### Chronology of Events

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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| 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 |