

JUDICIAL SYSTEM OF HONG KONG



Functions of the Judiciary of Hong Kong

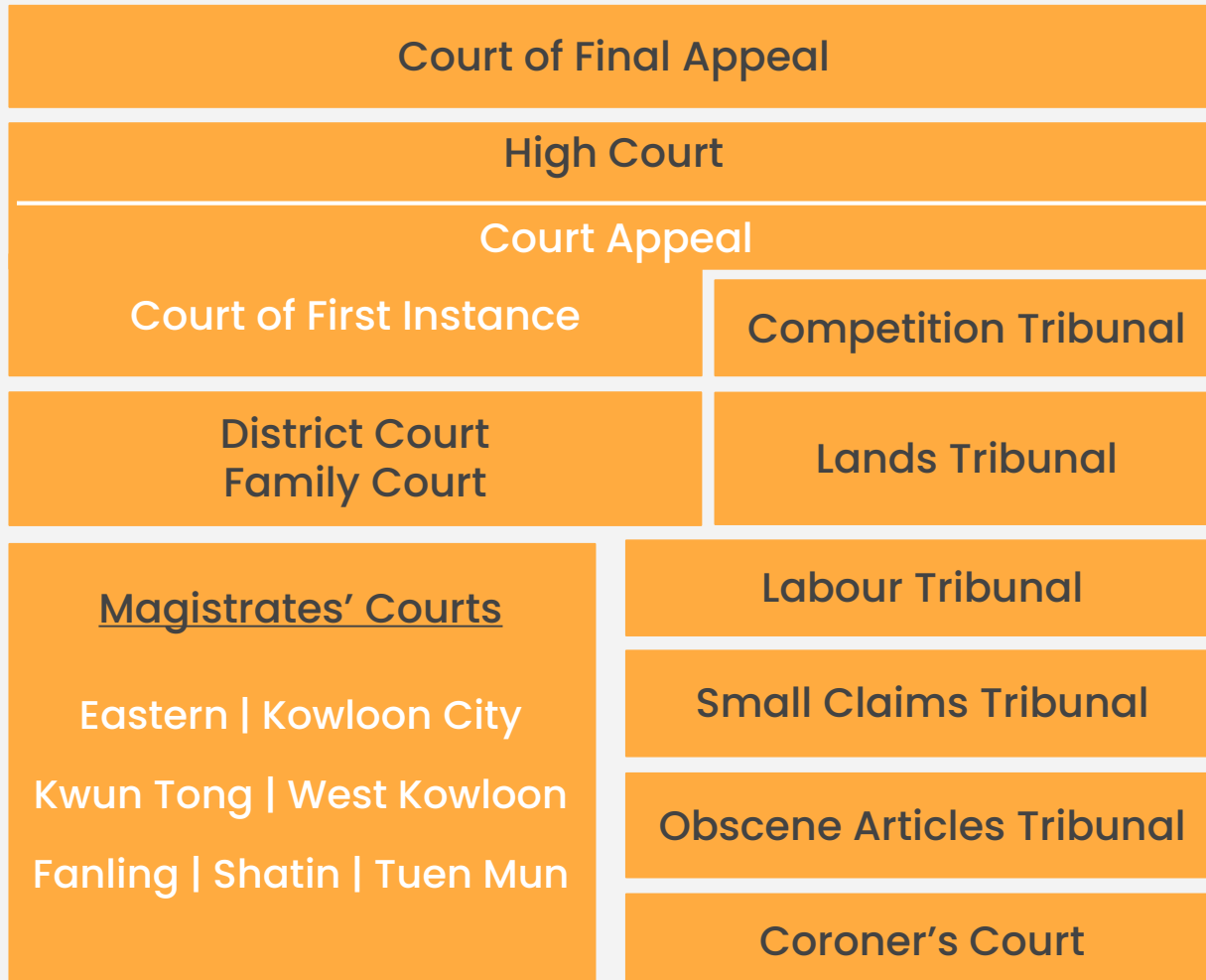


The Judiciary is responsible for the administration of justice and conducting hearings for criminal and civil litigation cases in Hong Kong. They are independent of the executive authorities and the legislature.

I see. Then how do the various courts in Hong Kong share the workload?



Hong Kong Courts



Court of Final Appeal

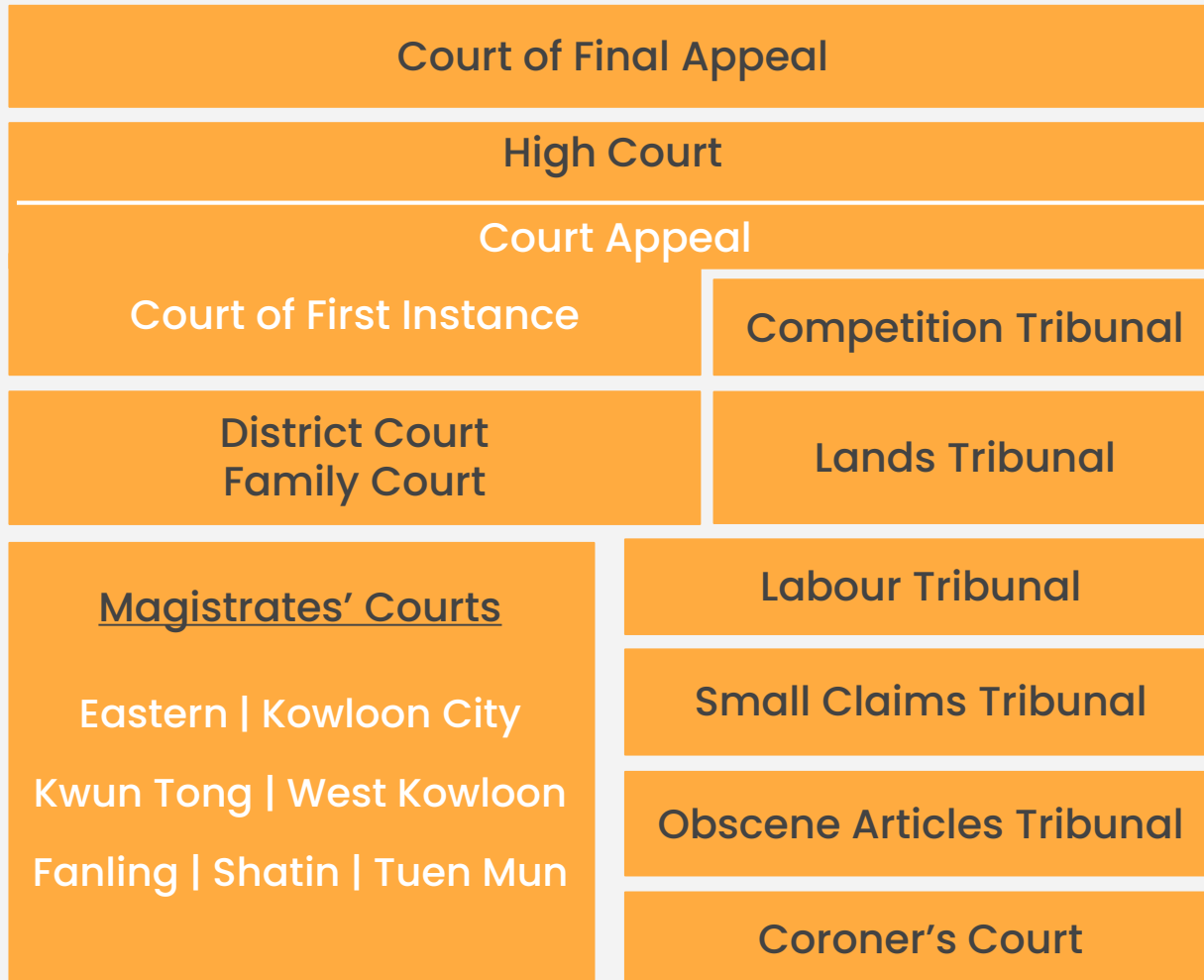
- ❑ The highest appellate court in Hong Kong. It hears appeals on civil and criminal matters from the High Court.

High Court

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



Hong Kong Courts

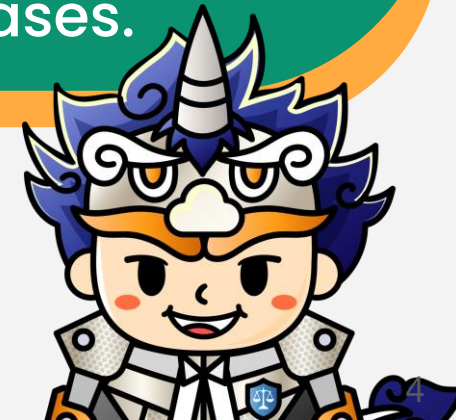


District Court

- ❑ 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



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.**



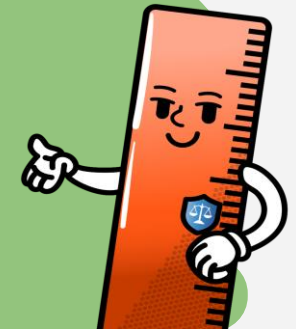
How to safeguard independent judicial power?

How do we ensure that the judicial power of the judges in Hong Kong can be exercised free from any interference?



Independent judicial power is protected by the Basic Law.

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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