The Cut-off Household as a Legal Issue in Traditional China

Yeong-huei Hsu

General Education Center, Kainan University

Abstract

This paper intends to trace the origin and development of hujue 戶絕 (Cut-off Household), a traditional legal term, starting from the Tang dynasty all the way down to the Qing. This legal term also represented a social phenomenon in different times. In the Song dynasty, hujue was often discussed on official and other legal documents probably because it was deemed a significant issue; however, it had drawn less attention of the authorities of later dynasties. The author tries to delve into the development of Cut-off Household as a legal issue, and offers some viewpoints and interpretations.

Keywords: hujue, Cut-off Household, inheritance, traditional Chinese laws

Corresponding author: Assistant Professor, General Education Center, Kainan University, 1, Kainan Rd., Luzhu Township, Taoyuan County 338, Taiwan.
Tel: +886-3-3412500 ext. 6257
Fax: +886-3-3414428
E-mail: yonghui@mail.knu.edu.tw