



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Top UK and Chinese firms come together to promote legal exchange

19 February 2013

#### *China-UK Legal Partnership Initiative announced*

Today the China Britain Law Institute (“CBLI”), and the Confucius Institute for Business, London (the "Confucius Institute"), announced the commencement of the Legal Partnership Initiative (“LPI”), aimed at promoting business and legal ties between China and the UK.

More than 30 firms and barristers chambers from the UK and China are participating in the scheme, including China’s largest five law firms by number of lawyers.

Running between 2013 and 2018, the LPI will see annual seminars held alternately at China’s leading Tsinghua University and the London School of Economics and Political Science (“LSE”).

Seminars will bring together prominent British and Chinese experts in trade, commerce and commercial law to address legal issues of significance to Anglo-Chinese business.

#### **Matthew Townsend, Director of the CBLI, commented:**

*“Sino-UK legal exchange is more important than ever, both commercially and culturally. We are delighted to work with Tsinghua and the Confucius Institute on this initiative.”*

Townsend, a Beijing-based dispute resolution specialist at Fulbright & Jaworski (to be known as Norton Rose Fulbright from June 2013), added:

*“It is pleasing that so many firms and organizations have signaled a wish to be involved in this scheme. This illustrates both the strength of UK interest in China as a growing market and Chinese acknowledgement of the international commercial importance of English law.”*

#### **Professor LiSheng Luo of Tsinghua University commented:**

*“The Legal Partnership Initiative will be another window for Sino-British legal co-operation and another platform for further*

#### Related Contacts



Matthew Townsend  
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*communication between Chinese and British legal professionals. I sincerely wish it a great success.”*

**Nick Byrne, UK Director of the Confucius Institute commented:**

*“Since 2007 the Confucius Institute has aimed to promote Chinese for business to the local community in the UK and foster greater understanding of business culture in China. We anticipate the LPI will be a valuable tool in carrying out this mission.”*

**Sebastian Wood, British Ambassador to China, commented:**

*"The Legal Partnership Initiative will help to foster communication between Chinese and British legal professionals and I look forward to seeing Sino-British legal cooperation and knowledge sharing develop through these activities."*

**Richard Graham MP, Chair of the All Party Parliamentary China Group, commented:**

*“The rule of law is a key goal for China and all the work that the CBLI does can only help advance that good cause, which I strongly support.”*

**LPI at a glance:**

LPI co-organisers

Confucius Institute for Business, London, China Britain Law Institute (CBLI)

LPI supporting organisations

UK Trade & Investment, China Britain Business Council (CBBC), Confederation of British Industry (CBI), All Party Parliamentary China Group (APPCG), Tsinghua University, Bar Council of England and Wales, Law Society of England and Wales.

LPI participating firms/chambers

UK Based: 4 Pump Court Chambers, 39 Essex Street Chambers, XXIV Old Buildings, Addleshaw Goddard LLP, Allen & Overy LLP, Clifford Chance LLP, Clyde & Co, CMS, DLA Piper UK LLP, Eversheds LLP, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP, Herbert Smith Freehills, Lamb Chambers, Hogan Lovells LLP, Macfarlanes LLP, Norton Rose LLP, SJ Berwin LLP, Wragge & Co.

China Based: AnJie Law Firm, Allbright Law Offices, Commerce & Finance Law Offices, Dacheng Law Offices, DeHeng Law Offices, Fangda Partners, Grandall Law Firm, Jun He Law Offices, King & Wood Mallesons, Run Ming Law Office, Yingke, Zhong Lun Law Firm.

LPI programme (2013-2017):

- 2013 (LSE); Intellectual Property
- 2014 (Tsinghua): Energy and Environment
- 2015 (LSE): Finance and Currency Trading
- 2016 (Tsinghua): Arbitration and dispute Resolution
- 2017 (LSE): Investment and Cross-border M&A

(Note: programme may be subject to change.)

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