

Chronology of Events

- 1949 founding of the People's Republic of China
establishment of the Ministry of Justice
beginning of the purge of Republican lawyers
- 1954 establishment of new system of lawyers on an experimental basis
- 1955 establishment of the Beijing Bureau of Justice
establishment of local lawyer associations
- 1956 Hundred Flowers Campaign
- 1957 Anti-Rightest Movement
purge of lawyers and the reconsolidation of law firms
- 1959 elimination of the Ministry of Justice
- 1966 launch of Cultural Revolution
purge of all remaining lawyers
- 1976 death of Mao Zedong
end of Cultural Revolution
- 1978 rise of Deng Xiaoping to top leadership position
- 1979 re-establishment of the Ministry of Justice
revision of the *Criminal Law* in which lawyers are given an official function and status
- 1980 re-establishment of the Beijing Lawyers Association
re-establishment of the Beijing Bureau of Justice
passage of the *Provisional Regulations on Lawyers*
Gang of Four trials
- 1986 establishment of the All-China Lawyers Association
first national lawyers examination
- 1988 introduction of the cooperative law firm
- 1992 Deng Xiaoping's Southern Tour (*Nan Xun*) speeches calling for greater privatization
establishment of the partnership law firm
first year lawyers examination held annually
- 1998 administrative reforms pushing privatization of the state sector, including state-owned law firms
- 2001 final drive to privatize law firms under the "unhook from the state" (*tuogou*) campaign