the Court of Final Appeal.

"With the appointment of Mr Allsop, the panel of non-permanent judges from other common law jurisdictions will consist of 10 eminent judges from the United Kingdom, Australia and Canada. The presence of these esteemed jurists from overseas as non-permanent judges of the Court of Final Appeal manifests the exercise of judicial power independently by the Judiciary in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) as protected by the Basic Law. It also helps maintain a high degree of confidence in the HKSAR's judicial system, and enables Hong Kong to maintain strong links with other common law jurisdictions. I have every confidence that these distinguished jurists from overseas with profound judicial experience will continue to be a unique strength of the HKSAR's judicial system."

Article 90 of the Basic Law provides that the Chief Executive shall obtain the endorsement of the Legislative Council on the appointment of judges of the Court of Final Appeal. The Government will seek the endorsement of the Legislative Council of the recommended appointment in due course.

The curriculum vitae of Mr Allsop is at the Annex.