

The national and international legal situation of Hong Kong in light of recent developments

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The Basic Law of Hong Kong guarantees a "high degree of autonomy" for this Special Administrative Region of the PRC. The boundaries of this autonomy are not fully defined by the Basic Law. Instead, a series of actions and reactions, decisions by the Hong Kong courts and official interpretations of the Basic Law by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, have elaborated the relationship between the two legal systems. This talk will follow judicial developments about the Basic Law up to currently pending electoral disputes. In addition, the ability of Hong Kong to act autonomously is impacted by national and international developments. On the one hand, Hong Kong could be drawn into the trade dispute between the United States and China, in particular if the "Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act" currently going through the United States Congress is adopted. On the other hand, plans for a "Greater Bay Area" in South China including Hong Kong and Macao will lead to stronger regional integration of Hong Kong's economy and administration. It might no longer be sustainable for Hong Kong to set its own rules in the areas most affected by this integration. This talk aims to identify the most critical points of contact and potential areas of conflict between Hong Kong and Mainland Chinese laws resulting from these developments.

Hans-Günther Herrmann is a corporate lawyer admitted to practise in France and California and based in Hong Kong. After studying law and sinology in Bonn and Paris, he started practising law in Paris and moved to Hong Kong in 1998 where he has been working for US and UK law firms. His practise focuses on mergers & acquisitions, private equity and technology, media and telecommunications transactions.