



## A TO Z of HKLII

This glossary of terms is intended for all interested users of Hong Kong Legal Information Institute. The purpose is to provide a quick reference of definitions, key facts or search caveats in the use of HKLII and to a lesser extent, WorldLII. For brochures and detailed help, please refer to the HKLII official website at [www.hklai.org.hk](http://www.hklai.org.hk).

Glossary compiled by University of Hong Kong Law Library. If there are other terms you wish for us to include, email your comments to us at [lawlib@lib.hku.hk](mailto:lawlib@lib.hku.hk).

### A

#### AustLII (Australasian Legal Information Institute)

AustLII is part of the worldwide coalition of Legal Information Institutes on the World Legal Information Institute ([WorldLII](#)), which includes HKLII. It provides free Internet access to Australian legal information, including primary legal materials (legislation, treaties and decisions of courts and tribunals), and secondary legal materials created by public bodies for purposes of public access, e.g. law reform and royal commission reports, as well as selected law journals. ([List of AustLII databases](#))

### B

#### BAILII (British & Irish Legal Information Institute)

BAILII is part of the worldwide coalition of Legal Information Institutes on the World Legal Information Institute ([WorldLII](#)), which includes HKLII. It provides access to the most comprehensive set of British and Irish primary legal materials available for free and in one place on the Internet, with 34 databases covering 6 jurisdictions. ([List of BAILII databases](#))

## Boolean search

HKLII supports an extensive range of Boolean search queries, much similar to the Terms & Connectors search of Westlaw and Lexis. The most frequently used HKLII boolean operators are and, or, not, near, w/n. See [Boolean Operators Chart](#) (HKLII), and [HKLII-Westlaw-Lexis: Quick guide to common functions](#) (HKU Law Library).

## C

### CanLII (Canadian Legal Information Institute)

CanLII is part of the worldwide coalition of Legal Information Institutes on the World Legal Information Institute ([WorldLII](#)), which includes HKLII. It provides free access to legislative and judicial texts, as well as legal commentaries, from federal, provincial and territorial jurisdictions on a single site. It has 83 databases covering 14 jurisdictions. ([List of CanLII databases](#))

## Case law

Case law on HKLII are based on direct feeds of data from the [Judiciary](#). This includes court judgments from Court of Final Appeal (1997- ), Court of Appeal (1946- ), Court of First Instance (1946- ), District Courts (1968- ), Family Court (1973- ), and Lands Tribunal (1971- ). Where relevant, court judgments include hypertext links to legislation [[example](#)], but are generally devoid of editorial enhancements such as headnotes or catchwords and annotations extensively found in law reports from commercial publishers. Browsing is possible by case name or year of judgment. Searching can be done by case name, HKLII citation (except for HKCFA judgments from 1997 to 2003, which can also be searched using [parallel citations](#)), or keywords.

### China Information Technology and Law Centre

HKLII is under the auspices of the China IT & Law Centre, a joint centre of the Department of

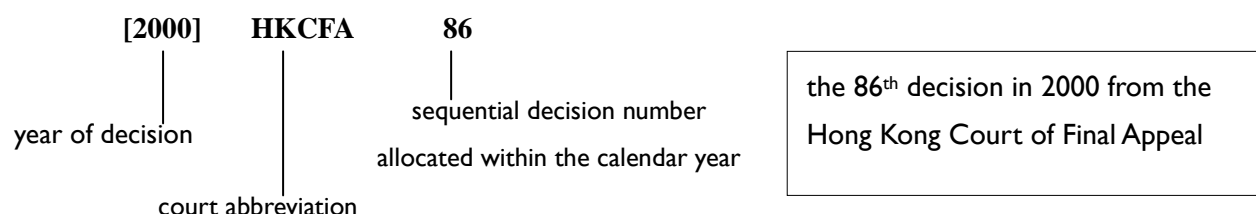
Law and Department of Computer Science of the University of Hong Kong. The Centre's mission is to advance research and public service in all aspects of information technology and cyberspace law, and the computerization of legal information and practices.

## Chinese documents

Chinese documents on HKLII include ordinances and regulations, selected court judgments, and practice directions. When searching in Chinese, switch query box to [Chinese documents\*]. See [Chinese documents search help](#).

## Citations, HKLII

HKLII citations are modelled on the “vendor and medium neutral citation” method used by AustLII ([Australasia Legal Information Institute www.austlii.org](http://www.austlii.org)) and BAILII (British and Irish Legal Information Institute [www.bailii.org](http://www.bailii.org)) as well as by most Australian and UK courts. A typical “HKLII citation” consists of three elements:



If a judgment is known by its “HKLII citation”, it can be searched in HKLII using either [Find a case name] or [Find this document title].

## Citations, neutral

Also known as “public domain citation” or “vendor and medium neutral citation”. Neutral citations are used on HKLII. They are references to cases that do not refer to a particular vendor's source (such as Sweet & Maxwell, LexisNexis, CCH) or to a particular type of medium, whether print or electronic (such as *Hong Kong Law Reports and Digest*, *Hong Kong Cases*, Westlaw, Lexis, Hong Kong Unreported Judgments, Hong Kong Electronic Cases). Neutral citations are adopted by most Australian and UK courts. For the Australian approach

on AustLII, see [Standards, recommendations and guidelines](#). For the UK approach, see [BAILII Citations](#).

See also [Citations](#), [HKLII](#)

### **Citations, parallel**

Refers to the various citations from which a same case can be found, whether from a vendor's source, a law report series, CD-ROM or electronic service. For example, the case *Green Park Properties Ltd. v. Dorku Ltd* has these *five* parallel citations, each referring to the source from which the same case can be found: [\[2001\] HKCFA 58](#); [\[2001\] 4 HKCFAR 448](#); [\[2001\] 3 HKLRD 760](#); [\[2002\] 1 HKC 121](#); [\[2001\] HKEC 1481](#). As of Oct 2004, **Court of Final Appeal** judgments from 1997 to 2003 can be searched on HKLII using parallel citations from *Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal Reports* (Sweet & Maxwell Asia), *Hong Kong Law Reports and Digest* (Sweet & Maxwell Asia), *Hong Kong Cases* (LexisNexis), *Unreported Hong Kong Judgments* (LexisNexis), *Hong Kong Electronic Cases* (Westlaw).

### **Citations, public domain**

See [Citations](#), [neutral](#)

### **Citations, searching by**

Searching of judgments by citations in HKLII is generally limited to using [HKLII](#) assigned citations, and not by publisher designated citations of law reports series (e.g. HKLRD, HKC, HKCFAR) or databases (e.g. HKEC, HKCU, WL). To facilitate case searching using publisher designated citations, parallel citations are being continuously loaded to HKLII. As of Oct 2004, Court of Final Appeal judgments from 1997 to 2003 may be searched by publisher-designated citations.

## Conference on Computerisation of Law via the Internet

See *Law via the Internet Conference*

## Court abbreviations in HKLII citations

HKCFA (Court of Final Appeal)

HKCA (Court of Appeal)

HKCFI (Court of First Instance)

HKDC (District Court)

HKFamC (Family Court)

HKLT (Lands Tribunal)

See also [Citations](#), [HKLII](#).

## D

### Data providers

HKLII is based on data provided from public authorities ([Judiciary](#) of the Hong Kong SAR, [Department of Justice](#), [Law Reform Commission of Hong Kong](#)) and University based institutes in Hong Kong ([University of Hong Kong Libraries](#), and [Centre for Comparative and Public Law](#), Faculty of Law, University of Hong Kong).

## F

### Free law movement, Access to

As part of the worldwide coalition of Legal Information Institutes on WorldLII, HKLII shares its mission to promote and support free access to public legal information. See the [Montreal Declaration on Public Access to Law](#) made by HKLII and seven other LIIs on 3 October 2001 at the 4<sup>th</sup> *Law via Internet Conference in Montreal*.

## G

### **Global law catalog**

see [WorldLII catalog](#)

### **Google**

Google search is integrated within HKLII and WorldLII. Searches on either can be repeated on Google without re-typing by clicking [\[Repeat search over Google\]](#). The search is automatically translated in Google syntax, to search only law related websites.

## H

### **Historical Laws of Hong Kong Online**

The Historical Laws of Hong Kong Online, searchable on HKLII, is an image database held by the [University of Hong Kong Libraries](#). It provides access to past revised editions of Hong Kong laws, comprising a total of seven consolidations of the Laws of Hong Kong: 1890, 1901, 1912, 1923, 1937, 1950, and 1964.

### **HKLII (Hong Kong Legal Information Institute)**

A joint project between [Department of Computer Science](#) and [Faculty of Law](#) of the [University of Hong Kong](#), with the assistance of the Australasian Legal Information Institute ([AustLII](#)). It is a free, independent, non-profit Internet facility providing the public with legal information relating to Hong Kong. ([List of HKLII databases](#))

## **HKLII Day**

An annual event held in October by the Lui Che Woo Law Library of University of Hong Kong Libraries, with support from the Faculty of Law and the Department of Computer Science, to promote the use of HKLII among HKU students and the university community. Training materials of past [HKLII Day](#) are available.

## **HKLII, publications and research on**

Greenleaf, Graham & others, "The Hong Kong Legal Information Institute (HKLII): Its Role in Free Access to Global Law Via the Internet", (2002) 32 HKLJ 401

Abstract and full text of paper available from Legal Scholarship Network, Social Science Research Network. [Online URL: [http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=515303](http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=515303)]

Greenleaf, Graham, Chung, Philip, Mowbray, Andrew, "Free access to law via Internet as a condition of the rule of law in Asian societies: HKLII and WorldLII", 4th Conference on Asian Jurisprudence, 17-19 January 2002, University of Hong Kong

[Online URL:

[http://www2.austlii.edu.au/~graham/publications/2002/HKLII\\_WorldLII\\_Jan02/HKLII\\_WorldLII.html](http://www2.austlii.edu.au/~graham/publications/2002/HKLII_WorldLII_Jan02/HKLII_WorldLII.html)

Pun, Kevin & others, "Cross-Referencing for Bilingual Electronic Legal Documents in HKLII", 6th Conference on Computerisation of Law via the Internet, 3-5 November 2004

[Online URL: [http://www.frlii.org/article.php3?id\\_article=91](http://www.frlii.org/article.php3?id_article=91)]

## **Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre**

HKLII contains domain name dispute resolutions from the Centre.

## **Hyperlinks**

More than one million hypertext links are in place in HKLII. These include:

(1) links from cases to legislation <[example](#) of links to the Bankruptcy Ordinance>

- (2) links between cases <example: from Hong Kong case to Australian case>
- (3) links within/between legislation<example: within Hong Kong legislation>  
<example: from HK legislation to UK legislation>

## I

### International Conference on Law via Internet

see *Law via the Internet Conference*

### International databases

Included in [WorldLII](#) is the International Courts & Tribunals Project ([ICT](#)) which provides decisions from almost every significant international and multi-national court or tribunal, whether global or regional. Some of these 20,000 plus decisions date back to the 1960s and 1970s in their coverage, making it a useful one-stop search facility for international materials.

## J

### Journals

To access law journals on the Internet, search under [[WorldLII Catalog > Categories > Law journals](#)], which provides links to listings of law journals and law reviews with free access abstracts, table of content, and full text online.

### Judgments

see [Case law](#)



## L

### Law on Google

See [Google](#)

### Law Reform Commission of Hong Kong

HKLII contains reports (1999, 2000, 2002, 2003) and consultation papers (1998-2001, 2004) from the Law Reform Commission.

### Law via the Internet Conference

Also known as *Conference on Computerisation of Law via the Internet*, it is hosted by [AustLII](#) and focuses on issues of global access to law, computerization of legislation and case law, and legal information management. The Conference is also an international meeting of [legal information institutes](#) to discuss new developments and progress. Conferences were held mostly in Sydney (1997, 1999, 2001, 2003), also in Montreal by [CanLII/LEXUM](#) (2002), and in Paris by [FrLii](#) (2004) .

### Legal Information Institutes

Refers to a provider of legal information independent of government and provides free access on a non-profit basis to multiple sources of essential legal information (Greenleaf, Graham and others, “[The Hong Kong Legal Information Institute \(HKLII\): its role in free access to global law via the Internet](#)” (2002) 32 HKLJ 401). This includes both primary legal materials (legislation, case law, etc) and some secondary legal materials (law reform reports, and commission reports, etc).

## Legislation

Legislation in HKLII includes the current and past ordinances and subsidiary legislation (regulations) of the HKSAR consolidated with amendments that came into operation on or before the date as specified on the BLIS ([Bilingual Laws Information System](#) of the Department of Justice) front page. Browsing is possible by Chapter title or Chapter number. Searching can be done by Chapter title or keywords.

## M

### Medium neutral citations

See [Citations, neutral](#)

## N

### Noteup

A function on HKLII and WorldLII. When viewing an ordinance or a section of an ordinance, the Noteup function finds all documents on HKLII referring to the specific ordinance or section. This can be cross-references to the ordinance or section within the same ordinance or in other ordinances, and cases citing the ordinance or section.

## P

### PacLII (Pacific Islands Legal Information Institute)

PacLII is part of the worldwide coalition of Legal Information Institutes on the World Legal Information Institute ([WorldLII](#)), which includes HKLII. An initiative of the University of South Pacific School of Law, it provides free Internet access to legal information of the Pacific Islands. Jurisdictions include American Samoa, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn Island, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu. ([List of PacLII databases](#))

## Practice directions

Practice directions issued by the Hong Kong courts for conduct of proceedings are available in English and Chinese. Superseded versions are not included in HKLII and have to be located on the [Judiciary](#) homepage.

## R

### Relevance ranking

Search results in HKLII and WorldLII are displayed and ranked by likely order of relevance of the items found, beginning with the most relevant items. The percentage ranking next to each document shows 100% for the first document if it contains all search terms, and all following documents are ranked pro-rata to that document according to the number, frequency and location of search terms contained in the document. In a multiple-database search, it may sometimes be helpful to display results *by databases* rather than by relevance ranking. To do this, under [Full search form], deselect [Relevance rank results].

## S

### SAFLII (South African Legal Information Institute)

SAFLII is part of the worldwide coalition of Legal Information Institutes on the World Legal Information Institute ([WorldLII](#)), which includes HKLII. It is a prototype system produced from data developed and published by the University of the Witwatersrand [Law School](#) with assistance from the Australasian Legal Information Institute ([AustLII](#)). Information available includes case law, legislation and Law Commission publications. ([List of SAFLII databases](#))

### SINO search engine

The crux of all LII systems on WorldLII is the SINO search engine, a free text retrieval engine intended for use with *httpd* and other embedded applications. SINO was first written by [Andrew Mowbray](#) to support the AustLII system in 1995. For HKLII, [mnoGoSearch](#) is used

to compensate the unsupported Chinese searching in the SINO search engine. See [full SINO documentation](#).

## W

### Websearch

A function in WorldLII. When performing a search on WorldLII, the same search can be repeated using WorldLII Websearch to search for legal websites within the WorldLII catalog.

### WorldLII (World Legal Information Institute)

WorldLII is a free, independent and non-profit global legal research facility developed collaboratively by [Legal Information Institutes](#) and other organizations worldwide: Australasian Legal Information Institute ([AustLII](#)), British and Irish Legal Information Institute ([BAILII](#)), Canadian Legal Information Institute ([CanLII](#)), [Droit francophone](#), Hong Kong Legal Information Institute ([HKLII](#)), Legal Information Institute (Cornell) ([LII \(Cornell\)](#)), Pacific Islands Legal Information Institute ([PacLII](#)), South African Legal Information Institute ([SAFLII](#)), and Wits University School of Law ([Wits Law School](#)). WorldLII has three main facilities: Databases, [Catalog](#) and [Websearch](#). As of Oct 2004, it has 440 databases from 55 countries including 20 international databases. ([List of WorldLII databases](#))

### WorldLII catalog

One of the three main facilities of WorldLII. The WorldLII catalog is a global catalog of more than 15,000 legal websites in every country in the world, indexed under more than 4,000 categories of legal subjects. These websites are identified, selected and annotated by WorldLII's contributing editors of academics, legal experts and law librarians. The catalog can be browsed by [countries](#), [regions](#), or [subjects](#), and can also be searched using [boolean query](#).