

## ACCESS TO JUSTICE

*Party's Control Over the Judicial Process*

Central authorities of the Chinese Communist Party continued to exert control over the judicial process in violation of international standards.<sup>1</sup> Although it is not formally part of the Party,<sup>2</sup> the judiciary's first priority in 2018 was to defend "the Party's centralized and unified leadership, with [Party General Secretary] Xi Jinping as the core leader," according to the March 2018 Supreme People's Court (SPC) work report<sup>3</sup> delivered by senior Party official and SPC President Zhou Qiang.<sup>4</sup> Zhou affirmed that the adjudication process should be improved through Party building,<sup>5</sup> which included ideological conformity,<sup>6</sup> and advocated for absolute loyalty and obedience to the Party.<sup>7</sup> Zhou further saw it as the court's imperative to take part in a political initiative called "eliminate darkness and evil" that aims to "further strengthen the foundation of the Party's power."<sup>8</sup> According to announcements by local authorities, targeted "dark forces" included persons involved in organized crime as well as individuals who "threaten political security" and those who "have a grip on political power at the local level."<sup>9</sup> State-run media Xinhua explained that this campaign "is primarily aimed at consolidating the [Communist Party's] ruling foundation,"<sup>10</sup> and some commentators drew comparisons with earlier anti-crime campaigns such as "Strike Hard" and "Strike Black" in terms of the potential for serious human rights abuses.<sup>11</sup>

In February 2018, Xiong Xuanguo, a vice minister at the Ministry of Justice, urged lawyers to "conform their thoughts and actions with the Party's plan" and to join the "eliminate darkness and evil" campaign.<sup>12</sup> He also announced that the All China Lawyers Association had established a "defense lawyer guidance committee" to "strengthen guidance on cases" relating to the campaign.<sup>13</sup> Some lawyers expressed concern that the unprecedented efforts to coordinate defense lawyers was actually a "stability maintenance" measure and would undermine lawyers' independence in defending their clients.<sup>14</sup>

*Persecution and Harassment of Human Rights Lawyers and Advocates*

## CRIMINAL PROSECUTION

Chinese authorities continued to criminally prosecute rights lawyers and advocates detained during the nationwide, coordinated crackdown that began in and around July 2015 (July 2015 crackdown),<sup>15</sup> which affected over 300 individuals and led to a total of 14 criminal convictions.<sup>16</sup> This past year, authorities sentenced three individuals and continued to hold one person under incommunicado pretrial detention.<sup>17</sup> International human rights groups, in anticipation of the November 2018 session of the UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review of the Chinese government's human rights record,<sup>18</sup> expressed in their reports concerns about persecution of rights lawyers.<sup>19</sup>

- On November 21, 2017, a court sentenced disbarred rights lawyer **Jiang Tianyong**<sup>20</sup> to two years' imprisonment on the

charge of “inciting to subvert state power.”<sup>21</sup> Authorities alleged that Jiang counseled Xie Yang’s wife to fabricate torture allegations.<sup>22</sup> Rights lawyer **Xie Yang**<sup>23</sup> reportedly told his lawyers in January 2017 that authorities had tortured him,<sup>24</sup> but he later retracted that claim at trial.<sup>25</sup> On December 26, 2017, a court convicted Xie of “inciting to subvert state power” and decided not to impose criminal punishment.<sup>26</sup> After releasing Xie from detention, authorities restricted his freedom of movement<sup>27</sup> and photocopied his case files, a step that suggests authorities were preparing to revoke Xie’s law license as retaliation against his resuming rights defense work, according to his wife.<sup>28</sup>

- On December 26, 2017, a court sentenced rights advocate **Wu Gan**<sup>29</sup> to eight years in prison for “subverting state power.”<sup>30</sup> On April 17, 2018, the court of second instance affirmed the original sentence.<sup>31</sup> Shortly before the second instance court issued the decision, authorities reportedly prevented citizens from attending the hearing and detained Wu’s father in a hotel located in Guilin municipality, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.<sup>32</sup>

- Authorities took rights lawyer **Wang Quanzhang**<sup>33</sup> into custody around July 2015 and continued to hold him under incommunicado detention<sup>34</sup> on the charge of “subverting state power.”<sup>35</sup> In April 2018, Wang’s wife Li Wenzu said authorities never informed her of Wang’s whereabouts, and she started a symbolic march from her home in Beijing municipality to Wang’s presumed detention location in Tianjin municipality.<sup>36</sup> Authorities intercepted Li in Tianjin, returned her to Beijing, and placed her under “soft detention” in her apartment, during which individuals believed to be working for government officials blocked and assaulted Li’s visitors.<sup>37</sup>

Authorities likewise criminally detained other lawyers subsequent to the July 2015 crackdown:

- In October 2017, authorities detained rights lawyer **Li Yuhua**<sup>38</sup> on the charge of “picking quarrels and provoking trouble.”<sup>39</sup> Staff at the detention center reportedly denied her hot water for showers, denied her medical treatment, and threatened to beat her to death.<sup>40</sup> At the age of 60, Li suffered from health conditions including heart disease, hypertension, and hyperthyroidism.<sup>41</sup> Previously, Li represented lawyer Wang Yu,<sup>42</sup> whom authorities detained during the July 2015 crackdown.<sup>43</sup>

- In January 2018, authorities detained rights lawyer **Yu Wensheng**<sup>44</sup> and in April formally arrested him on the charges of “obstructing official business” and “inciting subversion of state power.”<sup>45</sup> Earlier, the Beijing Municipal Justice Bureau revoked Yu’s law license reportedly because he had represented rights lawyer Wang Quanzhang.<sup>46</sup> Yu’s detention came shortly after he made a Twitter post advocating constitutional reform.<sup>47</sup> In April, police showed Yu’s defense lawyers a declaration in which Yu allegedly terminated their representation.<sup>48</sup> Yu’s wife, Xu Yan, refused to terminate the lawyers because the declaration contradicted an earlier declaration that Yu wrote, in which he stated that he would not voluntarily ter-

minate his lawyers were he to be detained.<sup>49</sup> In February, authorities restricted Xu Yan's ability to travel to Hong Kong and in April pressured her not to discuss her husband's case.<sup>50</sup>

#### RESTRICTION, PERSECUTION, AND HARASSMENT OF LAWYERS

Beside criminal prosecution, authorities persecuted, harassed, and imposed restrictions on rights lawyers by means including revocation<sup>51</sup> and suspension<sup>52</sup> of licenses, delay in the annual license renewal process,<sup>53</sup> exclusion from courthouses,<sup>54</sup> restriction of movement,<sup>55</sup> restriction on speech,<sup>56</sup> and physical assault.<sup>57</sup> Authorities also conducted intrusive "inspections" in a number of law firms.<sup>58</sup> In September 2017, for example, at least seven law firms were subjected to inspection, with some on-site inspections reportedly lasting for days.<sup>59</sup> Observers said these inspections targeted law firms that engaged in rights defense work.<sup>60</sup>

#### *Citizen Petitioning*

The petitioning system (*xinfang*), also known as the "letters and visits system," has been a popular mechanism outside of the formal legal system for citizens to present their grievances to authorities, either in writing or in person.<sup>61</sup> The petitioning system reportedly has been ineffective in addressing citizens' grievances due to factors such as the large number of petitions,<sup>62</sup> the limited authority of local *xinfang* offices,<sup>63</sup> shortcomings in the accountability system,<sup>64</sup> and corruption.<sup>65</sup>

Chinese authorities experimented with measures to streamline the petitioning system that one scholar said may produce limited benefits. The State Bureau of Letters and Visits (the central-level government agency responsible for overseeing the petitioning system) expanded the online petitioning platform,<sup>66</sup> and central and local authorities formalized the reform of categorizing petition matters for the purpose of diverting certain cases to administrative or judicial resolution mechanisms.<sup>67</sup> One China-based scholar pointed out, however, that many petitioners from rural areas are unfamiliar with the online interface, and that adding a way of submitting petitions does not in itself enhance the petitioning system's capacity to resolve disputes.<sup>68</sup> In addition, the scholar noted that petitioners are not legally bound to use other methods to seek remedies, particularly when doing so would require increased cost and time.<sup>69</sup>

During this reporting year, petitioners continued to face official repression. Authorities detained petitioners, alleging criminal or administrative offenses including "disrupting order in a public place,"<sup>70</sup> "picking quarrels and provoking trouble,"<sup>71</sup> and "obstructing official business."<sup>72</sup> In addition, authorities reportedly detained petitioners in the period leading up to and during the 19th National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party in October 2017,<sup>73</sup> and the annual meetings of the National People's Congress and Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference in March 2018.<sup>74</sup>

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### *Legal Aid*

The legal aid system remained a state-controlled institution. State Council regulations specify that justice bureaus of local governments appoint legal aid organizations and administer legal aid programs through them.<sup>75</sup> Legal aid organizations may assign eligible applicants to in-house lawyers or make referrals to law firms, grassroots legal services, or other social organizations.<sup>76</sup> Lawyers are legally obligated to provide legal aid services and may be disciplined or fined for refusing to do so.<sup>77</sup>

While the government continued to expand the legal aid system, it further tightened the space for legal aid services not administered by the government. The Ministry of Justice spent 2.12 billion yuan (approximately US\$320 million) on legal aid programs during 2016, representing a 12.1 percent annual increase.<sup>78</sup> It further stated that the majority of provincial-level governments lowered the eligibility standard and expanded the scope of legal aid by covering civil matters, such as employment, family, food and drugs, education, and healthcare.<sup>79</sup> In January 2018, the All China Lawyers Association (ACLA), which is the national bar association<sup>80</sup> that works under the Ministry of Justice's direction,<sup>81</sup> issued a set of trial rules prohibiting lawyers from accepting cases at discounted rates or without fees, except for legal aid cases.<sup>82</sup> A China-based lawyer said he was concerned that the provision would prevent lawyers from providing pro bono legal services to disadvantaged individuals in cases of significant interest to the public.<sup>83</sup>

### *Judicial Reform Efforts*

Government and Party-directed reform efforts<sup>84</sup> have focused on improving the judiciary's capacity to process cases, while requiring that the judiciary remain an instrument of the Chinese Communist Party. In November 2017, Supreme People's Court (SPC) President Zhou Qiang reported to the National People's Congress Standing Committee that the judiciary made progress in completing or setting into motion judicial reform objectives—such as judicial responsibility and case opening reforms—laid out by the 18th Central Committee in 2013 and in the Third and Fourth Plenum Decisions in 2014.<sup>85</sup> Some legal experts observed that, rather than removing obstacles to delivering justice,<sup>86</sup> judicial reform efforts have focused on technically improving the efficiency<sup>87</sup> of the legal system, which central authorities continue to use as “a mechanism to constrain local-level functionaries . . . and repress dissent . . .”<sup>88</sup>

#### JUDICIAL APPOINTMENT AND MANAGEMENT

This past year, Chinese lawmakers deliberated legislative amendments in an effort to formalize reforms of the judicial appointment and management system.<sup>89</sup> The draft amendment of the PRC Organic Law of People's Courts provides that appointment of judges is subject to a quota assigned by the SPC based on the locality's population size, caseload, and other measurable factors.<sup>90</sup> Candidates would also undergo a merit-based selection process to qualify as judges.<sup>91</sup> The draft amendment of the PRC Judges Law raises the education threshold and generally requires prior judicial experience for promotion to higher courts.<sup>92</sup> Despite emphasis on

merit-based considerations, “high political quality” remained a selection requirement.<sup>93</sup>

#### PEOPLE’S ASSESSORS

The National People’s Congress Standing Committee (NPCSC) passed new legislation to improve lay participation in courts during this reporting year, though some observers said that pilot versions of this reform had been ineffective. People’s assessors, who do not need to be legally trained, participate in case adjudication alongside judges.<sup>94</sup> The previous system reportedly suffered from problems such as insufficient rotation of people’s assessors and lack of genuine participation, with one expert referring to people’s assessors as “decoration.”<sup>95</sup> In April 2018, the NPCSC passed the PRC People’s Assessors Law,<sup>96</sup> following nearly three years of pilot programs in 10 jurisdictions.<sup>97</sup> The new law requires that most people’s assessors be randomly selected, and it expands the current three-person panels to seven-person panels in certain types of cases, such as those involving food and drug safety, land expropriation, and environmental protection.<sup>98</sup> Some China-based scholars said that the random selection mechanism was the right step forward; some observed, however, that the pilot programs did not improve actual participation by people’s assessors in case adjudication.<sup>99</sup>

#### USE OF TECHNOLOGY

The judiciary used technology to facilitate court proceedings and enforcement, which are elements of access to justice.<sup>100</sup> In November 2017, Zhou Qiang reported that over 2,200 courts across China established Web-based litigation services, enabling litigants to complete transactions online, for example, to open a case, pay fees, examine evidence, and make court appearances.<sup>101</sup> In addition, in August 2017, the Supreme People’s Court implemented a Party-approved plan to establish the first “internet court” to handle litigation entirely online in certain internet-related disputes.<sup>102</sup> Zhu Shenyuan, Vice President of the Zhejiang Province High People’s Court, explained that the cross-jurisdictional and decentralized nature of online transactions presented challenges to the judicial system.<sup>103</sup> A scholar observed that the internet court could help litigants save on travel expenses and reduce overall litigation costs.<sup>104</sup> In July 2018, Zhou Qiang convened a Supreme People’s Court Judicial Reform Leading Small Group meeting during which an agenda for establishing additional internet courts in Beijing municipality and Guangdong province was passed.<sup>105</sup>

Zhou Qiang further reported that the judiciary’s online enforcement system was linked to the databases of over 10 government bodies, enabling it to track down judgment debtors’ property for the purpose of enforcement.<sup>106</sup> According to Zhou, judgment debtors’ information also was shared with the developing social credit system, which authorities could use to tighten social control, according to some observers.<sup>107</sup> [For more information on potential abuses of the social credit system, see Section III—Institutions of Democratic Governance and Commercial Rule of Law and Human Rights.]

In February 2018, the Supreme People’s Court issued provisions requiring courts, beginning in September, to use a unified online

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platform to disclose various stages of the litigation process, including case opening, process service, hearing date, and issuance of court documents.<sup>108</sup> Other aspects of the Supreme People's Court's efforts to improve disclosure of information included new online platforms for judicial documents and status of enforcement.<sup>109</sup>

### Notes to Section III—Access to Justice

<sup>1</sup>International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, adopted by UN General Assembly resolution 2200A (XXI) of 16 December 66, entry into force 23 March 76, arts. 2, 14, 26; Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted and proclaimed by UN General Assembly resolution 217A (III) of 10 December 48, arts. 7–8; Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary, adopted by the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders held at Milan from 26 August to 6 September 1985 and endorsed by General Assembly resolutions 40/32 of 29 November 1985 and 40/146 of 13 December 1985, arts. 1, 4; Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers, Adopted by the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Havana, Cuba, 27 August to 7 September 1990, preamble.

<sup>2</sup>PRC Constitution, issued 4 December 82, amended 12 April 88, 29 March 93, 15 March 99, 14 March 04, 11 March 18, art. 128.

<sup>3</sup>“Supreme People’s Court Work Report” [Zuigao renmin fayuan gongzuo baogao], 9 March 18.

<sup>4</sup>“Resumé of Supreme People’s Court President” [Zuigao renmin fayuan yuanzhang jianli], Xinhua, 18 March 18.

<sup>5</sup>“Supreme People’s Court Work Report” [Zuigao renmin fayuan gongzuo baogao], 9 March 18, sec. 8.

<sup>6</sup>Chen Zhong, “Thoughts on Strengthening and Improving Organizational Party Building Work” [Jiaqiang he gajin jiguan dangjian gongzuo de sikao], People’s Daily, 26 October 11; Chinese Communist Party Constitution, adopted 6 September 82, amended 1 November 87, 18 October 92, 18 September 97, 14 November 02, 21 October 07, 14 November 12, 24 October 17, art. 18. Zhou also stated in the 2017 SPC work report the judiciary’s submission to the Party’s direct supervision for ideological conformity. “Supreme People’s Court Work Report” [Zuigao renmin fayuan gongzuo baogao], 9 March 18, sec. 8.

<sup>7</sup>“Supreme People’s Court Work Report” [Zuigao renmin fayuan gongzuo baogao], 9 March 18, sec. 8; Zhang Hao, “Firmly Upholding Party’s Absolute Leadership Over People’s Courts” [Jianchi dang dui renmin fayuan de juegui lingdao], Legal Daily, 4 January 18.

<sup>8</sup>“Supreme People’s Court Work Report” [Zuigao renmin fayuan gongzuo baogao], 9 March 18; “CCP Central Committee and State Council Issued ‘Circular on Specialized Struggle To Eliminate Darkness and Evil’” [Zhonggong zhongyang guowuyuan fachu ‘guanyu kaizhan saohai chu’e zhuanxiang douzheng de tongzhi’], Xinhua, 24 January 18.

<sup>9</sup>See, e.g., Lin Yuanqin and Su Gongxin, “Jiangsu Acts Upon Hearing Order To Eliminate Darkness and Evil” [Saohei chu’e jiangsu wenling erdong], Xinhua Daily, 15 February 18; Du Yuquan, “Sichuan Announced Ten Main Targets in Elimination of Darkness and Evil” [Sichuan gongbu shi lei saohai chu’e zhongdian daji duixiang], Chengdu Economic Daily, 14 February 18; “Political Security Tops List of 12 Targeted Groups in ‘Elimination of Darkness and Evil’” [“Dahei chu’e” 12 lei zhongdian zhengquan anquan jushou], Radio Free Asia, 21 February 18.

<sup>10</sup>“China Focus: Fight Against Organized Crime Reflects Xi’s Governance Thought,” Xinhua, 27 January 18.

<sup>11</sup>“Elimination of Darkness and Evil’ Campaign Well Underway, Huge Disparity Between Recovered Ill-Gotten Money and Number of People Detained Raises Suspicion” [“Sao hei chu e” yundong ruhuo rutu zangkuan yu bei bu renshu xuanshu shou zhiyi], Radio Free Asia, 7 February 18; “New China ‘Crime’ Crackdown Targets Threats to Party Rule,” Associated Press, reprinted in Voice of America, 15 March 18; “Thousands Arrested in Elimination of Darkness and Evil Struggle in China, Shandong’s Order to Local Authorities Raises Controversy” [Zhongguo saohai chu’e douzheng shuqian ren beibu shandong gei jiceng xia zhibiao yin zhengyi], BBC, 9 February 18. See also James T. Areddy, “Xinjiang Arrests Nearly Doubled in ‘14, Year of ‘Strike-Hard’ Campaign,” Wall Street Journal, China Real Time Report (blog), 23 January 15; Sharon LaFraniere and Jonathan Ansfield, “Crime Crackdown Adds to Scandal Surrounding Former Chinese Official,” New York Times, 26 March 12; Philip P. Pan, “China Strikes Hard at Criminals, Dissidents,” Washington Post, 11 May 01.

<sup>12</sup>Cai Changchun, “Lawyers Must Actively Participate in Struggle To Eliminate Darkness and Evil and To Lawfully Commence Defense Representation Work in Cases Involving Dark Forces” [Lushi yao jiji canyu saohai chu’e zhuanxiang douzheng yifa kaizhan shexian hei’e shili fanzui anjian bianhu daili], Legal Daily, 1 February 18.

<sup>13</sup>Ibid.

<sup>14</sup>“All China Lawyers Association Established Elimination of Darkness and Evil Committee, Profession Worries Officials Will Control Defense” [Quanguo luxie chengli saohai yewu weiyuanhui yejie you guanfang caokong bianhu], Radio Free Asia, 5 February 18.

<sup>15</sup>See, e.g., Josh Chin and Te-Ping Chen, “China Targets Human-Rights Lawyers in Crackdown,” Wall Street Journal, 12 July 15; Human Rights Watch, “China: Secretly Detained Lawyers at Risk of Torture,” 20 July 15; Huang Qingchang and Zou Wei, “Revealing the Dark Secrets of ‘Rights Defense’ Incidents” [Jiekai “weiquan” shijian de heimù], Xinhua, 11 July 15.

<sup>16</sup>China Human Rights Lawyers Concern Group, “List of 42 Lawyers and Citizens Whose Cases Entered Criminal Prosecution Process” [42 ge jinru xingshi susong chengxu de lushi ji gongmin liebiao], 21 February 18.

<sup>17</sup>Ibid.; Lawyers’ Rights and Interests Concern Net, “Lawyers Xie Yang and Lin Qilei’s Request To Meet Wang Quanzhang Denied” [Xie yang he lin qilei lushi yaoqiu huijian wang quanzhang bei jujue], 20 April 18.

<sup>18</sup>UN Human Rights Council, “Tentative Timetable for the 31st Session of the UPR Working Group (5–16 November 2018),” last visited on 18 May 18.

<sup>19</sup>See, e.g., Human Rights in China, “Stakeholder Submission by Human Rights in China,” March 2018, para. 3; Lawyers’ Rights Watch Canada, “Joint Submission to the 31st Session of the Universal Periodic Review of China,” March 2018, paras. 12–22; Front Line Defenders, “Submission for Universal Periodic Review for the 31st session (November 2018),” 1 April 18.

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<sup>20</sup>Guo Baosheng, “Guo Baosheng: Lawyer Jiang Tianyong as I Know Him” [Guo baosheng: wo suo renshi de jiang tianyong lushi], Human Rights in China Biweekly, No. 205, 17 March 17. For more information on Jiang Tianyong, see the Commission’s Political Prisoner Database record 2011-00179.

<sup>21</sup>Cai Changchun, “Jiang Tianyong Publicly Sentenced at Changsha Intermediate Court in Inciting Subversion of State Power Case” [Jiang tianyong shandong dianfu guojia zhengquan an zai changsha zhong yuan yishen gongkai xuanpan], Legal Daily, 21 November 17.

<sup>22</sup>Ibid.

<sup>23</sup>Chinese Human Rights Defenders, “Xie Yang,” 6 September 16. For more information on Xie Yang, see the Commission’s Political Prisoner Database record 2015-00295.

<sup>24</sup>Chen Jian’gang, “Record of Meeting With Hunan Lawyer Xie Yang (One)” [Hunan xie yang lushi huijian jilu (yi)], reprinted in Rights Defense Network, 19 January 17; Chen Jian’gang, “Record of Meeting With Hunan Lawyer Xie Yang (Two)” [Hunan xie yang lushi huijian jilu (er)], reprinted in Rights Defense Network, 19 January 17.

<sup>25</sup>Josh Chin, “China Court Says Lawyer Retracts Torture Charge; Wife Calls Trial a Farce,” Wall Street Journal, 8 May 17.

<sup>26</sup>Zeng Yan, “Public Announcement of First Instance Trial Judgment in Case of Inciting To Subvert State Power Charge Against Xie Yang” [Xie yang shandong dianfu guojia zhengquan an yishen gongkai xuanpan], People’s Court Daily, 27 December 17.

<sup>27</sup>Rights Defense Network, “Lawyer Xie Yang’s Wife Chen Guiqiu: Reporting to President Xi Jinping—Lawyer Xie Yang Illegally Prevented From Crossing Border, Hope You Will Give Him Special Help” [Xie yang lushi qizi chen guiqiu: xiang xi jingping zhuxi huibao—xie yang lushi bei feifa bianjing kongzhi qidai nin de tebie bangzhu], 1 May 18.

<sup>28</sup>ChinaAid, “Case File Handled by Lawyer Xie Yang Photocopied, Chen Guiqiu Intends To Establish Hunan Overseas Report Center” [Lushi xie yang daili anjuan bei kaobei chen guiqiu ni chengli hunan haiwai jubao zhongxin], 9 May 18.

<sup>29</sup>Chinese Human Rights Defenders, “Wu Gan,” 11 March 16. For more information on Wu Gan, see the Commission’s Political Prisoner Database record 2010-00348.

<sup>30</sup>Liu Lan, “Public Announcement of First Instance Judgment in Case of Inciting To Subvert State Power Charge Against Wu Gan” [Wu gan dianfu guojia zhengquan an yishen gongkai xuanpan], People’s Court Daily, 27 December 17.

<sup>31</sup>“Court of Second Instance in Tufu’s Case Upholds Original Decision of Eight-Year Sentence” [Tufu ershen weichi banian tuxing yuanshen caijue], Radio Free Asia, 17 April 18.

<sup>32</sup>“Second Instance Hearing on Wu Gan’s Case Soon To Be Held, Father Xu Xiaoshun Placed Under Soft Detention” [Wu gan an er shen jiang kaiting fuqin xu xiaoshun bei ruanjin], Radio Free Asia, 16 April 18; “Court of Second Instance in Tufu’s Case Upholds Original Decision of Eight-Year Sentence” [Tufu ershen weichi banian tuxing yuanshen caijue], Radio Free Asia, 17 April 18.

<sup>33</sup>Chinese Human Rights Defenders, “Wang Quanzhang,” 22 January 16. For more information on Wang Quanzhang, see the Commission’s Political Prisoner Database record 2015-00278.

<sup>34</sup>Lawyers’ Rights and Interests Concern Net, “Lawyers Xie Yang and Lin Qilei’s Request To Meet Wang Quanzhang Denied” [Xie yang he lin qilei lushi yaoqiu huijian wang quanzhang bei jujue], 20 April 18.

<sup>35</sup>Rights Defense Network, “Fengrui Director Lawyer Zhou Shifeng, Lawyer Wang Quanzhang, and Intern Lawyer Li Shuyun of the 709 Crackdown Arrested on Suspicion of ‘Subverting State Power’” [709 dazhuabu shijian zhong fengrui suo zhuren zhou shifeng lushi, wang quanzhang lushi, shixi lushi li shuyun bei yi shexian “dianfu guojia zhengquan zui” pizhun daibu], 12 January 16.

<sup>36</sup>Lawyers’ Rights and Interests Concern Net, “Lawyers Xie Yang and Lin Qilei’s Request To Meet Wang Quanzhang Denied” [Xie yang he lin qilei lushi yaoqiu huijian wang quanzhang bei jujue], 20 April 18; Joanna Chiu, “1,000 Days on, Wife of ‘Vanished’ Chinese Lawyer Wang Quanzhang Marches 100 km for Answers,” Agence France-Presse, reprinted in Hong Kong Free Press, 5 April 18; Xiao Shan, “New Episode in Stability Maintenance: Chaoyang Aunties Participate in the Stability Maintenance Surveillance and Confinement of Li Wenzu” [Weiwen xin xianxiang: chaoyang dama canyu jiankong weiwen li wenzu], Radio France Internationale, 11 April 18.

<sup>37</sup>Xiao Shan, “New Episode in Stability Maintenance: Chaoyang Aunties Participate in the Stability Maintenance Surveillance and Confinement of Li Wenzu” [Weiwen xin xianxiang: chaoyang dama canyu jiankong weiwen li wenzu], Radio France Internationale, 11 April 18; Rights Defense Network, “Li Wenzu: Situation Bulletin on My Second Day of Soft Detention (April 11, 2018)” [Li wenzu: wo zao ruanjin dier tian qingkuang tongbao (2018 nian 4 yue 11 ri)], 11 April 18.

<sup>38</sup>For more information on Li Yuhuan, see the Commission’s Political Prisoner Database record 2017-00361.

<sup>39</sup>Chinese Human Rights Defenders, “Li Yuhuan,” 6 December 17.

<sup>40</sup>“Arrest for ‘709 Case’ Lawyer Li Yuhuan Approved, What on Earth Is ‘Picking Quarrels and Provoking Trouble?’” [“709 an” lushi li yuhan bei pibu “xunxin zishi” shige shenme gui?], Radio Free Asia, 16 November 17; “China Rights Lawyer Arrested, Outside World Suspects Deliberate Retaliation” [Zhongguo weiquan lushi beidaibu waijie zhiyi xuyi baofu], Voice of America, 16 November 17; Human Rights Campaign in China, “Detained for Picking Quarrels and Provoking Trouble by the Heping Branch of the Shenyang Public Security Bureau, Lawyer Li Yuhuan Tortured by Police Handling the Case” [Bei shenyang shi gong’anju heping fenju yi xunxin zishi zui jiya de li yuhan lushi zao ban’an jingcha nuedai], 10 November 17; Rights Defense Network, “Li Yuhuan’s Lawyers Li Boguang and Lin Qilei File Complaint for Subjecting Her to Torture and Abuse in Prison” [Li yuhan daili lushi li boguang lin qilei jiu bei qi bei xingxun bigong yu zhong nuedai tiqi konggao], 11 December 17.

<sup>41</sup>“Arrest for ‘709 Case’ Lawyer Li Yuhuan Approved, What on Earth Is ‘Picking Quarrels and Provoking Trouble?’” [“709 an” lushi li yuhan bei pibu “xunxin zishi” shige shenme gui?], Radio



Free Asia, 16 November 17; “China Rights Lawyer Arrested, Outside World Suspects Deliberate Retaliation” [Zhongguo weiquan lushi beidaibu wajie zhiyi xuyi baofu], Voice of America, 16 November 17; Human Rights Campaign in China, “Detained for Picking Quarrels and Provoking Trouble by the Heping Branch of the Shenyang Public Security Bureau, Lawyer Li Yuhuan Tortured by Police Handling the Case” [Bei shenyang shi gong’anju heping fenju yi xunxin zishi zui jiya de li yuhan lushi zao ban’an jingcha nuedai], 10 November 17.

<sup>42</sup>For more information on Wang Yu, see the Commission’s Political Prisoner Database record 2015-00252.

<sup>43</sup>“Fraud Charge Added Against Li Yuhuan, Son Criticizes Move as Attempt To Use Different Ways To Imprison Mother” [Li yuhan bei jakong zhajian zui er pi xiangfang shefa yao mu ruyu], Radio Free Asia, 15 March 18.

<sup>44</sup>Ma Xiao, “Ma Xiao: Investigation on the Lives of Mainland China Political Prisoners: Human Rights Lawyer Yu Wensheng (1 of 2)” [Ma xiao: zhongguo dalu zhengzhifan beiqiu shengya jishi diaocha: renquan lushi yu wensheng (shang)], Minzhu Zhongguo, 27 August 15; Ma Xiao, “Ma Xiao: Investigation on the Lives of Mainland China Political Prisoners: Human Rights Lawyer Yu Wensheng (2 of 2)” [Ma xiao: zhongguo dalu zhengzhifan beiqiu shengya jishi diaocha: renquan lushi yu wensheng (xia)], Minzhu Zhongguo, 6 September 15. For more information on Yu Wensheng, see the Commission’s Political Prisoner Database record 2014-00387.

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<sup>46</sup>“Yu Wensheng, Lawyer in ‘709 Case,’ Had License Revoked by Beijing Municipal Justice Bureau” [“709 an” daili lushi yu wensheng zao beijingshi sifa ju diaoxiao zhizhao], Radio Free Asia, 16 January 18.

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<sup>48</sup>Lawyers’ Rights and Interests Concern Net, “Police Says Yu Wensheng Terminated Representation by Two Defense Lawyers Xie Yang and Chang Boyang, Xu Yan Meets With Yu Wensheng” [Jingcha chuanchu yu wensheng jiechu xie yang he chang boyang er wei bianhuren xu yan jianguo yu wensheng], 23 April 18.

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<sup>54</sup>“Defense Lawyers Expelled From Shenzhen Courthouse, ‘Protecting Lawyers’ Rights’ Becomes Empty Talk” [Bianhu lushi zao zhuchu shenzhen fayuan “baozhang lushi quanyi” cheng kongtan], Radio Free Asia, 21 September 17; Rights Defense Network, “Ganzhou Intermediate People’s Court in Jiangxi Barred Retained Lawyer Chi Susheng From Making Appearance in Ming Jingguo Case” [Jiangxi ganzhoushi zhongji fayuan jing bu yunxu ming jingguo an weituo lushi chi susheng chuting], 16 November 17.

<sup>55</sup>“Chen Jian’gang Under [Authorities’] Control While in Xiamen Handling Case, Movement Again Restricted After Release” [Chen jian’gang dao xiamen ban’an shoukong huoshi hou xingdong zai shou zu’nao], Radio Free Asia, 5 September 17; “Disbarred Lawyer Tang Jitian Prohibited From Leaving Country En Route to Hong Kong for Medical Treatment” [Bei diaoxiao zhizhao lushi tang jitian fu gang zhibing bei jinzhi chujing], Radio Free Asia, 12 November 17.

<sup>56</sup>“Guangdong Lawyers Association Issues New Rule To Restrict Lawyers’ Online Speech” [Guangdong luxie xin gui xianzhi lushi wangluo yanlun], Radio Free Asia, 3 August 18.

<sup>57</sup>Lawyers’ Rights and Interests Concern Net, “Experienced Female Attorney Assaulted and Injured by Court Police When Handling Case in Xi’an Court, No Results After Six Months of Rights Defense” [Zishen nu lushi zai xi’an fayuan luzhi bei fajing dashang weiquan luige duo yue wu guo], 21 November 17; Civil Rights & Livelihood Watch, “Rights Defense Lawyer Lu Tingge Assaulted by Court Police in Huili County, Sichuan, Hospitalized” [Weiquan lushi lu tingge zai sichuan huili xian zao fajing ouda ruyuan], 17 November 17.

<sup>58</sup>See, e.g., “[Prelude to Crackdown?] Law Firm of Well-Known Rights Lawyer Mo Shaoping Subjected to Thorough PSB-Led Inspection” [[Daya qianzou?] zhuming weiquan lushi mo shaoping shiwusuo zao gong’an daidui checha], Apple Daily, 18 September 17; “Law Firm of Rights Lawyer Mo Shaoping, Who Previously Represented Liu Xiaobo and Pu Zhiqiang, Suddenly Subjected to ‘Special Inspection’” [Ceng wei liu xiaobo, pu zhiqiang bianhu weiquan lushi

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<sup>59</sup>Human Rights Watch, “China: Justice Ministry Pressures Law Firms,” 19 September 17; “Many Law Firms in China Inspected, Might Be Linked to Stability Maintenance for the 19th Party Congress” [Zhongguo duojia lusuo bei cha, yi yu 19 da weiben youguan], Voice of America, 22 September 17; “Multiple Beijing Agencies Formally Station [Themselves] in Daoheng Law Firm To Conduct Special Inspection” [Beijing duoge bumen zhengshi jinzhu daoheng lusuo zhankai zhuaxiang jiancha], Radio Free Asia, 19 September 17.

<sup>60</sup>“Many Law Firms in China Inspected, Might Be Linked to Stability Maintenance for the 19th Party Congress” [Zhongguo duojia lusuo bei cha, yi yu 19 da weiben youguan], Voice of America, 22 September 17; “Multiple Beijing Agencies Formally Station [Themselves] in Daoheng Law Firm To Conduct Special Inspection” [Beijing duoge bumen zhengshi jinzhu daoheng lusuo zhankai zhuaxiang jiancha], Radio Free Asia, 19 September 17; Human Rights Watch, “China: Justice Ministry Pressures Law Firms,” 19 September 17; “Law Firms in Guangdong, Guangxi, Chongqing, and Yunnan Forced To Suspend Operations Due to Inspections, Rights Defense Lawyers Worry Another Wave of Suppression” [Yue gui yu dian lusuo shoucha yao tingye weiquan lushi you lingyi bo daya], Radio Free Asia, 22 September 17; “Law Firm of Well-Known Chinese Rights Lawyer Mo Shaoping Searched Unexpectedly” [Zhongguo zhiming weiquan lushi mo shaoping shiwusuo tu zao sousuo], Apple Daily, 18 September 17.

<sup>61</sup>State Council, Regulations on Letters and Visits [Xinfang tiaoli], issued 5 January 05, effective 1 May 05; Benjamin L. Liebman, “A Populist Threat to China’s Courts?” in Chinese Justice: Civil Dispute Resolution in Contemporary China, eds. Margaret Y.K. Woo and Mary E. Gallagher (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011), 269–313; Liang Shibin, “Resolutely Fight To Win the Battle on Clearing Backlog of Petitioning Cases” [Jianjue da ying huajie xinfang jian gong jian zhan], Legal Daily, 27 April 16. Such grievances reportedly include cases concerning demolition or expropriation of property, social security, agriculture, land and resources, and environmental protection.

<sup>62</sup>See, e.g., Civil Rights & Livelihood Watch, “Beijing’s State Bureau of Letters and Visits Surrounded by Tens of Thousands of Petitioners” [Beijing guojia xinfangju bei shuwan shangfang minzhong baoweil], 26 February 18; “Over Ten Thousand Temporary Teachers From 29 Provinces and Municipalities Caused Another National Group Petitioning Movement” [29 shengshi yu wan ming minban jiaoshi zai xian shanguo jiti shangfang chao], Radio Free Asia, 19 October 16; “Two Thousand Petitioners From Shaanxi Went Petitioning at Provincial Letters and Visits Bureau, Ask for Release of Rights Defense Representative” [Shaanxi liangqian min shi sheng xinfangju shangfang yaoqiu shifang weiquan daibiao], Radio Free Asia, 13 April 17.

<sup>63</sup>See, e.g., Liu Yuguo, “Chengdu Establishes a New Platform for ‘Sunshine Petitioning’” [Chengdu dazao “yangguang xinfang” xin pingtai], People’s Daily, 4 May 16; Liu Guiying, “Problems and Improvements of the Grassroots Petitioning System” [Jiceng xinfang zhidu cunzai de wenti ji wanshan], People’s Tribune, 23 March 16; Xu Dandan, “Discussion of Shortcomings of China’s Petitioning System and Their Solutions” [Qiantan zhongguo xinfang zhidu de biduan ji qi jie jue tuijin], Feiyang Net, 27 February 16.

<sup>64</sup>State Bureau of Letters and Visits, “State Bureau of Letters and Visits Convenes Press Conference To Explain ‘Implementing Measures on Letters and Visits Accountability System’” [Guojia xinfang ju zhaokai xinwen tongqi hui jiedu “xinfang gongzuo zerenzhi shishi banfa”], 26 October 16.

<sup>65</sup>See, e.g., “Recording From Meeting To Maintain Social Stability Leaked, Identifies Petitioners as ‘Opposing the Party and Government’” [Weiwen huiyi luyin waixie dingxing shangfang shi “fan dang fan zhengfu” xingwei], Radio Free Asia, 15 May 18; “China’s Ruling Party in Nationwide Operation To Stop People Complaining About It.” Radio Free Asia, 5 March 18; Guo Hongmin, “Record-Deleting ‘Money-Hoarding Syndicate’ of State Bureau of Letters and Visits” [Guojia xinfangju de xiaohao “liancai tuan”], Prosecutorial View, 2 May 17.

<sup>66</sup>Bai Yang, “Nationwide Online Petitioning in 2017 Increased by Nearly 80 Percent in 2017” [2017 nian quanguo wangshang xinfang tongbi shangsheng jin 8 cheng], Xinhua, 24 January 18.

<sup>67</sup>Liang Shibin, “Handling Petition Matters by Categories Completely Rolled Out” [Fenlei chuli xinfang jizhi quanmian luodi], Legal Daily, 9 January 18; Liang Shibin, “27 Provinces Issues Rules for Handling Petitions by Categories” [27 sheng chutai xinfang suqiu fenlei chuli guicheng], Legal Daily, 10 September 17; State Bureau of Letters and Visits, Workflow Procedures for Lawfully Handling Petition Matters by Categories [Yifa fenlei chuli xinfang suqiu gongzuo guize], issued and effective 12 July 17.

<sup>68</sup>Lu Chao, “Paradox of Reform on Formalizing the Administrative Petition System” [Xingzheng xinfang fazhi hua gaige ji qi zhidu beilun], East China University of Political Science and Law Journal, No. 2 (2018), 108–09.

<sup>69</sup>Ibid., 109–10.

<sup>70</sup>See, e.g., “Detained After Being Reprimanded Three Times for Going to Beijing To Petition, Luoyang Zhao Lingzhou Sues Gaoxin Public Security” [Fu jing shangfang xunjie sanci bei juliu, luoyang zhao lingzhou qisu gaoxin gong’an], Boxun, 16 September 17.

<sup>71</sup>See, e.g., Civil Rights & Livelihood Watch, “Shandong Petitioner Li Yanxian Sentenced to Two and a Half Years for ‘Picking Quarrels and Provoking Trouble’” [Shandong fangmin li yanxian “xunxin zishi” panxing liangnian ban], 10 February 18.

<sup>72</sup>See, e.g., Rights Defense Network, “Guo Hongying Detained on ‘Obstructing Official Business’ Charge for Seeking Justice for Family, Father Guo Yinqi Has Freedom Restricted After Going to Beijing To File Complaint” [Guo hongying ti qinren shenyuan bei “fanghai gongwu zui” daibu, fuqin guo yinqi jinjing konggao bei xianzhi renshen ziyou], 5 April 18.

<sup>73</sup>See, e.g., “Petitioners in Beijing Face Examination and Detention Before 19th Party Congress” [Shijuda qian zai jing fangmin zao qingcha zhuabul], Radio Free Asia, 7 September 17;

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<sup>74</sup> See, e.g., Rights Defense Network, “Bulletin on Status of Rights Defenders From Different Localities Forcibly Disappeared and Detained During Two Sessions” [Lianghui qijian gedi weiquan renshi zao qiangpo shizong, juliu qingkuang tongbao], 18 March 18.

<sup>75</sup> State Council, Legal Aid Regulations [Falü yuanzhu tiaoli], issued 16 July 03, effective 1 September 03, arts. 4–5.

<sup>76</sup> State Council, Regulations on the Procedure of Handling Legal Aid Cases [Banli falü yuanzhu anjian chengxu guiding], issued 21 February 12, effective 1 July 12, arts. 8, 13, 20.

<sup>77</sup> PRC Lawyers Law [Zhonghua renmin gongheguo lushi fa], passed 15 May 96, amended 29 December 01, 28 October 07, 26 October 12, 1 September 17, effective 1 January 18, art. 47(5); State Council, Legal Aid Regulations [Falü yuanzhu tiaoli], issued 16 July 03, effective 1 September 03, art. 28(1); Xiao Xianfu, “Thoughts on Our Nation’s Legal Aid System” [Wo guo falü yuanzhu zhidu yu sikaol], Institute of International Law, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, last visited 10 July 18.

<sup>78</sup> Ministry of Justice, “30 Provinces Cover Civil Matters in Legal Aid Services” [30 ge shengfen jiang minsheng shixiang naru fa yuan fanwei], 28 September 17.

<sup>79</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>80</sup> PRC Lawyers Law [Zhonghua renmin gongheguo lushi fa], passed 28 October 07, effective 1 June 08, amended 26 October 12, 1 September 17, effective 1 January 18, art. 43.

<sup>81</sup> *Ibid.*, art. 4; All China Lawyers Association, “Introduction to the Association,” [Xiehui jieshao], last visited 5 December 17.

<sup>82</sup> All China Lawyers Association, “Rules on Lawyer Advertising (Trial)” [Zhonghua quanguo lushi xiehui lushi yewu tuiguang xingwei guize (shixing)], issued 6 January 18, effective 31 January 18, art. 10(8). See also Wang Lei, Nanjing Lawyers Association, “Comprehensive Interpretation of Rules on Lawyer Advertising (Trial)” [“Lushi yewu tuiguang xingwei guize (shixing)” quan jiedu], reprinted in All China Lawyers Association, 9 March 18. The article indicates that the regulations became effective on January 31, 2018.

<sup>83</sup> “New ACLA Regulation: Lawyers May Not Provide Free Legal Service” [Quanguo lu xie xin gui lushi bude tigong mianfei falü fuwu], Radio Free Asia, 12 March 18.

<sup>84</sup> Chinese Communist Party Central Committee, Decision on Several Major Issues in Comprehensively Advancing Governance of the Country According to Law [Zhonggong zhongyang guanyu quanmian tuijin yifa zhiguo ruogan zhongda wenti de jue ding], 28 October 14, sec. 4; “Xi Stresses Boosting Public Confidence in Judicial System,” Xinhua, 25 March 15; Luo Shuzhen, “Have Strength To Reform and Innovate, Continue To Improve Judicial Credibility, Allow the People in Each Judicial Case To Have the Feeling of Fair Justice” [Yongyu gaige chuangxin buduan tigao sifa gongxinli rang renmin qunzhong zai mei yi ge sifa anjian zhong dou ganshou dao gongping zhengyi], China Court Net, 8 May 15; State Council Information Office, “Progress in China’s Human Rights in 2014,” reprinted in Xinhua, 8 June 15, sec. IV. Chinese Communist Party Central Committee, Decision on Certain Major Issues Regarding Comprehensively Deepening Reforms [Zhonggong zhongyang guanyu quanmian shenhua gaige ruogan zhongda wenti de jue ding], issued 12 November 13 sec. 9(31)–(34); Chinese Communist Party Central Committee, Decision on Several Major Issues in Comprehensively Advancing Governance of the Country According to Law [Zhonggong zhongyang guanyu quanmian tuijin yifa zhiguo ruogan zhongda wenti de jue ding], issued October 2013, sec. 4(1)–(6). For further discussion on the Party’s Third and Fourth Plenum Decisions, see CECC, 2014 Annual Report, 9 October 14, 157–58; CECC, 2015 Annual Report, 8 October 15, 267–69.

<sup>85</sup> Zhou Qiang, “Supreme People’s Court’s Report on Status of Comprehensive Deepening of Judicial Reform by People’s Court” [Zuigao renmin fayuan guanyu renmin fayuan quanmian shenhua sifa gaige qingkuang de baogao], National People’s Congress, 1 November 17; Chinese Communist Party Central Committee, Decision on Several Major Issues in Comprehensively Advancing Governance of the Country According to Law [Zhonggong zhongyang guanyu quanmian tuijin yifa zhiguo ruogan zhongda wenti de jue ding], 28 October 14, sec. 4; Chinese Communist Party Central Committee, Decision on Certain Major Issues Regarding Comprehensively Deepening Reforms [Zhonggong zhongyang guanyu quanmian shenhua gaige ruogan zhongda wenti de jue ding], issued 15 November 13 sec. 9(32)–(34); Chinese Communist Party Central Committee, Decision on Several Major Issues in Comprehensively Advancing Governance of the Country According to Law [Zhonggong zhongyang guanyu quanmian tuijin yifa zhiguo ruogan zhongda wenti de jue ding], issued 28 October 13, sec. 4(1)–(6). For further discussion on the Party’s Third and Fourth Plenum Decisions, see CECC, 2014 Annual Report, 9 October 14, 157–158; CECC, 2015 Annual Report, 8 October 15, 267–69.

<sup>86</sup> Dui Hua Foundation, “The ‘Hidden Rules’ of China’s Criminal Justice System,” Dui Hua Human Rights Journal, 6 July 17; Stanley Lubman, “China’s ‘New Achievements’ in Legal Reform Exist More in Policy Than in Practice,” Asia Society, ChinaFile, 3 August 17.

<sup>87</sup> Zheping Huang, “Xi Jinping Promised Legal Reform in China, but Forget About Judicial Independence,” Quartz, 18 January 17.

<sup>88</sup> Susan Trevaskes, “China’s Party-Led Rule-of-Law Regime,” East Asia Forum, 2 October 17.

<sup>89</sup> National People’s Congress, “Authoritative Interpretation: Perfecting Organization of the ‘Two Institutions’ To Protect Judicial Justice” [Quanwei jiedu: wanshan “liangyuan” zuzhi tixi, baohang sifa gongzheng], 1 September 17, item 4; Ding Xiaoxi and Luo Sha, “Our National Plans To Amend Judges Law To Specify Establishment of Judicial Selection Committees” [Woguo ni xiugai faguan fa mingque sheli faguan linxuan weiyuanhui], Xinhua, 22 December 17.

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<sup>91</sup> Supreme People's Court, "Judicial Reform of Chinese Courts," 3 March 16.

<sup>92</sup> Ding Xiaoxi and Luo Sha, "Our Nation Plans To Amend Judges Law To Specify Establishment of Judicial Selection Committees" [Woguo ni xiugai faguan fa mingque sheli faguan linxuan weiyuanhui], Xinhua, 22 December 17.

<sup>93</sup> Li Zongcheng, "Correctly Understanding the Deep Meaning of Judicial Appointment Quota System Reform" [Zhunque bawo faguan yuan'e zhi gaige de shenke neihan], People's Court Daily, 10 April 18.

<sup>94</sup> PRC People's Assessors Law [Zhonghua renmin gongheguo renmin peishenyuan fa], passed and effective 27 April 18, arts. 2, 5; "China Plans To Give 'People's Assessors' Bigger Role in Court," Xinhua, 26 April 18. See also Wendy Zeldin, Law Library of Congress, "China: Revisions to Laws on Judges and Prosecutors Proposed," Library of Congress, Global Legal Monitor, 1 January 18.

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<sup>97</sup> National People's Congress Standing Committee, Decision To Authorize the Launching of People's Assessors System Reform Pilot Programs in Certain Localities [Quanguo renmin daibiao dahui changwu weiyuanhui guanyu shouquan zai bufen diqu kaizhan renmin peishenyuan zhidu gaige shidian gongzuo de jue ding], issued 24 April 15; National People's Congress Standing Committee, Decision on Extending the People's Assessors System Reform Pilot Program [Quanguo renmin daibiao dahui changwu weiyuanhui guanyu yanchang renmin peishenyuan zhidu gaige shidian qixian de jue ding], issued 27 April 17.

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<sup>100</sup> Asia-Pacific Rights and Justice Initiative, United Nations Development Programme, "Programming for Justice: Access for All," 2005, 71, 88.

<sup>101</sup> Zhou Qiang, "Supreme People's Court's Report on Status of Comprehensive Deepening of Judicial Reform by People's Court" [Zuigao renmin fayuan guanyu renmin fayuan quanmian shenhua sifa gaige qingkuang de baogao], National People's Congress, 1 November 17. See also He Xin, "First Attempt by Beijing Court System, Portable Smart Platform Enables Handling of Entire Litigation Process Online" [Beijing fayuan xitong de shouci changshi zhang shang zhihui pingtai zaixian quan liucheng ban'an], Beijing Morning Post, 11 January 18; Liu Xian, "The Entire Litigation Process Can Be Carried Out Online, Chongqing Court's 'Easy Litigation' Platform Goes Online" [Da guansi quan liucheng ke wangshang jinxing chongqing fayuan "yi su" pingtai shangxian], China News, 22 January 18; Ding Xiaoxi, "SPC's 'Smart Court Navigation System' Is Online and Operating" [Zuigao fa "zhihui fayuan daohang xitong" shangxian yunxing], Xinhua, 5 January 18; Zhang Yu and Yin Shen, "Creating 'Internet+' Litigation Service, Informatization Shows Distinguished Results" [Dazao "hulianwang+" susong fuwu xinxihua yingyong xiaoguo zhuzhu], People's Daily, 7 February 18; Lu Junyu, "Three Trends in Informatization in Chinese Courts, Smart Court Prototype Completed" [Zhongguo fayuan xinxihua jianshe cheng san ge xin taishi zhihui fayuan chubu jiancheng], Xinhua, 7 February 18.

<sup>102</sup> Xu Juan, "Internet Court: Litigating 'Key to Key'" [Hulianwang fayuan: "jian dui jian" da guansi], People's Daily, 6 September 17; Zhou Qiang, "Supreme People's Court's Report on Status of Comprehensive Deepening of Judicial Reform by People's Court" [Zuigao renmin fayuan guanyu renmin fayuan quanmian shenhua sifa gaige qingkuang de baogao], National People's Congress, 1 November 17.

<sup>103</sup> Xu Juan, "Internet Court: Litigating 'Key to Key'" [Hulianwang fayuan: "jian dui jian" da guansi], People's Daily, 6 September 17.

<sup>104</sup> Ibid.

<sup>105</sup> Zhou Bin, "Conscientiously Perform Preparatory Work for Adding Beijing and Guangzhou Internet Courts" [Qieshi zuo hao zengshe beijing guangzhou hulianwang fayuan gongzuo], Legal Daily, 19 July 18.

<sup>106</sup> Zhou Qiang, "Supreme People's Court's Report on Status of Comprehensive Deepening of Judicial Reform by People's Court" [Zuigao renmin fayuan guanyu renmin fayuan quanmian shenhua sifa gaige qingkuang de baogao], National People's Congress, 1 November 17.

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