The School of Law Research Retreat was successfully held on 10 September 2018 at Royal Plaza Hotel. This year, three guest speakers including Professor Toni WILLIAMS (Head of Kent Law School, University of Kent), Professor Christian WAGNER (Chair Professor of Social Media, School of Creative Media, City University of Hong Kong) and Professor Richard M. WALKER (Chair Professor, Department of Public Policy, City University of Hong Kong) were invited to share their views on grant capture. The Research Retreat kicked off with a welcome speech by Dr. Mark KIELSGARD (Associate Professor, School of Law, City University of Hong Kong). He gave a brief talk on the strategies to succeed in the forthcoming Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). Dr. KIELSGARD also encouraged staff to polish their proposal and probe deeper in their research to get a better score in RAE.

Dr. CHEN Lei (Associate Dean, School of Law, City University of Hong Kong) and Professor Kelvin LOW (Professor, School of Law, City University of Hong Kong) also shared some views on publication and conference strategies. Dr. CHEN encouraged staff to get potential research outputs published or accepted for publication before the cut-off date of RAE 2020, and emphasized the importance of framing and structure for writing research proposals. Professor LOW shared some technical skills in publishing, including the pros and cons of writing case notes, differences between solely written and co-written research outputs and etc. He also suggested staff to attend conferences and treasure opportunities to build networks with scholars from different institutions.
Professor WILLIAMS shed light on a strategic approach for grant capture. The key factors that compels the panel to support a research project includes (i) importance of the project, (ii) credibility of researcher, (iii) value of the project and (iv) probability for the project to succeed. She also shared how to frame and restructure a research proposal to make it more competitive.

Professor WAGNER highlighted the composition of Research Grants Council (RGC), panel membership and overall funding results in 2018-19. He then proposed a list of criteria in writing an appealing research proposal.

Professor WALKER gave a short talk on the importance of grants to arts, law and social sciences scholars. He emphasized the value of grants and the spending on grants. He pointed out that managing a grant is similar to running a small business, and resources and implementation are the key to drive a grant.
Dr. Julia TOMASSETTI (Assistant Professor, School of Law, City University of Hong Kong), Dr. Peter CHAN (Assistant Professor, School of Law, City University of Hong Kong) and Dr. Daniel PASCOE (Assistant Professor, School of Law, City University of Hong Kong) presented their research proposals and draft paper on various topics. Staff advanced their opinions and were in the midst of lively discussions after the presentations.

The day ended with closing remarks from Professor Geraint HOWELLS (Dean and Chair Professor of Commercial Law, School of Law, City University of Hong Kong). He thanked Dr. KIELSGARD for organizing the Research Retreat and all the participants for their presence. He appreciated the constructive comments given by colleagues. He welcomed colleagues to discuss with him if they need support and encouraged colleagues to take advantage of what the School can offer to add value to their research.