



# Exploring GBA Business Opportunities for the Legal Sector

## Professional Qualifications, Practice Requirements, Policy Incentives

With the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) now progressing at full speed, how can Hong Kong businesses get a head start and take advantage of the immense business opportunities that are being created in the region?

The GoGBA Go-to Guide for Legal Services, produced by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), sets out to help Hong Kong legal firms and professionals with the first steps to exploring opportunities in the GBA. The information contained in this guide is current as of May 2024. For the latest updates, please visit the websites of the relevant platforms to obtain detailed information and the most up-to-date policies, or consult with professional advisers according to your specific needs.

### Contents

|  |      |
|--|------|
| 1. <u>Cooperation on Legal Services in the GBA</u>     | P.2  |
| 2. <u>Acquisition of the Mainland Lawyer's Licence</u> | P.6  |
| 3. <u>Establishment of Law Firms in Mainland China</u> | P.15 |
| <u>Relevant Information</u>                            | P.24 |
| <u>Contact Information</u>                             | P.25 |

# 1. Cooperation on Legal Services in the GBA

## Hong Kong's position on legal cooperation in the GBA

On 18 February 2019, the "Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area" was officially announced. It stated that Hong Kong, as one of the central cities of the GBA, will leverage its strengths in intellectual property protection and related professional services, legal and dispute resolution, and other international professional services. It aims to deepen the pilot project of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao partnership associations (i.e. joint venture law firms), promoting cross-border practice between personnel from Mainland China, Hong Kong and Macao, and working collaboratively to build an international legal services centre and an international commercial dispute resolution centre.



## Overview of legal services in Mainland China

As of 31 December 2022:

**38.6k**<sup>①</sup> Law firms in Mainland China

**651.6k**<sup>①</sup> Lawyers practising in Mainland China

Data source:

① [\(Chinese version only\) Website of Ministry of Justice of the People's Republic of China](#)

As of 31 December 2023:

**Number of law firms in Guangdong**

**4 473**<sup>①</sup>

Among them, there are

**25** representative offices of Hong Kong law firms in Guangdong, and

**20**<sup>②</sup> GBA partnership law firms

Data source:

① [\(Chinese version only\) Website of Department of Justice, Guangdong](#)

② [\(Chinese version only\) Website of 2023 Annual statistics on the work of lawyers \(Department of Justice, Guangdong\)](#)

As of 31 December 2023:

**Number of lawyers practising in Guangdong**

**79 357**<sup>①</sup>

Among them, there are

**238** Hong Kong resident lawyers\*, and

**406**<sup>②</sup> lawyers from the GBA

Data source:

① [\(Chinese version only\) Website of Department of Justice, Guangdong](#)

② [\(Chinese version only\) Website of 2023 Annual statistics on the work of lawyers \(Department of Justice, Guangdong\)](#)

\*A Hong Kong resident with qualifications to practise law in Mainland China.

## Department of Justice of Hong Kong on the Construction of Rule of Law in the GBA

In April 2024, the Department of Justice of Hong Kong released the "Action Plan on the Construction of Rule of Law in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area". It proposed **"Three Interfaces, Two Connects and One GBA"** as the basic guideline for optimising relevant measures and facilitating the integration of Hong Kong's legal profession into the development of the GBA, and to proactively promote the development of the legal system in the GBA.

- Improve the mechanism for coordination between the government and the legal industry through measures such as establishing a high-level GBA standing interface platform and a legal consultation platform.
- Improve the alignment of the legal systems in Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao through formulating and implementing various arrangements on mutual legal assistance in civil and commercial matters in the three regions.

### Interface of mechanisms

- Enable legal and dispute-resolution professionals in the area to complement each other for the promotion of market interface by taking steps to expand the scope of application of the measures "allowing Hong Kong-invested enterprises to adopt Hong Kong law" and "allowing Hong Kong-invested enterprises to choose for arbitration to be seated in Hong Kong".
- Facilitate the interface of professional services through measures such as setting up a GBA online dispute-resolution platform and issuing relevant policies to support Hong Kong mediation organisations' participation in mediation cases in the GBA.

### Interface of regulatory frameworks

- Gather and nurture more foreign-related legal talents in the GBA by establishing the Hong Kong International Legal Talents Training Academy.
- Encourage the flow of legal talents within the GBA through visits, events and professional exchange platforms.

### Interface of talents

Realise connectivity in mechanisms and regulatory frameworks among the jurisdictions of the GBA

Hardware in the construction of rule of law

Realise the nurturing and flow of legal talents among the jurisdictions of the GBA

Software in the construction of rule of law

3 Interfaces

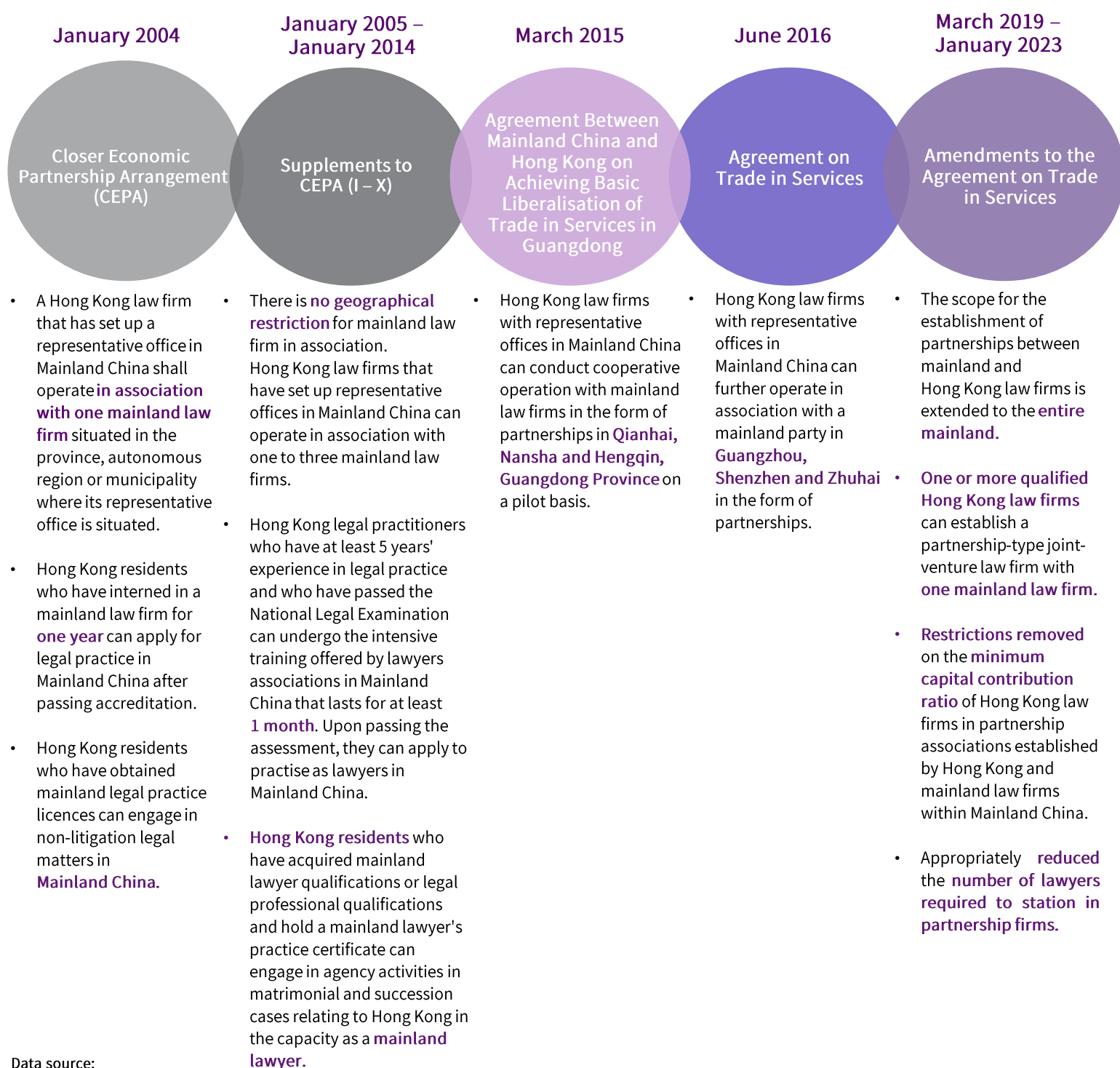
2 Connects

## Policy Support and Cooperation

### The Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA)

Hong Kong has been actively strengthening its legal, economic and administrative cooperation with Mainland China. With the support of CEPA and related policies, Hong Kong has been taking advantage of the gradual liberalisation of market access conditions for legal services in Mainland China and providing Hong Kong's legal professionals with more development opportunities.

#### The gradual opening up of relevant laws



Data source:

[Website of Department of Justice \(doj.gov.hk\)](http://www.doj.gov.hk)

[Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement and Relevant Supplements](#)

## Policy Support and Cooperation (continued)

### Pilot Measures for Hong Kong and Macao Legal Practitioners to Obtain Mainland Practising Qualifications and to Practise as Lawyers in the Nine Mainland Municipalities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (the Pilot Measures)

The General Office of the State Council issued the Pilot Measures on 5 October 2020 to support eligible Hong Kong legal practitioners in obtaining the Lawyer's Licence (GBA) and providing legal services in the nine mainland municipalities in the GBA for specified civil and commercial matters. The State Council revised the Pilot Measures on 25 September 2023, further lowering the thresholds for Hong Kong lawyers and allowing more Hong Kong practitioners to become lawyers in the GBA, gain knowledge of the Mainland China legal system, expand their perspectives, and seize the vast opportunities arising from the region's development.

#### Hong Kong lawyers practice in the nine mainland municipalities in the GBA

Eligible Hong Kong legal practitioners can provide legal services in the nine mainland municipalities in the GBA for specified civil and commercial matters to which mainland laws apply, and enjoy the same powers and fulfil the same obligations as mainland lawyers, after passing the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Legal Professional Examination (GBA Examination) and obtaining the Lawyer's Licence (GBA).

The cumulative practice experience threshold for Hong Kong solicitors and barristers to enrol in the GBA Examination was lowered from five years to three years with effect from 5 October 2023.

#### Practice experience requirements

#### Partner access

Legal practitioners who have obtained the Lawyer's Licence (GBA) can become partners of mainland law firms in the nine mainland municipalities in the GBA.

The pilot measures to support Hong Kong legal practitioners in obtaining their Lawyer's Licence (GBA) and to practise as lawyers in the GBA has been extended from 5 October 2023 to 4 October 2026.

#### Extension of Pilot Measures

Data source:

[\(Chinese version only\) Pilot Measures for Hong Kong and Macao Legal Practitioners to obtain Mainland Practice Qualifications and to Practise as Lawyers in the Nine Mainland Municipalities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area](#)

## 2. Acquisition of Mainland Lawyer's Licence

At present, Hong Kong legal practitioners may qualify to provide specified legal services in Mainland China by:  
(1) passing the National Unified Legal Professional Qualification Examination (National Legal Exam); or  
(2) passing the GBA Examination.

### Route 1

#### Eligible applicants

( See page 7 for specific conditions )

#### National Legal Exam

1. Pass the National Legal Exam;
2. Attend an internship in a mainland law firm for 1 year, or 1 month of intensive training if the practising experience threshold has been met; and
3. Apply for a Lawyer's Licence.

### Route 2

#### Eligible practitioners

( See page 9 for specific conditions )

#### GBA Examination

1. Pass the GBA Examination;
2. Pass the training and assessment of the Guangdong Lawyers Association; and
3. Apply for a Lawyer's Licence (GBA).

### Practice area and employment scope



#### Mainland China



Practice area

#### Mainland law firms

(A Hong Kong resident who is allowed to practise in Mainland China shall not simultaneously be employed by a law firm of Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan or a foreign country)



Employer

#### The nine mainland municipalities in the GBA



- Mainland law firms in the nine mainland municipalities in the GBA
- Hong Kong, Macao and mainland joint-venture law firms in the nine mainland municipalities in the GBA

(The eligible practitioners shall not be employed by a representative office set up by a foreign law firm in Mainland China or a representative office set up by a law firm of Hong Kong or Macao in Mainland China)

### Scope of practice

The scope of civil and commercial non-litigation matters covers the entire Mainland China; while the legal matters of civil and commercial litigation are limited to civil litigation cases involving Hong Kong residents and legal persons in Mainland China



Civil and commercial legal matters



The scope of civil and commercial litigation/non-litigation legal matters cover the nine mainland municipalities in the GBA



Administrative legal matters



Criminal legal matters



Data source:

[\(Chinese version only\) Measures for the Management of Residents of Hong Kong and Macao Special Administrative Regions Holding the Legal Profession Qualification of Mainland China and Engaging in Legal Practice in Mainland China](#)

[\(Chinese version only\) Pilot Measures for Hong Kong and Macao Legal Practitioners to Obtain Mainland Practising Qualifications and to Practise as Lawyers in the Nine Mainland Municipalities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area](#)

**Note:** Hong Kong legal professionals who meet the requirements can still be employed by Hong Kong law firms to work in mainland representative offices, or as seconded Hong Kong lawyers working in partnership associations, without taking the legal examinations mentioned above. However, they are not allowed to handle or undertake mainland legal matters. For specific details regarding the scope of practice, please refer to the website:

[\(Chinese version only\) "Administrative Measures for Mainland Representative Offices of Law Firms from the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the Macao Special Administrative Region"](#)

## Route 1: National Unified Legal Professional Qualification Examination (National Legal Exam)

The National Legal Exam typically opens for application every June (objective questions examination – multiple choice questions/true-false questions) and every September (subjective questions examination – essay questions/case studies/calculations). The exams are held every September (objective questions examination) and October (subjective questions examination), as set out below.

### Objective questions examination

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Application requirements</b>        | <p>Individuals who meet the following conditions may apply for the National Legal Exam. They must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold the nationality of the People's Republic of China;</li> <li>• Adhere to the Constitution of the People's Republic of China and possess both voting and election rights;</li> <li>• Have good political and professional qualities and be of good moral character;</li> <li>• Possess full civil capacity; and</li> <li>• Hold an undergraduate degree or higher in law from a full-time regular higher education institution; an undergraduate degree in non-law disciplines from a full-time regular higher education institution and a master's degree or above in law or legal studies; or an undergraduate degree in non-law disciplines from a full-time regular higher education institution and have a corresponding degree and have been engaged in legal work for 3 years. Others who may apply to take the National Legal Exam include graduates with a bachelor's degree or above in law from a higher education institution of a legal discipline who have obtained a school registration (examination registration), or have obtained a corresponding degree before the implementation of the Measures for the Implementation of the National Unified Legal Professional Qualification Examination, or graduates with a bachelor's degree or above in a higher education institution of a non-legal discipline who have specialised knowledge in law.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Exam subjects, times and venues</b> | <p>The objective questions examination consists of two papers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paper I (180 minutes): Subjects include Xi Jinping Thought on the Rule of Law, Jurisprudence, Constitution, Chinese Legal History, International Law, Judicial System and Legal Ethics, Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure Law, Administrative Law and Administrative Litigation Law.</li> <li>• Paper II (180 minutes): Subjects include Civil Law, Intellectual Property Law, Commercial Law, Economic Law, Environmental Resources Law, Labor and Social Security Law, Private International Law, International Economic Law and Civil Procedure Law (including Arbitration System).</li> </ul> <p>Examination locations: Hong Kong, Mainland China (refer to the specific venues announced by the local judicial administration authorities)</p>   |
| <b>Exam question types</b>             | <p>Papers I and II consist of 100 questions respectively:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single-choice questions: 50</li> <li>• Multiple-choice questions: 50</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Registration fee</b>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Candidates participating in the objective questions examination in Hong Kong pay an exam fee of HK\$3,384; or</li> <li>• Candidates in Mainland China pay in accordance with the standards.</li> </ul>  |

## Route 1: National Unified Legal Professional Qualification Examination (National Legal Exam) (continued)

### Subjective questions examination

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>Application requirements</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consistent with the entry requirements for the objective questions examination; and</li><li>• Scored above the national qualifying scoreline or the adjusted qualifying scoreline in the objective questions examination.</li></ul>   |
| <b>Exam subjects and times</b>  | The subjective questions examination consists of one paper (240 minutes): Subjects include Xi Jinping Thought on the Rule of Law, Jurisprudence, Constitution, Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure Law, Civil Law, Commercial Law, Civil Procedure Law (including Arbitration System), Administrative Law and Administrative Litigation Law, Judicial System and Legal Ethics. |
| <b>Exam question types</b>      | Case study questions, legal document questions, argumentative essay questions, etc.   |
| <b>Registration fee</b>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Candidates participating in the subjective questions examination in Hong Kong pay an exam fee of HK\$1,360; or</li><li>• Candidates in Mainland China pay in accordance with the standards.</li></ul>   |

Data source:

[\(Chinese version only\) Announcement of the National Unified Legal Professional Qualification Examination in the Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan Regions](#)

[\(Chinese version only\) Announcement by the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority on the Arrangements for the National Unified Legal Professional Qualification Examination](#)



## Route 2: Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Legal Professional Examination

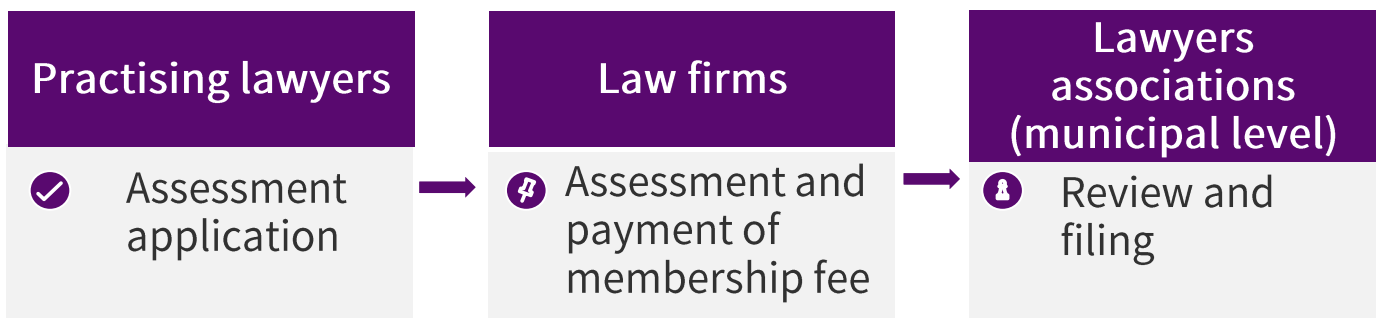
The announcement of the GBA Examination was issued by the Ministry of Justice. Details are set out below.

### Objective and subjective questions exams

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Application requirements</b>        | <p>Individuals who meet the following conditions may apply for the GBA Examination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chinese citizens who are permanent residents of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) or the Macao SAR;</li><li>• Adhere to the Constitution of the People's Republic of China, the Basic Law of the Hong Kong SAR and the Basic Law of the Macao SAR;</li><li>• Lawyers and barristers who are registered on the roll of lawyers and barristers and have not been suspended from practising according to the relevant laws of the Hong Kong SAR and are recognised by the High Court of the Hong Kong SAR;</li><li>• Have accumulated more than 3 years of legal practice experience; and</li><li>• Able to write legal documents in Chinese and conduct business activities in Mandarin.</li></ul> |
| <b>Exam subjects, times and venues</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The exam consists of two papers, each lasting 180 minutes. The exam subjects include: Xi Jinping Thought on the Rule of Law, the Constitution, the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the Basic Law of the Macao Special Administrative Region, Chinese Legal History, Mainland China's Judicial System and Legal Ethics, Civil Law, Commercial Law, Civil Litigation Law, Arbitration Law, Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure Law, Administrative Law and Administrative Litigation Law.</li><li>• The 2024 exam venues are located in Shenzhen and Zhuhai in Guangdong Province.</li></ul>  |
| <b>Exam question types</b>             | <p>Paper I consists of objective questions (multiple choice/true-false questions):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Multiple choice questions: 100</li></ul> <p>Paper II consists of subjective questions (essay questions/case studies/calculations):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Case analysis questions, legal document questions, argumentative essay questions, etc.</li></ul>   |
| <b>Registration fee</b>                | <p>The examination fee is RMB165, payable via WeChat and Alipay through the examination system announced by the Ministry of Justice. (The actual examination fees are subject to official information released in 2024.)</p>   |

## Annual Review and Fees for Lawyers' Licences

After obtaining a national Lawyer's Licence or the Lawyer's Licence (GBA), the individual will be automatically included as a member by the bar association in the place of practice. Starting from 2021, according to the requirements of the All China Lawyers Association, practising lawyers must participate in annual assessments.



### Membership fee:




Please refer to the provincial law association fee collection regulations for details. Taking Shenzhen and other Tier-1 cities as examples, the annual individual membership fee is RMB800.

Data source:



[\(Chinese version only\) Guangdong Lawyers Association](#)

## List of Talent Policy Support, Subsidies and Rewards in the GBA


Cities within the GBA offer a range of policy support, subsidies and rewards to attract professional talents.

| Region             | Policy Support, Subsidies and Rewards   | Details  | QR Code  |
|--------------------|---|--|--|
| Guangdong Province | For foreign high-end talents and talents in short supply working in the GBA, the people's governments of the nine municipalities in the GBA provide financial subsidies for the portion of the personal income tax paid in the nine GBA municipalities that exceeds the amount calculated at 15% of the taxable income, with subsidy being exempted from personal income tax.   | <a href="#">(Chinese version only) Notice on Implementing the Individual Income Tax Preferential Policies in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area by the Department of Finance of Guangdong Province and the Guangdong Provincial Tax Service</a>  |   |
| Guangzhou          | <p><u>Financial security subsidy:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Guangzhou Lawyers Association encourages law firms to set the minimum monthly wage rate for young lawyers<sup>①</sup> at two to three times the Guangzhou minimum monthly wage rate (i.e. minimum monthly wage standard of RMB4,600-6,900; minimum annual wage rate of RMB55,200-82,800).</li> </ul> <p><u>Specialised fund subsidies:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Guangzhou Lawyers Association has set up a special fund to support the development of young lawyers and to help young lawyers who actively participate in legal aid and pro bono legal services.</li> </ul> <p><u>Skills enhancement subsidy:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Guangzhou Lawyers Association subsidises young lawyers to participate in paid professional skills enhancement courses organised by various professional committees of the Guangzhou Lawyers Association.</li> </ul> <p><u>Assistance on various preferential subsidies:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Guangzhou Bar Association assists lawyers from the GBA to apply for various preferential policies in Guangzhou, such as tax incentives, housing subsidies, medical insurance and talent awards.</li> </ul> | <p><a href="#">(Chinese version only) Certain Opinions of the Guangzhou Lawyers Association on Nurturing the Growth of Young Lawyers (Trial)</a></p> <p><a href="#">(Chinese version only) Notice on the Announcement of Measures to Encourage and Support Lawyers from Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao to Practice in Guangzhou by the Guangzhou Lawyers Association</a></p> | <br><br> |

## List of Talent Policy Support, Subsidies and Rewards in the GBA (continued)

| Region    | Policy Support, Subsidies and Rewards  | Details  | QR Code   |
|-----------|--|--|---|
| Guangzhou | <p><b>Further subsidies in Nansha, Guangzhou:</b><br/>Talent development subsidies (60% and 40% in 2 years):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Qualified practising lawyers who have worked continuously for a minimum of 12 consecutive months in legal service institutions in Nansha, Guangzhou are eligible for subsidies of RMB100,000, RMB80,000 and RMB60,000 respectively.</li> <li>• Lawyers practising in Nansha, Guangzhou, who are selected into the national foreign-related lawyers talent pool, or other national foreign-related legal service talent pools, or selected into the "Guangdong Special Support Plan", are eligible for a subsidy of RMB100,000; those selected into the foreign-related lawyer talent pool of provincial judicial administrative organs, or the foreign-related legal service talent pools of other provincial units, may receive a subsidy of RMB50,000; those selected into the foreign-related lawyer talent pool of the municipal judicial administrative organs, or the foreign-related legal service talent pools of other municipal units, may receive a subsidy of RMB30,000.</li> </ul> <p>Remark<sup>①</sup> : Young lawyers are defined as full-time lawyers who have been practising for less than 5 years and are under the age of 40.</p> | <p><a href="#">(Chinese version only) Notice of the Office of the Guangzhou Nansha District Administrative Committee and the Office of the People's Government of Guangzhou Nansha District on Issuing the "8 Measures for Supporting the Development of Legal Services for Foreign Affairs in the Guangzhou Nansha New District (Free Trade Zone)</a></p> |    |
| Shenzhen  | <p><b>Further subsidies are available in Qianhai, Shenzhen:</b><br/>Practice subsidies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eligible lawyers are supported with 30% of their business income earned at their mainland law firms, up to a maximum of RMB100,000 per year. The same applicant may receive this support for a cumulative period of not more than 2 years.</li> </ul>   | <p><a href="#">(Chinese version only) Various Measures of the Authority of Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Cooperation Zone for Supporting High-Quality Development and Application of Artificial Intelligence</a></p>  |  |

## List of Talent Policy Support, Subsidies and Rewards in the GBA (continued)

| Region   | Policy Support, Subsidies and Rewards   | Details  | QR Code   |
|----------|---|--|---|
| Shenzhen | <p><b>Further subsidies are available in Qianhai, Shenzhen:</b></p> <p><u>Practice subsidies:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hong Kong professionals who work full-time in the Qianhai Cooperation Zone in Shenzhen providing legal, shipping, construction and engineering, educational or healthcare professional services, and who have obtained relevant Hong Kong or mainland practising licences, are eligible for a one-off award of RMB30,000. For those who have obtained multiple practising licences, the maximum award is RMB50,000 (valid until 18 November 2024).</li> </ul> <p><u>Licence for litigation representation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The mechanism for permitting qualified Hong Kong and Macao lawyers to represent the SARs in Hong Kong and Macao-related civil and commercial cases in the Qianhai Courts in Shenzhen will be implemented. This will progressively facilitate qualified Hong Kong and Macao lawyers to also act as litigation agents in other parts of Shenzhen.</li> </ul> | <p><a href="#">(Chinese version only) Interim Measures for Special Funds Supporting Talent Development in the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Cooperation Zone</a></p> <p><a href="#">(Chinese version only) Opinions of the Supreme People's Court on Supporting and Guaranteeing Comprehensively Deepening the Reform and Opening-up of the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Cooperation Zone</a></p> | <br> |
| Zhuhai   | <p><u>Policy support for practice:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Zhuhai and regional people's governments may study and formulate policies in accordance with the actual situation, so as to provide support for Hong Kong and Macao legal practitioners who have passed the GBA Examination to practise in Zhuhai.</li> </ul>   | <p><a href="#">(Chinese version only) Regulations in relation to Lawyers Practising in the Zhuhai Special Economic Zone</a></p>  |    |
| Foshan   | <p><u>Practice subsidies:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lawyers under the age of 35 practising in Sanshui for the first time are granted an annual subsidy of RMB10,000 for the first 3 years of practice.</li> <li>Lawyers who are awarded the honour of "Outstanding Lawyer" at the national, provincial and municipal levels are rewarded RMB100,000, RMB50,000 and RMB20,000 respectively in the same year.</li> </ul>   | <p><a href="#">(Chinese version only) Public Notice on "Measures for Promoting High Quality Foreign Trade Development in Foshan"</a></p>   |    |

## List of Talent Policy Support, Subsidies and Rewards in the GBA (continued)

| Region    | Policy Support, Subsidies and Rewards   | Details   | QR Code   |
|-----------|---|---|---|
| Zhongshan | <p><u>Practice subsidy:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dedicated personnel are available to assist lawyers in the GBA with procedures in applying for practising licences and participating in annual assessment procedures.</li> <li>• For lawyers from the GBA practising in Zhongshan, the first year's Zhongshan Lawyers Association membership fee is waived, while the membership fee for the second and third years is halved.</li> <li>• There are dedicated personnel that follow up with the purchase of relevant practice insurance by lawyers in the GBA.</li> <li>• Courses on legal case handling instructions and precautions on issues such as legal affairs participation are tailor-made to provide support for lawyers in the GBA.</li> <li>• Lawyers from the GBA are encouraged to join the Bar Association's working committee or professional committee and to apply as mediators of the Commercial Dispute Mediation Center to participate in the mediation of disputes involving Hong Kong and Macao.</li> <li>• Lawyers from the GBA are guided to join the foreign-related legal service group and the business stability lawyer service group, etc, so as to introduce the professional capabilities of lawyers from the GBA to businesses (associations) and enterprises through platforms such as "Thousands of Firms Linked to Thousands of Associations" and the West Coast Business Legal Service Center of the Bay Area.</li> <li>• A dedicated section for lawyers in the GBA is set up on the Zhongshan Lawyers Association WeChat public account, which is also promoted to businesses (associations) and other social organisations that have strategic partnerships with the Lawyers Association.</li> <li>• Collaborations with notarial and judicial authentication institutions are arranged to facilitate lawyers in the GBA in accessing notarial and judicial authentication resources for practice by opening green channels and arranging specialist services.</li> <li>• Some law firms in Zhongshan have independently developed and introduced talent introduction policies based on their actual conditions. These cover many aspects such as practice subsidies for Hong Kong and Macao lawyers, office cost reduction and remission, training and exchange mechanisms for law firms, and the provision of practice assistance services.</li> </ul> | <p><a href="#">(Chinese version only) Guidelines from the Zhongshan Justice Bureau for lawyers in the GBA applying to practice in Zhongshan</a></p> |  |
| Jiangmen  | <p><u>Practice subsidies:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eligible lawyers receive a practice subsidy of RMB100,000.</li> <li>• Eligible lawyers are entitled to the waiving of office costs for the first year and to share part of the office facilities.</li> <li>• Eligible lawyers with a master's degree in law can receive a subsidy of RMB50,000; lawyers with a doctorate degree in law can receive a subsidy of RMB100,000 as well as a settlement subsidy of RMB50,000.</li> </ul>  | <p><a href="#">(Chinese version only) 11 Jiangmen law firms issued policies to introduce lawyers from Hong Kong and Macao</a></p>                   |  |

### 3. Establishment of Law Firms in Mainland China

Currently, Hong Kong law firms can establish a presence in Mainland China through the following two ways: (1) setting up a representative office in Mainland China; or (2) forming a partnership association in Guangdong Province by one or more Hong Kong law firms together with a mainland law firm.



#### How can Hong Kong law firms establish a mainland presence?

##### Representative offices

##### Partnership association

###### Definition

Hong Kong and Macao law firms setting up representative offices and dispatching representatives to Mainland China.

A partnership association established in Guangdong Province by one or more Hong Kong law firms and a mainland law firm.

###### Business scope

Representative offices and their representatives can only engage in the following activities, excluding mainland legal matters:

- Provide legal advice to clients concerning areas the lawyers of the law firm are permitted to practice, in Hong Kong, Macao and other countries outside China, as well as advice on international treaties and customs;
- Accept entrustment from a client or a mainland law firm to handle legal matters concerning areas the lawyers of the law firm are permitted to practice (can engage in Hong Kong legal matters);
- Represent parties from Hong Kong and Macao and entrust mainland law firms to handle mainland legal matters;
- Maintain long-term client relationships with mainland law firms by entering into contracts that handle legal matters; and
- Provide information on the impact of Mainland China's legal environment.

- Associate law firms may accept and undertake civil litigation, non-litigation legal matters and administrative litigation legal matters, but may not accept or undertake criminal litigation legal matters involving the application of mainland law;
- Legal matters governed by mainland law are to be managed by mainland lawyers; those under Hong Kong, Macao or foreign law to be handled by stationed or hired Hong Kong or Macao lawyers; legal matters involving both mainland law and Hong Kong, Macao or foreign law are to be jointly handled by the firm's lawyers according to their respective practice areas; international legal matters, particularly those concerning international treaties and conventions, are also to be jointly handled by the firm's lawyers according to their respective practice areas.

###### Partner qualification

- The partners of the representative office shall be practising lawyers and members of the lawyers' association of the Hong Kong SAR or the Macao SAR;
- Have been practising for not less than **2** years outside Mainland China; and
- Have not been criminally prosecuted or been punished for violation of professional ethics and practice disciplines.

- The stationed partner or responsible person from Hong Kong should be a practising lawyer registered in Hong Kong or Macao; and
- Lawyers seconded to the partnership association must have no less than **3** years of practice experience and must not have received administrative penalties or industry sanctions within **2** years prior to their assignment.

###### Employment restrictions

Representative offices may not employ mainland practising lawyers; the auxiliary personnel hired are not allowed to provide legal services to clients.

The partnership association may employ Hong Kong, Macao or foreign lawyers as well as mainland lawyers.

###### Data source:

[\(Chinese version only\) Measures for the Administration of the Representative Offices Stationed in Mainland China by Law Firms of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the Macao Special Administrative Region](#)

[\(Chinese version only\) Interim Measures of the Department of Justice of Guangdong Province on Hong Kong Law Firms and Macao Law Firms Operating in the Form of Partnership Association with Mainland Law Firms in Guangdong Province \(2019 Revision\)](#)

## Guide to Setting Up Representative Offices of Hong Kong Law Firms in Mainland China

Submit an application to the Judicial Department (Bureau) of the province, autonomous region or municipality directly under the Central Government where the representative office is to be established.

Submit application

Prepare application materials

Review process

Issue licence

Go through registration procedures

Handle subsequent procedures

For other matters related to registering a business in GBA and opening a bank account, please visit the [GoGBA go-to guide series](#)

### List of materials required

- An application form signed by the main principal of the law firm for establishing the representative office and sending representatives;
- Certifications of the legal establishment of that law firm in its respective special administrative region;
- Partnership agreement or articles of association of establishment of that law firm and the list of the principals or partners;
- Authorisation letters of that law firm to its representatives of the representative office, and the affirmation letter affirming that the chief representative to-be is the partner or the personnel of the same position of that law firm;
- Certifications of the lawyer practice qualification of the representatives of the representative office which prove that the chief representative to-be has practised for not less than 3 years outside Mainland China and the other representatives to-be have practised outside Mainland China for not less than 2 years;
- Certifications issued by the lawyers' association of the special administrative region where that law firm is located confirming membership of the lawyers' association for the representatives to-be of that representative office; and
- Certifications issued by the body of lawyer administration of the special administrative region where that law firm is located showing no criminal prosecution or punishment for violation of professional ethics and practice discipline of that law firm and its representatives to-be.

The above information should be notarised by the authorised notary of Hong Kong or Macao, as appropriate.

The representative office and its representatives shall, taking the practice licence and the practice certificates, go through the procedures for registration at the judicial department (bureau) of the province, autonomous region or municipality directly under the Central Government where the representative office is located by presenting their practice licence and practice certificate

Data source:

[\(Chinese version only\) Measures for the Administration of the Representative Offices Stationed in Mainland China by Law Firms of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the Macao Special Administrative Region](#)



## Setting Up a Partnership Association<sup>①</sup>

According to the amendments to CEPA in June 2020, the scope for establishing partnership associations between Mainland China and Hong Kong has been expanded to the entire mainland. Specific policies are formulated by individual provinces. Here, the "**Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao Law Firm Partnership-Association Measures**" is used as an example to explain the process of establishing a partnership association. For other regions, please refer to the relevant policies of each province.

1. Apply to form a partnership association ➤ 2. Obtain licence ➤ 3. Complete business opening procedures



### 1. Apply to form a partnership association

Applications for forming a partnership association must be submitted jointly by all parties involved to the local Municipal Bureau of Justice in the place of establishment. Relevant documents<sup>#</sup> are to be submitted to the Municipal Bureau of Justice in the pilot area for final approval by the Guangdong Provincial Department of Justice. (Please be aware of the restrictions on employment\*.)

#### Conditions for Hong Kong and Macao law firms to apply to form a partnership association:

- Registered and established in accordance with the laws of Hong Kong or Macao, and located in Hong Kong or Macao;
- Engaged in legal services in Hong Kong or Macao for at least **5** years;
- Have more than **3** practising lawyers, partners or persons in charge who are registered as practising lawyers in Hong Kong or Macao;
- Capable of handling legal matters in Hong Kong, Macao and other countries and regions outside Mainland China where they are allowed to practise; and
- Within the **3** years prior to applying for partnership association, the firm has not been punished by Hong Kong or Macao's legal regulatory authorities, and its representative office in Mainland China has not been punished by the mainland regulatory authorities.

#### Conditions for mainland law firms to apply to form a partnership association:

- Partnership law firms established for more than **5** years;
- Have more than **20** practising lawyers;
- The firm is located in Guangdong Province or has established a brand in Guangdong while based in other provinces, autonomous regions, or municipalities directly under the Central Government; and
- The firm and its branch in Guangdong have not been subject to administrative penalties or industry sanctions within **3** years prior to applying for partnership association.

#### #Relevant documents include:

- Partnership agreement;
- Partnership application form;
- Articles of association of the law firm;
- Valid certification documents that meet the specified requirements;
- List of the persons in charge of the partnership and their professional experience certificates; and
- Proof of capital subscriptions of the parties to the partnership and the residence of the partnership.

#### \*Restrictions on employment:

Lawyers stationed and hired by all parties to a partnership association, and lawyers from law firms of all parties participating in the partnership association, must not act as agents or provide legal services for parties with conflicts of interest in the same civil or commercial litigation or non-litigation legal matters.

**Note** <sup>①</sup>: The "Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao Law Firm Partnership-association Measures" is used as an example to explain the process of establishing a partnership association. For other regions, please refer to the relevant policies of each province. The following specific conditions for applying for a partnership association are the requirements mentioned in the "Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao Law Firm Partnership-association Measures", not the content of the CEPA.

Data source:

[\(Chinese version only\) Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao Law Firm Partnership-Association Measures](#)

## Setting Up a Partnership Association (continued)

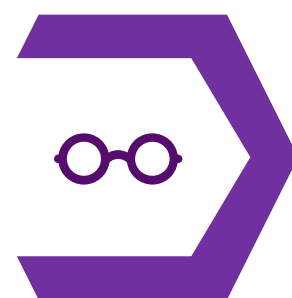
### Contribution ratio requirements:

- The total capital contribution of all parties to the partnership association must not be less than RMB5 million, with the contribution method determined through negotiation by all parties in the partnership association. If the partnership association involves one law firm from Hong Kong or Macao, their contribution ratio must not exceed 49%; in the case of multiple law firms, the contribution ratio of each party must be lower than the mainland law firm's contribution ratio firm; and
- All parties of the partnership association may adopt a subscription contribution system, but the actual contributions at the time of application for the partnership association must not be less than 30% of the subscribed amount, with the remainder to be paid within 3 years after the partnership association is approved.

For other matters related to registering a law firm in the GBA or opening a bank account, please visit the [GoGBA go-to guide series](#)

### 2. Obtain licence

Once the application is approved, the Department of Justice of Guangdong Province will issue work permits for the Hong Kong and Macao lawyers of the partnership association.



### 3. Complete business opening procedures



A partnership association should commence operations within 6 months of obtaining a practice licence. Before opening, the law firm should complete various preparatory work required by relevant regulations, such as seal engraving, capital contribution procedures, opening bank accounts, tax registration and work procedures for Hong Kong and Macao lawyers working in Mainland China. The partnership association should submit the seal, financial seal impression and bank account of the law firm to the local municipal judicial bureau for record.

## What are the focal business areas of the current Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao partnership associations?

1. The first Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao partnership association was jointly established in Guangzhou in November 2020 by **1** Hong Kong-funded firm, **1** Macao-funded firm and **1** Guangzhou firm. Its business scope includes cross-border investment and financing, finance and capital, cross-border family trusts and intellectual property rights.
2. Shenzhen's first Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao partnership association was jointly established in March 2020 by **1** Hong Kong-funded firm, **1** Macao-funded firm and **1** Beijing-based firm. Its business mainly focuses on new legal businesses arising from the development of the GBA and the Belt and Road Initiative. Its business scope includes providing legal solutions for cross-border business transactions, cross-border dispute resolution, corporate investment and financing, and technology innovation.

#### Data source:

[\(Chinese version only\) The first Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao partnership association in Guangzhou officially launched cross-border legal services](#)

[\(Chinese version only\) Shenzhen's first Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao partnership association was jointly established](#)


## List of Policy Support, Subsidies and Rewards for Law Firms in the GBA

Cities in the GBA encourage industry development by providing a range of policy support, subsidies and rewards for the establishment of law firms



| Region     | Policy Support, Subsidies and Rewards  | Details  | QR Code   |
|------------|--|--|---|
| Guangzhou# | <p><u>Settlement support (30%, 30%, 40% over 3 years):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For law firms set up by Hong Kong or Macao law firms in partnership with mainland law firms in Nansha, Guangzhou (including Guangdong-Hong Kong, Guangdong-Macao and Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao partnership associations), settlement support of RMB5 million will be provided to firms where all three parties in the partnership association are renowned legal service organisations; settlement support of RMB3 million will be provided to firms where any two of the partners are renowned legal service organisations; settlement support of RMB2 million will be provided to firms where any one of the partners is a renowned legal service organisation; and for all other cases, settlement support of RMB1 million will be provided.</li> <li>If a Hong Kong SAR or Macao SAR law firm or a foreign law firm is recognised as a renowned legal service organisation and establishes a representative office in Nansha, Guangzhou, a one-time settlement support of RMB2 million is provided; and for those not meeting the conditions for a renowned legal service organisation, settlement support of RMB1 million is provided.</li> <li>If a renowned legal service organisation sets up a professional legal service organisation in Guangzhou Nansha, with its main business focusing on maritime matters, intellectual property rights, cross-border investment, and other foreign-related legal services, a reward of RMB1 million will be granted for sole proprietorships and RMB500,000 for partnership associations.</li> </ul> <p><u>Growth support:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For a legal service organisation (excluding corporations) registered in Nansha, Guangzhou that becomes a renowned legal service organisation for the first time or plays a pioneering and leading role in Guangzhou's legal service industry, an award of RMB1 million will be granted.</li> </ul> | <p><a href="#">(Chinese version only) 8 Measures for Supporting the Development of Legal Services for Foreign Affairs in the Guangzhou Nansha New District (Free Trade Zone)</a></p> |  |

#Content in the Guangzhou section is limited to the Nansha District



## List of Policy Support, Subsidies and Rewards for Law Firms in the GBA (continued)

| Region    | Policy Support, Subsidies and Rewards  | Details  | QR Code   |
|-----------|--|--|---|
| Guangzhou | <p><u>Support for office premises:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao partnership associations or other legal service organisations primarily engaged in foreign-related legal matters are eligible for a subsidy of up to RMB50 per square metre per month, with a maximum annual subsidy of RMB2 million for 3 years, reimbursed post-payment if the office premises are rented for self-use in Nansha, Guangzhou.</li> </ul> <p><u>Support for business contribution:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao partnership associations or other legal service organisations primarily engaged in foreign-related legal matters with a total annual revenue of over RMB6 million but less than RMB10 million can receive 60% of the regional economic contribution incentive; firms with total annual revenue over RMB10 million but less than RMB30 million can receive 75% of the regional economic contribution incentive; and firms with total annual revenue over RMB30 million can receive 85% of the regional economic contribution incentive. The maximum annual award is capped at RMB1 million.</li> </ul> <p><u>Outstanding achievement support:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each project, case or foreign-related rule of law research achievement can receive a maximum reward of RMB100,000. Each legal service organisation can receive a maximum annual reward of RMB500,000.</li> </ul> <p><u>Support for the introduction of talents:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For each qualified person hired by a law firm in Nansha District of Guangzhou and actively engaged in business, the law firm is entitled to a one-time subsidy of RMB50,000 (with an annual cap of RMB1 million).</li> </ul> <p><u>Special contribution support:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enterprises, institutions, organisations and individuals that have made outstanding contributions to foreign-related legal services in Nansha District may be rewarded a special contribution award based on specific circumstances.</li> </ul> | <p><a href="#">(Chinese version only) 8 Measures for Supporting the Development of Legal Services for Foreign Affairs in the Guangzhou Nansha New District (Free Trade Zone)</a></p> |  |



## List of Policy Support, Subsidies and Rewards for Law Firms in the GBA (continued)

| Region   | Policy Support, Subsidies and Rewards  | Details   | QR Code  |
|----------|--|---|--|
| Shenzhen | <p><u>Settlement support:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Renowned overseas law firms establishing representative offices in Shenzhen can receive a settlement incentive of up to RMB500,000; law firms moving into or establishing a branch office in Shenzhen with an average annual revenue of over RMB100 million in the last 3 years can receive a settlement incentive of up to RMB500,000; law firms that have received national honours from the Municipal Bureau of Justice in the past 10 years and moving into or establishing a branch office in Shenzhen can receive a settlement incentive of up to RMB500,000.</li> </ul> <p><u>Practice support:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pilot partnership associations set up in Qianhai, Shenzhen, between Chinese law firms and foreign law firms, with the Shenzhen law firm setting up a branch office outside China, can receive an incentive of up to RMB300,000 for each overseas branch office that has been operating stably for over one year with an overseas business revenue of RMB5 million. The maximum amount of incentive for each law firm head office is RMB1.5 million.</li> <li>Law firms whose revenue reaches RMB100 million for the first time can receive a maximum award of RMB1 million. For revenues reaching RMB100 million, each additional RMB50 million in revenue can earn up to RMB500,000 in rewards, with a maximum incentive amount of RMB5 million per law firm.</li> </ul> <p><u>Research and development support:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law firms that have won awards from national and provincial lawyers' associations for legal service product evaluation projects can receive a subsidy of up to RMB100,000.</li> </ul> <p><b>Qianhai, Shenzhen offers further subsidies:</b></p> <p><u>Settlement support:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to RMB2 million in settlement support for eligible domestic and foreign outstanding law firms and Sino-foreign partnership associations, with a validity period of 3 years.</li> </ul> | <p><a href="#">(Chinese version only) Three-year Action Plan for High-quality Development of Legal Services Industry in Shenzhen (2023- 2025)</a></p> <p><a href="#">(Chinese version only) Interim Measures for the Management of Special Funds for the Development of Professional Service Industry in Shenzhen Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Cooperation Zone</a></p> | <br><br> |

## List of Policy Support, Subsidies and Rewards for Law Firms in the GBA (continued)

| Region   | Policy Support, Subsidies and Rewards   | Details   | QR Code  |
|----------|---|---|--|
| Shenzhen | <p><b>Qianhai, Shenzhen offers further subsidies:</b></p> <p><u>Settlement support:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to RMB1.5 million in settlement support for domestically and internationally renowned law firms and domestic law firms (other than national outstanding law firms) that establish GBA partnership association or Sino-foreign partnership association in the Qianhai Cooperation Zone in Shenzhen.</li> <li>For other law firms not mentioned above establishing GBA partnership associations and Chinese-foreign partnership associations in the Qianhai Cooperation Zone in Shenzhen, a maximum of RMB1 million in settlement support is provided.</li> <li>For eligible overseas renowned law firms establishing representative offices in the Qianhai Cooperation Zone, up to RMB1.5 million in settlement support is provided; for other eligible overseas law firms establishing offices in the Qianhai Cooperation Zone, up to RMB1 million in settlement support is provided.</li> <li>For eligible international legal organisations (excluding overseas law firms), up to RMB300,000 in settlement support is provided.</li> </ul> <p><u>Hiring support:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hiring legal professionals from Hong Kong and Macao, each hired and actively engaged in business at the time of the application deadline, will be supported by the organisation with an annual standard of RMB30,000 for each legal professional. Each organisation will support up to RMB1 million per year, with a support period not exceeding 3 years.</li> <li>Employers carrying out business with more than 30 legal professionals from Hong Kong and Macao will receive a one-time subsidy of RMB200,000.</li> </ul> <p><u>Project support:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each eligible project will receive a one-time high-end legal service support of RMB200,000. Each legal service institution can provide up to RMB400,000 of support per year.</li> </ul> <p><u>Practice subsidies:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For eligible law firms with annual operating income of over RMB1.5 million (and growth exceeding RMB500,000), a 5% support amount is provided for the incremental part of the operating income, up to RMB2 million.</li> <li>For eligible law firms with annual operating income of over RMB5 million, a maximum support of RMB6 million will be provided.</li> </ul> | <p><a href="#">(Chinese version only) Various Measures of the Authority of Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Cooperation Zone for Supporting High-Quality Development and Application of Artificial Intelligence</a></p> <p><a href="#">(Chinese version only) Implementation Measures for Supporting and Gathering High-end Legal Services in the Shenzhen-Hong Kong International Legal Services Zone of the Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong Modern Service Industry Cooperation Zone (Revised)</a></p> | <br><br> |

## List of Policy Support, Subsidies and Rewards for Law Firms in the GBA (continued)

| Region              | Policy Support, Subsidies and Rewards  | Details  | QR Code   |
|---------------------|--|--|---|
| Zhuhai <sup>#</sup> | <p><u>Settlement support:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Renowned law firms from Hong Kong and Macao, along with national outstanding law firms, forming bi-regional or tri-regional partnership association in Hengqin Cooperation Zone, Zhuhai, can apply for a settlement reward of RMB2 million. Other Hong Kong and Macao law firms forming bi-regional or tri-regional partnership associations with national outstanding law firms in Hengqin Cooperation Zone, Zhuhai, can apply for a settlement reward of RMB1.5 million.</li> </ul> <p><u>Practice support:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For legal service organisations in the Zhuhai Hengqin Cooperation Zone whose main business revenue reaches RMB10 million, RMB30 million, and RMB 50 million for the first time, rewards of RMB1 million, RMB 2 million, and RMB3 million are provided respectively based on the scale of the main business revenue.</li> <li>For legal service organisations in the Zhuhai Hengqin Cooperation Zone with year-on-year growth in main business revenue of not less than 20%, a reward based on 5% of the year-on-year growth amount in main business revenue is given. The maximum annual reward for each legal service institution is RMB2 million.</li> <li>Legal service organisations that receive incentives based on the scale of their main business income specified in the first clause, and that subsequently reach a higher standard, can apply for the differential amount according to the corresponding scale.</li> </ul> <p><u>Project support:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For eligible high-end legal services, each project can apply for a high-end legal service incentive of RMB250,000. Each project can only apply once, and each legal service organisation can receive a maximum annual reward of RMB500,000.</li> </ul> <p><i><sup>#</sup>Content in Zhuhai is limited to the Hengqin Cooperation Zone</i></p> | <p><a href="#">(Chinese version only) Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin Legal Service Industry Support Measures</a></p>                    |  |
| Foshan              | <p><u>Practice support:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Depending on the size of the merged law firm and the brand and scale of the newly established law firm, a one-time reward of RMB400,000 and a one-time reward of RMB100,000 to RMB500,000 are set respectively.</li> <li>Annual turnover incentives ranging from RMB100,000 to RMB1 million and excellence rewards ranging from RMB100,000 to RMB300,000 have been established.</li> </ul>  | <p><a href="#">(Chinese version only) Support Measures for Promoting High-quality Development of the Legal Industry in Sanshui District of Foshan City</a></p> |  |

## Other Relevant Information and Relevant Authorities



## The latest official updates and other useful information:

## Relevant Information

| Useful links  | QR Codes |
|---|----------|
| <a href="https://www.hklawsoc.org.hk/en/">The Law Society of Hong Kong</a><br><a href="https://www.hklawsoc.org.hk/en/">https://www.hklawsoc.org.hk/en/</a>   |          |
| <a href="https://www.hkba.org/">Hong Kong Bar Association</a><br><a href="https://www.hkba.org/">https://www.hkba.org/</a>  |          |
| <a href="https://www.doj.gov.hk/en/mainland_and_macao/guangdong_hong_kong_macao_greater_bay_area.html">Action Plan on the Construction of Rule of Law in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area</a><br><a href="https://www.doj.gov.hk/en/mainland_and_macao/guangdong_hong_kong_macao_greater_bay_area.html">https://www.doj.gov.hk/en/mainland_and_macao/guangdong_hong_kong_macao_greater_bay_area.html</a>  |          |
| <a href="https://www.moj.gov.cn/pub/sfbgwapp/zwgk/tjxxApp/202306/t20230614_480741.html">(Chinese version only)Statistical analysis of the number of lawyers and law firms nationwide in 2022 by the Ministry of Justice</a><br><a href="https://www.moj.gov.cn/pub/sfbgwapp/zwgk/tjxxApp/202306/t20230614_480741.html">https://www.moj.gov.cn/pub/sfbgwapp/zwgk/tjxxApp/202306/t20230614_480741.html</a>  |          |
| <a href="http://sft.gd.gov.cn/sfw/zwgk/sjfb/index.html">(Chinese version only)Statistical analysis of the number of lawyers and law firms in the province in 2022 and 2023 by the Guangdong Provincial Department of Justice</a><br><a href="http://sft.gd.gov.cn/sfw/zwgk/sjfb/index.html">http://sft.gd.gov.cn/sfw/zwgk/sjfb/index.html</a>   |          |
| <a href="http://sft.gd.gov.cn/sfw/zwgk/sjfb/tjsj/content/post_4082516.html">(Chinese version only)Lawyer work statistics for 2022</a><br><a href="http://sft.gd.gov.cn/sfw/zwgk/sjfb/tjsj/content/post_4082516.html">http://sft.gd.gov.cn/sfw/zwgk/sjfb/tjsj/content/post_4082516.html</a>  |          |
| <a href="http://sft.gd.gov.cn/sfw/zwgk/sjfb/tjsj/content/post_4336320.html">(Chinese version only)Lawyer work statistics for 2023</a><br><a href="http://sft.gd.gov.cn/sfw/zwgk/sjfb/tjsj/content/post_4336320.html">http://sft.gd.gov.cn/sfw/zwgk/sjfb/tjsj/content/post_4336320.html</a>  |          |
| <a href="https://www.doj.gov.hk/en/mainland_and_macao/cepa.html">Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement and Supplement (Website of Department of Justice)</a><br><a href="https://www.doj.gov.hk/en/mainland_and_macao/cepa.html">https://www.doj.gov.hk/en/mainland_and_macao/cepa.html</a>   |          |
| <a href="https://www.legco.gov.hk/yr2023/chinese/panels/ajls/papers/ajls20231127cb4-1000-4-c.pdf">(Chinese version only)The development and support of the legal profession in Hong Kong and the Greater Bay Area of Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macau.</a><br><a href="https://www.legco.gov.hk/yr2023/chinese/panels/ajls/papers/ajls20231127cb4-1000-4-c.pdf">https://www.legco.gov.hk/yr2023/chinese/panels/ajls/papers/ajls20231127cb4-1000-4-c.pdf</a>  |          |
| <a href="https://www.gov.cn/gongbao/content/2004/content_62899.htm">(Chinese version only)Measures for the Administration of Residents of Hong Kong and Macao Special Administrative Regions Holding the Legal Profession Qualification of Mainland China and Engaging in Legal Practice</a><br><a href="https://www.gov.cn/gongbao/content/2004/content_62899.htm">https://www.gov.cn/gongbao/content/2004/content_62899.htm</a>   |          |
| <a href="http://sft.gd.gov.cn/sfw/zwgk/zcwj/content/post_3572384.html">(Chinese version only)Annual Assessment Rules for Lawyers of the All China Lawyers Association</a><br><a href="http://sft.gd.gov.cn/sfw/zwgk/zcwj/content/post_3572384.html">http://sft.gd.gov.cn/sfw/zwgk/zcwj/content/post_3572384.html</a>  |          |
| <a href="https://www.gov.cn/zhengce/zhengceku/202309/content_6906873.htm">(Chinese version only)Notice by the General Office of the State Council of Issuing the Measures for the Pilot Measures for Hong Kong and Macao Legal Practitioners to Obtain Mainland Practicing Qualifications and to Practise as Lawyers in the Nine Mainland Municipalities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area</a><br><a href="https://www.gov.cn/zhengce/zhengceku/202309/content_6906873.htm">https://www.gov.cn/zhengce/zhengceku/202309/content_6906873.htm</a>   |          |
| <a href="https://www.moj.gov.cn/policyManager/regulationDetail.html?showMenu=false&amp;showFileType=1&amp;pkid=54d0f01080894d19a6265df90bfae636">(Chinese version only)Administrative Measures for Mainland Representative Offices of Law Firms from the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the Macao Special Administrative Region</a><br><a href="https://www.moj.gov.cn/policyManager/regulationDetail.html?showMenu=false&amp;showFileType=1&amp;pkid=54d0f01080894d19a6265df90bfae636">https://www.moj.gov.cn/policyManager/regulationDetail.html?showMenu=false&amp;showFileType=1&amp;pkid=54d0f01080894d19a6265df90bfae636</a> |          |
| <a href="http://sft.gd.gov.cn/sfw/zwgk/flfggz/content/post_3571719.html">(Chinese version only)Pilot Implementation Measures for Partnership Associations between Hong Kong Law Firms and Mainland Law Firms in Guangdong Province</a><br><a href="http://sft.gd.gov.cn/sfw/zwgk/flfggz/content/post_3571719.html">http://sft.gd.gov.cn/sfw/zwgk/flfggz/content/post_3571719.html</a>   |          |



## Other Relevant Information and Relevant Authorities



## Relevant contacts for legal sector:

| Names of Relevant Authorities   | Enquiry Hotline        | Address   |
|---|------------------------|---|
| The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Department of Justice | 852-37024100           | G/F, Main Wing, Justice Place, 18 Lower Albert Road, Central, Hong Kong   |
| The Law Society of Hong Kong  | 852-2846 0500          | 3/F, Wing On House, 71 Des Voeux Road Central, Hong Kong  |
| Hong Kong Bar Association   | 852-28690210           | LG2, High Court, 38 Queensway, Hong Kong  |
| Ministry of Justice of the People's Republic of China                               | 010-65153508           | No. 6, Chaoyangmen South Street, Chaoyang District, Beijing   |
| Department of Justice of Guangdong Province   | 020-86351202/86350676  | No. 51, Municipal People's Road, Guangzhou  |
| Department of Justice of Guangzhou  | 020-83100114           | No. 19, Lianxin Road, Guangzhou   |
| Department of Justice of Shenzhen   | 0755-82019607          | Tianping Building, No. 72 Jingtian Road, Futian District, Shenzhen  |
| Department of Justice of Zhuhai   | 0756-2662991/2662062   | No. 96, Meihua West Road, Xiangzhou District, Zhuhai  |
| Department of Justice of Foshan   | 0757-12348/83326216    | No. 211, Fenjiang Middle Road, Chancheng District, Foshan   |
| Department of Justice of Huizhou  | 0752-2167000           | No. 22, Xiapu Avenue, Huicheng District, Huizhou City, Guangdong Province   |
| Department of Justice of Dongguan   | 0769-22489999          | No. 189, Dongcheng West Road, Xingtang Community, Guancheng Street, Dongguan City, Guangdong Province             |
| Department of Justice of Zhongshan  | 0760-88363790          | No. 68, Boai 5 Road, Zhongshan  |
| Department of Justice of Jiangmen   | 0750-3887810           | No. 1, Jianye Street, Pengjiang District, Jiangmen City, Guangdong Province                                       |
| Department of Justice of Zhaoqing   | 0758-2741383           | No. 1, Jingtai Road, Duanzhou District, Zhaoqing  |
| Guangzhou Lawyer Association  | 020-83550600           | Room 805, 9/F, South Tower, Yuexiu City Plaza, No. 437 Dongfengzhong Road, Yuexiu District, Guangzhou             |
| Shenzhen Lawyer Association   | 0755-83025700          | 20/F, Times Financial Center, No. 4001 Shennan Avenue, Futian Street, Futian District, Shenzhen                   |
| Zhuhai Lawyer Association   | 0756-2662186           | 5/F, Legal Services Building, No. 96 Meihua West Road, Xiangzhou District, Zhuhai                                 |
| Foshan Lawyer Association   | 0757-83386879          | 5/F, Tower 1, Granite Building, No. 125 Lingnan Avenue North, Chancheng District, Foshan City, Guangdong Province |
| Huizhou Lawyer Association  | 0752-2167023           | Jia Zhaoye Center, No. 5 Huizhou Avenue, Huicheng District, Huizhou   |
| Dongguan Lawyer Association   | 0769-22459905          | 11/F, Building F3, Tian An Cyber City, No. 1 Huang Jin Road, Nancheng Street, Dongguan City, Guangdong Province   |
| Zhongshan Lawyer Association  | 0760-88238184/88239922 | No. 138, Qiwan South Road, Zhongshan City   |
| Jiangmen Lawyer Association   | 0750-3228212/3228003   | Room 103, Room 105, No. 133 Jianshe 2nd Road, Pengjiang District, Jiangmen City (Jingshan Bay Huating)            |
| Zhaoqing Lawyer Association   | 0758-2734466           | Room 701, Guozi Building, No. 19 Jingde Road, Duanzhou District, Zhaoqing City                                    |

The information above was collected and compiled by Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, and authorised by the HKTDC's GoGBA Business Support.

# GoGBA

商貿支援  
BUSINESS SUPPORT

The HKTDC launched the GoGBA one-stop platform to provide digital information and business tools, advisory services and training as well as promotional and networking activities, offering multi-faceted support online and offline to help Hong Kong businesses navigate the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. HKTDC GBA Centres and GoGBA Business Support Centres provide advisory services and training to Hong Kong companies; a series of flagship promotional events help Hong Kong companies expand their business networks; and the GoGBA website and WeChat mini-programme feature the latest policy and business updates and cross-border business tools.



GoGBA business tools  
[WeChat mini programme]



GBA updates  
[WeChat official account]

©2024 All rights reserved by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council ("HKTDC") and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Office of the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau (the "GBA Office"). If any content of this report is quoted, the source should be attributed to the HKTDC. No part of this report may be reproduced without the prior consent of the HKTDC. The HKTDC has endeavoured to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this report. However, the Council accepts no responsibility for any error, omission or inaccuracy contained herein. The opinions expressed in this report do not necessarily represent the position of the HKTDC.

The HKTDC and the GBA Office are not responsible for the accuracy, completeness or timeliness of the information provided by third parties, or any loss arising from the use of such information.

If this document is distributed electronically, the security and integrity of the transmission cannot be guaranteed, as the data may be intercepted, corrupted, lost, destroyed, delayed or incomplete, or may contain viruses. Therefore, the HKTDC and the GBA Office shall not be liable for any error or omission that may occur due to the electronic transmission of this report.