

Justice Centre Hong Kong

Mock Trial Experience 2021: Information Sheet

ABOUT JUSTICE CENTRE HONG KONG

Justice Centre Hong Kong is a non-profit human rights organisation working to protect the rights of Hong Kong's most vulnerable: refugees, other people seeking protection, and survivors of torture, human trafficking and forced labour.

Justice Centre has assisted over

1 in **3**

of all those whose claims for protection have been accepted in Hong Kong.

We are a founding member of the **Refugee Concern Network**, and have made three appearances before the United Nations.



For more details of our work, please see [our website](#).

MOCK TRIAL EXPERIENCE

Justice Centre is delighted to introduce the Mock Trial Experience. Recognising the importance of engaging young people in human rights work, Justice Centre has been delivering clinical legal education programmes to university and school students since 2009. Using our expertise, we have developed a new opportunity for secondary school students in Hong Kong to learn about and apply human rights and asylum law.

Students will be trained in the law and then participate in a mock trial – a simulation of the Torture Claims Appeal Board/ Non-refoulement Claims Petition Office (TCAB). Participants will be judged by experts in asylum and human rights law in Hong Kong. Justice Centre staff and university student coaches from local law schools will guide and mentor participants.

OBJECTIVES

By participating in the experience, high school students will:

- Have a better understanding of international refugee law and human rights
- Gain insight into issues facing refugees and asylum seekers in Hong Kong
- Improve their advocacy, teamwork and presentation skills
- Promote Justice Centre's role and vision

TCAB HEARINGS

The TCAB is an independent body (like a court). If someone's claim for non-refoulement protection (like an asylum claim) has been refused by the Immigration Department, they can appeal to/ petition the TCAB. Often, the TCAB will hold a hearing to determine the appeal/petition. At the hearing, the TCAB will review the evidence and may ask questions of the claimant, witnesses and the legal representatives. The TCAB will then decide whether the appeal should be allowed – whether the claimant should be granted non-refoulement protection.

PROGRAMME DETAILS

The Programme will run for two full days:

Day 1: Training Workshop

Date: 14 October 2021 (Thursday)

Time: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Venue: TBC

Day 2: Mock Trial

Date: 16 October 2021 (Saturday)

Time: 10:00 am – 4:30 pm

Venue: TBC

Training Workshop: The training will include-

- The international human rights law framework
- The legal basis of claiming asylum in Hong Kong
- Legal and country of origin research skills
- Credibility and use of expert evidence

Certificates: Students will be awarded certificates in recognition of the completion of the Training Workshop and participation in the Mock Trial.

Mock Trial: Participants will be assigned roles, and engage in trial-style advocacy, which replicates a hearing at the TCAB.

ELIGIBILITY

The Mock Trial Experience is open to secondary students based in Hong Kong, currently in Form 4 / Grade 10 or above. It is aimed at those interested in a career in law, human rights, politics, or public policy. Students are not required to have prior public speaking, mooted or advocacy experience.

PARTICIPATION FEES: The fee for this event is \$1000 per student. Payment details will be provided once students' places have been confirmed.

For further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact us via email: info@justicecentre.org.hk.

ROLES

Students will be assigned a role for the mock trial:

- **Lawyers** (6 roles): students will act as lawyers, representing either the Immigration Department or an asylum seeker. They will prepare questions for the asylum seeker and expert witnesses. They will participate in advocacy – eliciting evidence in-chief, undertaking cross examination/ re-examination, and delivering closing arguments.
- **Experts** (4 roles): students will act as medical or country experts. They will undertake research to better understand their roles and areas of expertise. They will give evidence and be subject to questioning by lawyers and the adjudicators.

Roles will be assigned on the acceptance of students' applications.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Interested students should make individual applications by sending the completed application form to info@justicecentre.org.hk.

KEY DATES

3 SEPTEMBER	Applications open
19 SEPTEMBER	Deadline to submit applications
24 SEPTEMBER	Successful applicants notified
1 OCTOBER	Fees due
14 OCTOBER	Training Workshop
16 OCTOBER	Mock Trial

