

CHINA CROSSROADS

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10 Major Ways the Chinese Courts Have Changed in the Past 30 Years

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When our speaker first started researching the Supreme People's Court over 30 years ago, the foreign "China law experts" doubted it was worth her time. Her 1993 long academic article introducing China's top court's role and operation dispelled any doubts. Her observations of that court over 30+ years enables her to take a long-term view of the major changes to the Chinese courts: (1) many more judges and more professional, (2) many more courts that are much busier, (3) more specialized, (4) more digitalized, (5) more transparent, (6) more involved with law-making, (7) more use of case guidance, (8) more protective of defendant's rights, (9) more concerned with the environment, and (10) more international.

[Susan Finder](#) is a scholar of China's judicial system focusing on the evolution of the Supreme People's Court. She is Distinguished Scholar in Residence at the Peking University School of Transnational Law, as well as Visiting Fellow at the Centre for Comparative and Public Law of the University of Hong Kong. She is also a member of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations, as well as a member of the expert committees of the Supreme People's Court's China International Commercial Court and the Shanghai international Commercial Court. She is also on the panel of arbitrators of several Chinese arbitration institutions, including the Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration and the China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission. Much of her scholarship is published on her blog, the Supreme People's Court Monitor. The Harvard Law School Law Library lists the blog as one of the best resources for Chinese legal research. She received her undergraduate degree from Yale, her Juris Doctor degree from Harvard Law School, and a Master of Laws from Columbia Law School.

[China Crossroads](#) hosts talks on all topics related to China, including business, foreign policy, and other areas as they relate to China, the idea being that China is both already a "crossroads" of the world and itself at a "crossroads" in terms of its future global influence. For more information, contact Frank Tsai at editor@shanghai-review.org.