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RENMIN LAW SCHOOL DELEGATION ANNOUNCED "ANNUAL REPORT ON THE LEGAL DEVELOPMENT IN CHINA" IN THE U.S. AND GAVE SPEECHES IN PHILADELPHIA AND WASHINTON DC

Renmin University of China Law School delegation went the U.S. in April 2014 and participated in a one-day conference in Philadelphia held by the University of Pennsylvania (UPenn) Law School and a half-day seminar in Washington DC held jointly by the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI)and UPenn Law School. The delegation is composed of Professor Han Danyuan, Dean of the Renmin Law School, Professor Zhu Jingwen, Chair of the Academic Committee, Professor He Jiahong, Director of Evidence Law Research Center, Professor Shi Yan'an, the Vice Dean of the Renmin Law School, Associate Professor Lu Haina, Director of Human Rights Program, and Ms. Xu Fei, Project coordinator of the International Office.

The conference in Philadelphia was held on April 21, 2014, titled as "The State of Legal Development in China: Issues and Evidence." Started with opening remarks by Professor Jacques DeLisle from the UPenn Law School and Professor Han Dayuan, the conference was followed by Professor Zhu Jinwen's introduction to the annual report on the legal development of China, who is the principle editor. Since 2007, Renmin Law School has produced regular comprehensive reports documenting the state of legal development in China. These annual reports compile relevant data and provide empirically grounded assessments of the state of the legal system in China, China's evolving legal culture and norms and the rule of law in the Chinese context. After the introduction, three panels were held.

During the first panel "Legal Education and the Legal Profession," Professor Zhu Jingwen gave a presentation "An Analysis of the Professionalization of Lawyers in China," examined the developments and challenges of the profession of lawyer in the past decades in China, and Professor Han Dayuan gave a speech on "Legal Education and the Development of the Rule of Law in China," discussing issues including the role of law schools in legal education and rule of law. Professor Robert Reinstein, Mark Trubek, Carl Minzner offered their comments such as on the employment of law school graduates in China, and compared the legal education and law school management in the U.S. and China.

The second panel was on "Current Issues in Criminal Justice Reform." Professor He Jiahong gave a speech on "Wrongful Convictions and Judicial Reform in China,"

analyzing the causes of wrongful convictions and the legislative and judicial developments in this area. Professor Shi Yan'an presented "Ending Reeducation through Labor and the Issue of Preventive Detention" and analyzed the adjustment of crime prevention mechanism after the cease of the Reeducation-through-Labor system. Professor Markus Dubber, Margaret Lewis, and Martin Flaherty commented on each speech from comparative and cross-disciplinary perspectives.

The third panel was titled as "Rights and the Rule of Law." Associate professor Lu Haina gave a presentation on "The Development of Anti-discrimination Law in China," presented the legislative developments in anti-discrimination area, the common grounds of discrimination and the role of civil society in promoting equality in China. Professor Han Dayuan spoke about "Emerging Issues in Property Rights Protection," examined the scope and limits of the property rights in the Chinese constitution, and analyzed reform proposals and challenges with the protection of property rights. Professor Cynthia Estland, Donald Clarke, and Serena Mayeri interacted with two speakers with comments and questions, such as how to clarify the concept of "property" in the Chinese constitution and how the right to sue can have deterrent effect on discrimination.

The half-day seminar was held at the Court of Appeal for the Federal Circuit in Washington DC on April 22, 2014. The seminar was started with introductory remarks by Judge Timothy Dyk from the Court of Appeal for the Federal Circuit, Ms. Jennifer Rasmussen, Asia Division Director of the ABA ROLI, Professor Han Dayuan and Professor Jacques DeLisle. Two panels were organized respectively on "Rights and Litgation in China: a dialogue on property rights, social insurance rights and civil litigation rates," and "Prospects for Criminal Justice Reform and the Roles of Lawyers in China: a dialogue on wrongful convictions and the death penalty and the professionalization of lawyers." Some new topics were covered, such as Professor Shi Yan'an's "New Development of Death Penalty Reform and Debates," Professor Zhu Jingwen's "Behind More Litigation." Neysun Mahboubi from the UPenn Law School and Mr. Kyle Latimer from the U.S. Department of Justice offered their comments.

At both events, Renmin Law School speakers had intensive interaction with commentators and audience, taking challenging questions and exchanging opinions and understandings. The events were proved productive and fruitful for both Renmin law school scholars and U.S. counterparts and provided important platforms for exchanging ideas and establishing academic contacts and future cooperation.

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