

Conceptualizing Greater Bay Area Law and Legal Culture

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Abstract

The Greater Bay Area (GBA) initiative has evolved since 2017 and become a topic of much discussion in recent times. It is widely acknowledged that law plays an important role in the implementation of this exciting project, that the building of the GBA has significant legal implications and offers enormous opportunities to the legal industry. However, fundamental questions relating to GBA law and legal culture remain greatly under-researched as of today. This article aims to fill the gap at least partly by conceptualizing the notions of GBA law and GBA legal culture, thereby setting the scene for the analysis of more specific legal issues arising in the GBA context. The article is divided into three parts. The first part offers brief general background information on the GBA. The second part first considers the notion and current status of GBA law and then discusses the possibility of creating new GBA law. The third part focuses on the legal culture(s) within the GBA. It first explores definitional questions before analyzing the significance of legal culture in the GBA context. It then discusses the possibility of creating a GBA legal culture and how practical issues arising in that context could potentially be addressed. The article concludes with a summary and general remarks concerning the future of GBA law and legal culture.

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