

Standing Committee on Member Services



THE
LAW SOCIETY
OF HONG KONG
香港律師會

2018

The Standing Committee on Member Services formulates and oversees the implementation of strategies and programmes that enhance members' benefits and interests. It is the Standing Committee's mission to provide the best benefit for our members and to unite them with a common goal of developing the legal markets locally and internationally. The Standing Committee also makes recommendations to other Standing Committees on issues pertaining to members' legal practice. The Standing Committee met nine times in 2018.

Online Registration and Payment System

During the year, the Standing Committee commissioned the InnoTech Committee to revisit the terms and conditions of various payment gateways to improve The Law Society's services to members. The recommendation to introduce Paypal as the payment gateway was endorsed by the Council.

During the year, the Standing Committee oversaw the development of the online registration and payment system. The system will enable members and other users to register and pay for Law Society's events and activities online. The system will be launched in 2019.

Members' Quarterly Lunch Gatherings

The Standing Committee introduced the idea of quarterly gatherings for more interactions with members on topical issues with the view to assist general members to meet their demands in practice. Two gatherings were successfully held in 2018:

- **“eBelt and Road Arbitration and Mediation (eBRAM)” on 21 June**

Mr. Nick Chan, Council Member & Chairman of the Steering Committee, eBRAM Centre spoke to members on how eBRAM could improve Hong Kong's unique position as a deal-maker in Belt and Road projects and a major contributor in legal and professional services, and how members could take part in and benefit from this innovative operation. 60 members attended the gathering.

- **“How to Start Up your Arbitration Practice” on 6 December**

Mr. Huen Wong, Past President & Chairman of Arbitration Committee, and Mr. John Lee and Ms. Heidi Chui, members of Arbitration Committee and arbitrators of different seniority, shared with members on how they started their arbitration practices, and their respective tips in practising arbitration. 92 members attended the gathering.

Members' Forum and Dinner Gathering

The Standing Committee organised one large scale Members' Forum and Dinner Gathering on 13 November. The topic this year was “*Embracing diversity and inclusion in Hong Kong legal workplace*” and members made useful submissions thereon.

Members were also invited to share their views on the proposed amendments to the Legal Practitioners Ordinance and its subsidiary legislation governing the practice of foreign firms and foreign lawyers in Hong Kong.

At the “*Dialogue with the President: What Can We Do for You?*” session, members raised questions on the floor and the President, together with Vice-Presidents and other Council members, gave answers on the spot.

IN-HOUSE LAWYERS COMMITTEE

In-house lawyers (“IHLs”) are mainly members not in private practice and work in a legal capacity in commerce, trading, industrial, financial, educational, governmental or nonprofit sectors. The In-House Lawyers Committee (“IHLC”) works towards supporting the in-house legal profession in Hong Kong by creating a platform for sharing of experiences and resources, exchanging of views and ideas in relation to the role of IHLs. Another main objective of IHLC is to provide opportunities to facilitate and foster the relationship between IHLs and members in private practice. The Committee convened five meetings over the year.

The 2018 Annual Conference of In-House Lawyers was held in June. This popular event has been running for seven years and this year, the conference revolved around the theme of technology, one of the hottest topics in almost every aspect of today’s business world. The Conference attracted over 400 legal professionals, with the majority being IHLs from various sectors and industries. Speakers and panelists were invited to share their insights on various topics related to the theme including artificial intelligence, blockchain, eSports, fintech, and cyber security.

IHLC has also organised panel discussions under the series entitled “Sweat & Glory” where speakers were invited to share experience and knowledge on the following topics which were pertinent to the daily work and career development of IHLs:

- “Equality in Workplace”
- “The ‘Sweat & Glory Express’: Responding to Change – Legal and Technology Trend in Supply Chain”
- “Managing Legal Issues in the Hospitality Industry”

In September, the Committee organised a visit to the production plant of Lee Kum Kee (Xin Hui) Food Co., Ltd (“LKK”) in Xin Hui. The day trip consisted of a campus tour in LKK followed by a sharing session by LKK’s in-house legal department on their structure and operation. Around 20 members joined the visit.

INNOTECH COMMITTEE

The Innotech Committee provides technology knowhow and services to members as well as innovative ways of applying ICT to Law Firms and legal services. It met six times.

During the year, the Committee continued its exchanges with technology-related bodies to establish collaboration with The Law Society:

- (a) Meeting with HSBC Retail Banking & Wealth Management concerning the then newly launched PayMe App, use of chatbot and blockchain in the banking industry.
- (b) Joint meeting with Innovation and Technology Bureau and Department of Justice on electronic certification of documents, online dispute resolution platforms, Hong Kong's Smart City Blueprint etc.

The Committee joined hands with Hong Kong Science & Technology Parks (“HKSTP”) to introduce ‘Industry Connect’, a programme where HKSTP companies demonstrated their latest innovations in artificial intelligence, cyber security, smart office, robotics technology and other solutions to our members/firms. The demonstration was held in April which was well received by members.

The Technology Roadmap

In December 2017, the Committee produced a Roadmap outlining what The Law Society should do to assist the profession to take advantage of the technology, the relevant timeframe and the cost. The Roadmap also identified a few product deliverables to be further considered in 2018.

To ensure that the Roadmap deliverables will suit the needs of members especially small law firms, the Committee conducted a Law Firm Technology Survey on all law firms in September. The Committee received a 6.3% response rate. The survey results assisted the Committee in identifying tools which law firms considered relevant and useful for them to adapt to the changing legal landscape, including electronic document retention, introducing digitalization in legal practice, as well as more technology related training seminars for both lawyers and support staff.

In mid December, the Council was invited to consider whether to endorse the proposals put forward in the Roadmap. The Council expressed support for putting in resources to assist members to take advantage of technology and identified a few matters for further consideration by the Committee.

Access to Justice Innotech Law Hackathon

The Committee’s innovative idea of hosting a Law Hackathon, a competition for young professionals, students, and interested members, on designing and developing technology-enabled solutions to improve access to justice, was put into action in 2018. The Access to Justice Innotech Law Hackathon (“A2J Hackathon”) was held in April 2018. This was the first legal hackathon in Asia organised by a legal professional body and the first hackathon in Asia with an "access to justice" theme. Over 120 legal professionals, I.T. experts and students gathered together at the event to apply their expertise, knowledge and skills to design technology-enabled solutions to address different access to justice issues. The team which introduced a guide for litigants in person in Small Claims Tribunal, was crowned Champion.

A Post-Competition Workshop x Meetup was held in June 2018 for the hackathon participants to exchange views about the solutions developed and their plans on the next stages of development.

InnoTech Law Hackathon: The Belt & Road Justice Challenge

Building on the success of the A2J Hackathon, the Committee held the "InnoTech Law Hackathon: The Belt & Road Justice Challenge" ("BRJ Hackathon") in late September 2018. Over 150 participants, representing over 30 teams, attended. The BRJ Hackathon focused on developing technology-based solutions to improving access to legal services in the Belt & Road Region. The Champion team created a free online tool that provides holistic assistance to sexual harassment victims encountering difficulties outside Hong Kong.

Online Registration and Payment System ("the System")

In mid 2018, the Committee revisited the terms and conditions of various payment gateways and invited the Council to consider the adoption and development of Paypal. The recommendation was endorsed and the System will be launched in 2019. The System will be accessible via the Law Society's webpage and the App.

Information Security Guidelines for Legal Practitioners

In September, the Committee issued the Information Security Guidelines which represent the Law Society's views of good practice in the area of information security.

Seminars

The Committee recommended the following topics/courses to The Academy of Law which will be organised in 2019:

- (a) Cryptocurrency
- (b) Introduction to Python

Others

During the year, the Committee further:

- (a) considered the use of artificial intelligence in e-discovery as well as other areas;
- (b) considered Big Data and its influence in the legal profession;
- (c) made recommendations for proposed amendments to the Law Society's Guidance Note on '*Storage and Destruction of Old Files*';
- (d) made recommendations to the Working Party on Virtual Office; and
- (e) considered how modern technology can enhance efficiencies of SME firms, and worked jointly with the Working Party for SME Firms on a sharing session to be held in early 2019.

Apps and their Applications

The Law Society's App has cumulated 7,195 downloads on iOS and Android devices since its release in 2013. In 2017, there were 843 new activations and the "hit rate" of instances of members clicking within the App reached 1 million.

To enable members to check their event registration and attendance status/history from time to time, the Committee approved the recommendation of the Working Group on Law Society's App for the development of Virtual Membership Card ("Virtual Card") with individualised QR code embedded. The Virtual Card feature was rolled out in 2018.

The functions of the Virtual Card will continue to expand to include course enrolment and attendance of CPD/RME in due course.

WORKING GROUP ON THE LAW SOCIETY'S APP

Are you one of the 5,972 active users who have already downloaded The Law Society's mobile App ("the mobile App") for your iOS or Android device? There were 1,360 new activations in year 2018 alone. Are you one of regular users who together interacted with the App over 1.3 million times in 2018 alone to read *Hong Kong Lawyer*, see the President's Message, search the members database, download event photos, keep track of and sign up for numerous recreation, sports, members' benefit events and CPD courses and add to your calendar with a simple click? Thank you for contributing to the success of the mobile App --- the first of its kind introduced by law societies around the world. We have listened to your suggestions and continued to improve its functionality since its first release in 2013.

To improve the onsite registration process, the Working Group initiated to develop the Virtual Card as the enhanced feature in the mobile App. The Virtual Card was launched in August. Its layout is identical to that of the physical membership card, with the unique member's QR code. Full members and trainee solicitors can present the Virtual Card for onsite registration of Law Society's CPD and RME courses as well as relevant events. The Working Group will continue to expand the functions of the Virtual Card where applicable and consider other features for future enhancement.

On 28 September, on the occasion of The Law Society's 2nd Belt & Road Conference, a survey titled "Survey on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in the Legal Market" was made available on the mobile App so as to collect members' views on the future use of technologies within the legal profession.

To encourage increased use of the mobile App, the Working Group has been actively promoting the mobile App as an effective platform for various Committees/working parties/working groups to advertise their events, collect views/suggestions/comments on specific issues and accept event registration via mobile App form. The Members & Family Fun Day and Swimming Gala continued to adopt mobile App registration form as the sole enrollment method. The mobile App form is well received by members.

To make things easier for you, the online payment and registration system will be introduced in 2019 and accessible via the App.

LAW FIRM TECHNICAL SUPPORT INTEREST GROUP

The Committee formed a Law Firm Technical Support Interest Group for members, trainee members and law firm technical support staff. Its main function is to provide a forum for sharing of experience and resources and exchange of views relating to technological issues in legal practice.

MEMBER BENEFIT COMMITTEE

The Committee works towards identifying services and benefits for Law Society members. The Committee's work ranges from improving personal well-being of members to business promotion and development for the profession. The Committee also makes recommendations on promotion items received by The Law Society from time to time. The Committee also promotes the overall wellness of members via creating and implementing various types of wellness programmes and activities.

Seminars, workshops and visits

The Committee organised the following workshops, seminars and visits on a variety of topics, a number of which were newly introduced this year:

- In celebration of Chinese New Year, a turnip cake workshop was held on 10 February.
- To promote healthy living, the Committee arranged two free fitness workshops on 14 April and 21 April for members to experience functional training.
- In celebration of Mother's Day, a LED preserved flowers workshop was held on 5 May.
- A luncheon talk on stress management was held on 6 July.
- A balloon twisting workshop was held on 21 July for members and their children.
- In celebration of mid-autumn festival, a mooncake workshop was held on 15 September.

The Law Society's Annual Christmas Party 2018

The Annual Christmas Party was successfully held on 13 December by the Committee. Over 150 members and guests celebrated the festive season under the theme of "Bling Bling Christmas".

The Party kicked-off with Christmas carol performance by President, some Council Members and MBC members. The audience was blown away by the remarkable music performance by the Law Society live band TLF and VIP band. Members and guests enjoyed the food and drinks while happily posing at the photo booth to capture the good memories. To match the party theme and compete for the Best Dressed competition, lots of

members and guests dressed up in glittering outfits to catch everyone's eyes. The party reached its climax when members participated in exciting games and attractive prizes were given out.

Programme for Members' Children

The Committee organised a guided visit to the Coca-Cola Hong Kong Plant for members' children on 11 August. Members and their children were led to two production lines to witness the procedures of manufacturing soft drinks and bottled water. The tour guide then introduced the history of the Coca-Cola Hong Kong Plant and showed members furniture and home appliances which were made with recycled bottles and soft drink cans. The participants were also led to the Coca-Cola's museum which contained many special collections of the branded drink, where they took part in discovering the history of Coca-Cola through a video, whilst enjoying a complimentary treat of "Coca-Cola" towards the end of the visit.

The Law Society's Credit Card

The Committee continued its collaboration with American Express on the "The Law Society American Express Platinum Card" ("the Card"). The application of the Card has been extended to trainee solicitors since November.

Other Benefits/Events offered by the Committee

The Committee continued to source and/or offer an exclusive range of products and services for the benefit of members throughout the year. The year round benefits under the six categories, namely Culture & Lifestyle; Dine & Wine; Education & Learning; Health & Leisure; Household & Living and IT products & services were available on Law Society's website and Law Society's App for members' easy reference. Other benefits included exclusive guided tour to Hong Kong International Jewellery Show and complimentary tickets to travel expo.

PRACTICE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Practice Management Committee is dedicated to serving members in best-practice endeavours. The scope of its work includes providing guidance to members on the opportunities and risks arising from the business of law practice, and on formulating strategies to expand law practice, manage risks in practice, enhance services to clients, motivate staff and manage finance and information. It aims to help law firms to achieve practice management excellence. It formulates guidelines and practice manuals and organises training programmes, seminars and conferences on practice management. The Committee met two times this year.

RME Practice Management Course

Section 6(6B) of the *LPO* has been amended to include a requirement that solicitors who intend to apply for an unconditional practicing certificate must satisfy the Council, in addition to compliance with the two-year employment requirement, that they have successfully completed a practice management course provided or approved by The Law Society (“the Course”). The Committee had finalised the Course materials in 2016.

In 2017, the Council resolved conducting the Course on a trial basis as an RME elective and reviewing the feedback before determining whether the Course should be made mandatory.

The Committee assisted The Academy of Law in interviewing and selecting the trainers of the Course. All trainers were selected in late 2018. The Course will be rolled out in 2019.

Helping Members to Manage and Grow their Businesses

The Committee has, with the assistance of The College of Law Australia & New Zealand (“the College of Law”), prepared the Practice Management Checklists (for Guidance purpose only) which was issued in June. Based on the Checklists, the Committee organised two seminars on 30 & 31 October to guide members through all the requirements for opening a legal practice, the ongoing requirements for operating the practice, and the requirements for closing the practice.

The Committee commissioned the writing of two articles which were published during the year in the following issues of *Hong Kong Lawyer*:

- “Five Techniques for Improving Profitability in Smaller Law Firms” *published in January*
- “The Big 4 and The Law” *published in December*

To keep members apprised with the global development of the legal industry, the Committee organized three seminars during the period from October to December 2018. Mr. Peter Tritt of the College of Law was invited by the Committee to present a seminar on “New Business Models in Legal Practice around the World” on 30 October; and Ms. Chrissie Lightfoot, one of the World’s Top Female Futurists and a prominent international legal figure, was invited by the Committee to present seminars entitled “The future is Expertise Automation – from theory to practice, 2018 to 2025” and “Human & Machine – 2018 to 2025: The role and skill-set of the lawyer and machine of today and tomorrow” on 10 & 11 December respectively.

ISLAMIC FINANCE WORKING PARTY

The Working Party makes recommendations on the legal development of Islamic financial products and services in Hong Kong and aims to equip members with updated knowledge and insights in the rapidly growing Islamic Finance market in the world. It aims to facilitate the development of Islamic Finance in Hong Kong and works closely with

financial institutions, government, non-governmental organisations, international organisations and universities relating to Islamic finance. The Working Party also meets with lawyers from local firms and overseas lawyers to discuss developments in Islamic finance. It also identifies and reports on local Islamic product initiatives such as the issue of halal certificates and the launch of the third sukuk by the Hong Kong government being a one billion dollar issuance based on a Wakala (Agency) structure.

On 29 November, the Working Party held its annual networking reception where Mr. Musheer Ahmed, General Manager of the Fintech Association of Hong Kong, enlightened participants on the potential and development of Islamic Fintech.

WORKING PARTY FOR SME FIRMS

The Working Party was established under the Practice Management Committee to make recommendations to the Committee on any support and guidance which the Working Party may consider desirable for small and medium-sized enterprise (“SME”) law firm practice management; to provide a forum for networking, sharing of experience, exchange of views and discussion of common problems of sole practitioners and small partnership firms on practice management; and to provide a channel of communications between such firms and The Law Society.

During the year, the Working Party considered how modern technology can enhance efficiencies of SME firms, and worked jointly with the InnoTech Committee on a sharing session to be held in early 2019.

The Working Party continued its work under the SWOT analysis conducted in 2017.

The Working Party met one time in the year.

INTEREST GROUP ON MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS

The Group was formed with the primary aims of setting up a platform for sharing information on mergers and acquisitions; to have in place an effective mechanism to collate relevant information on the needs of potential investors from the Mainland and understanding their investment objectives; formulating how Hong Kong solicitors can assist in the process of advising Mainland enterprises in relation to their diversification of investments abroad pursuant to the national "going out" policy; and inviting those with the relevant expertise to express their interest to be involved.

The Interest Group met one time in the year.

PRO BONO COMMITTEE

The Committee is formed to review the types of pro bono work undertaken by the profession, promote public awareness of pro bono services of The Law Society and encourage participation by the profession in pro bono work.

Throughout the year, the Committee reviewed various pro bono schemes which The Law Society has organised and/or coordinated participation by its members, including the Free Legal Helpline; 45 minutes Free Legal Consultation, Free Legal Advice on Building Management and various programmes for social enterprises, non-governmental organisations (“NGOs”) and secondary school students.

The Committee also considered the invitations for being the supporting organisation of the 7th Asia Pro Bono Conference and International Pro Bono Legal Services Forum.

Free Legal Helpline

The Free Legal Helpline (“the Helpline”) was established in late August 2013 with an aim to offer pro bono legal advice to the public in need on three areas of law, namely personal injury, matrimonial law and criminal law.

The Pilot Scheme on Mediation, which was launched in December 2014 under the Helpline to provide free telephone sessions on mediation, has been extended until 31 December 2019.

To further enhance the Helpline’s service, the Interactive Voice Response System (“IVRS”) (a technology that automates interactions with telephone callers) has been implemented since January. To effectively assist the general public seeking legal consultation, especially the grass-root class, the Helpline still maintains its in-person call pick-up and case vetting services. The Committee will continue to monitor the operations of IVRS in conjunction with call pick-up services.

Up to 31 December 2018, over 8,000 calls had been handled through the Helpline.

Figure 1: Number of cases received in 2018

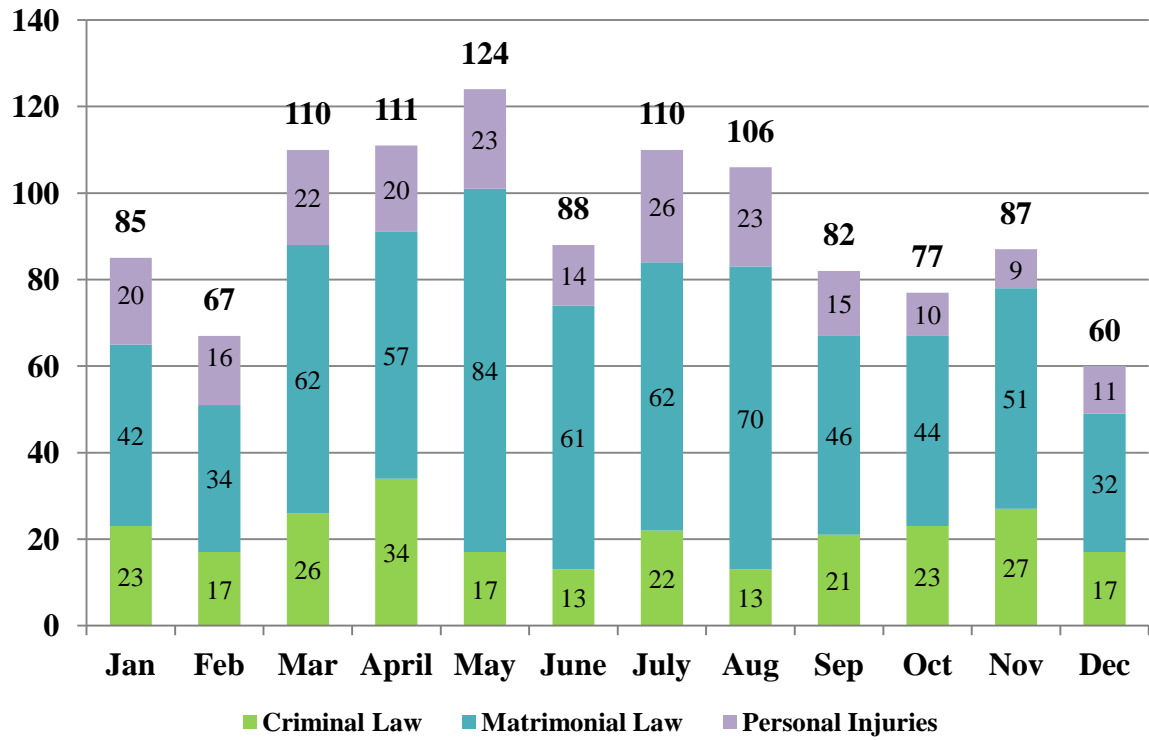
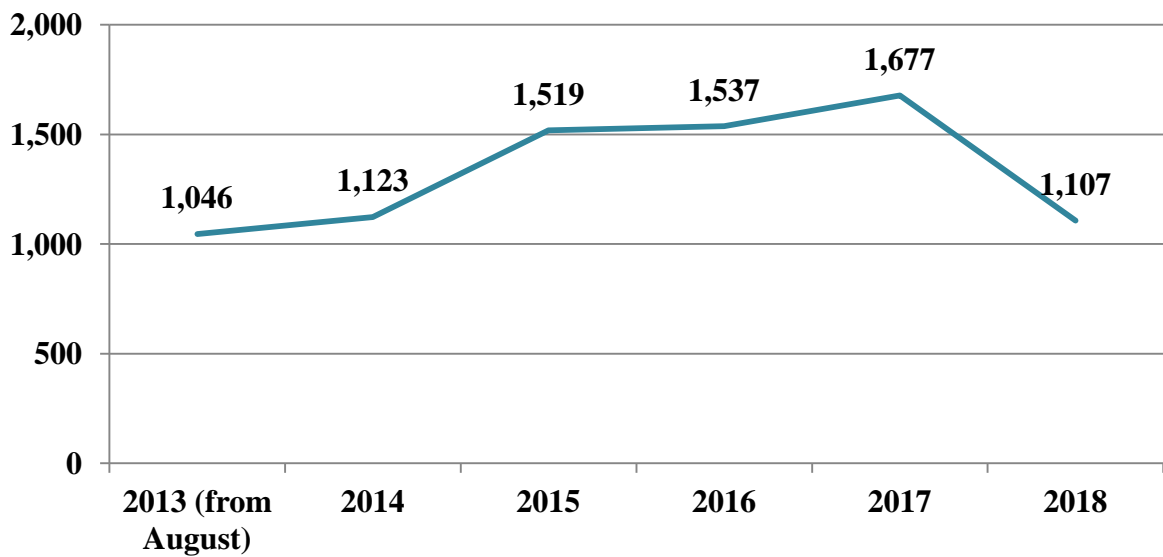


Figure 2 : Number of cases received during 2013 – 2018



Collaboration with Hong Kong Council of Social Service (“HKCSS”)

NGO Corporate Governance Platform

The Law Society has, since 2015, partnered with HKCSS on their “NGOs Governance Platform Project” to promote best practice and experience sharing on NGO governance among board members of their NGO members.

On 20 April, the Committee jointly organised the first NGOs corporate governance seminar titled “Fiduciary Duties and Legal Liabilities of NGO Directors” with HKCSS. Committee member Ms. Michelle Chow was the speaker who introduced to the audience who are representatives from NGOs the different legal forms, fiduciary duties and legal liabilities of being an NGO director, as well as the protective strategies that organisations could undertake to help guard against potential risks and liabilities. The seminar was well attended by 93 NGO representatives.

Following the success of the first seminar, another joint seminar titled “Employment Related Responsibilities of NGO Boards” was held on 31 August. Mr. Walter Lee, Chairman of the Employment Law Committee, served as the speaker who highlighted the employment related issues that NGO board members should be aware of from a legal point of view, e.g. role of board members in human resources matters. Mr. Lee also made suggestions to NGO Boards on what proactive measures should be adopted in order to protect the directors from potential risks and liabilities arising from employment and labor disputes. 76 NGO representatives attended the seminar.

Collaboration with Education Bureau

The Committee continued its collaboration with the Education Bureau in its “Business-School Partnership Programme” (“BSPP”) with the aim of promoting better co-operation and closer alliances between the legal sector and the schools, to lead students out of the classroom to gain a wider perspective of the world and to get them better prepared for life in the society.

Two activities were conducted in 2018 – a guided visit to West Kowloon Law Courts Building (“WKLCB”) on 30 January and a guided visit to Department of Justice (“DOJ”) on 3 October.

The visit to WKLCB comprised the introduction of Judiciary, briefing by Acting Chief Magistrate and court hearings observation. At the end of the activity, two Law Society members shared their journeys to becoming solicitors. Around 40 students and teachers attended.

A guided visit and sharing session to DOJ was well received with a total attendance of around 85 students and teachers from 11 secondary schools. Apart from the heritage tour, five Government Counsel from different legal divisions of DOJ introduced their daily work and shared their experience with the students in small groups at the sharing sessions. Through the sharing, students were able to know more about the career and life as a

government lawyer.

WORKING GROUP ON INSURANCE FOR PRO BONO WORK

The Working Group is tasked to review the regulatory framework relating to professional indemnity and insurance arrangement and coverage to ensure that members are sufficiently covered when they perform pro bono services.

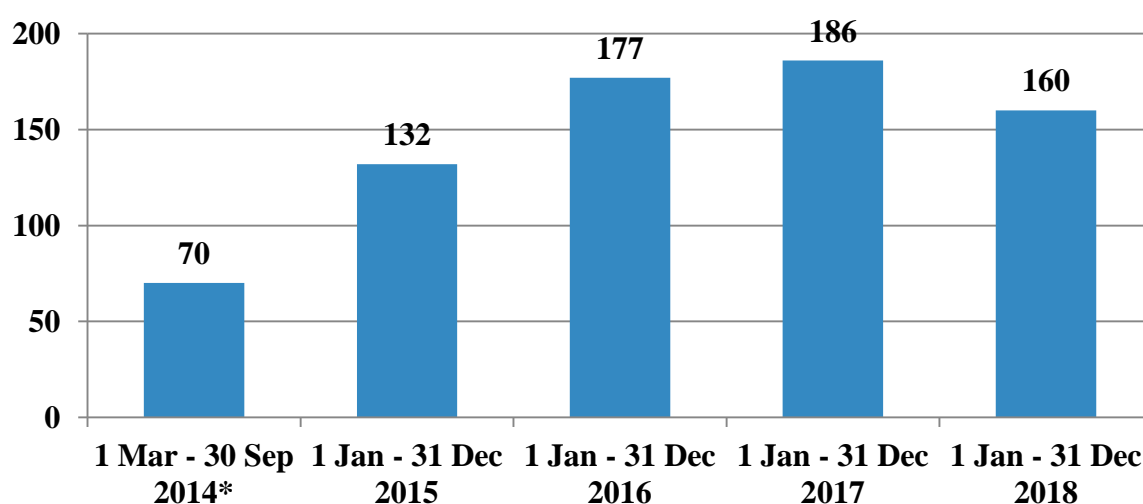
The Committee and Working Group will continue to facilitate the understanding of the relevant stakeholders on The Law Society's stance on pro bono services and will keep track of feedbacks and development surrounding this matter.

WORKING GROUP ON PRO BONO PROJECTS ON BUILDING MANAGEMENT WORK

The Working Group administers the pro bono projects in relation to building management. It updates panel members on new developments, cases and legislations in the building management spectrum from time to time.

Since early 2015, the Working Group has been working with the Home Affairs Department ("HAD") on the Free Legal Advice Service on Building Management ("the Scheme"). In 2018, 160 cases had been processed.

Figure 3 : Number of cases processed from 1 March 2014 to 31 December 2018



Note:

* Cases were handled by the Property Management Advisory Centres of Hong Kong Housing Society.

A Basic Course on Property Management (comprising 5 sessions) and a Refresher Course on Property Management were held in October and November respectively to provide potential and existing panel members a better understanding of the relevant topics on property management. 30 members completed the Basic Course while 23 panel members completed the Refresher Course.

In response to HAD's plan to launch the Pilot Scheme on Free Outreach Legal Advice Service on Building Management to assist owner corporations in the conduct of annual general meetings, the Working Group had meetings with HAD to discuss the details and collected views from existing panel members of the Scheme. The Working Group will continue to liaise with HAD so as to finalise the details.

WORKING GROUP ON PRO BONO WEBPAGE

The Working Group shall continue to review the Pro Bono webpage of The Law Society's website, so as to encourage members' active participation in pro bono work and to promote public awareness.

WORKING GROUP ON SEMINARS FOR SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

The Law Society has been running the "Social Enterprise Legal Seminar Series" in collaboration with HKCSS for seven consecutive years. The aim is to help social enterprises better understand the legal aspects of their operations.

During the year, the Working Group conducted several meetings with Social Enterprise Business Centre of HKCSS to identify topics of interest to the social enterprises. The next seminar will be held in the first quarter of 2019.

PRO BONO AND COMMUNITY WORK RECOGNITION COMMITTEE

The Committee is tasked to promote and encourage active participation of individual members and law firms in pro bono and community work by showing appreciation for and recognition of their outstanding commitment to volunteering at the Award Ceremony.

Since its inception in 2011, the Pro Bono and Community Work Recognition Programme ("the Programme") has been highly regarded by The Law Society and has established itself as one of flagship events. In 2018, the Programme continued to gain recognition among the legal profession with record-breaking 180 applications.

The Award Presentation Ceremony took place on 12 December at the Function Hall of Justice Place. The Law Society was very honoured to have the presence of Chief Justice Geoffrey Ma and Secretary for Justice Teresa Cheng, as well as other distinguished guests.

A total of 29 law firms and 155 lawyers received awards. Apart from the Individual and Law Firm awards (Gold, Silver and Bronze), a number of distinguished awards including the Distinguished Pro Bono Service Award, Distinguished Community Service Award, Distinguished Pro Bono Law Firm Award and Young Lawyer Special were presented. Two new awards, namely Award for Elderly Service and Improvement were introduced this year to respectively encourage members and law firms to contribute in serving the elderly, and to participate actively in pro bono and community work whenever they can.

The awardees of the Distinguished Awards were selected by the Judging Panel comprising Professor Alfred Chan, Chairperson of Equal Opportunities Commission; Mr. Lester Huang, Past President of The Law Society and Ex-officio member of The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups; Mr. Thomas Kwong, Director of Legal Aid; Mr. Tony Lam, Deputy Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data; Ms. Connie Lau, The Ombudsman; Ms. Ada Leung, Director of Intellectual Property; Ms. Gilly Wong, Chief Executive of Consumer Council; The Hon Rimsky Yuen, Former Secretary for Justice; Ms. Melissa Pang, President and Chairlady of the Pro Bono and Community Work Recognition Committee of The Law Society and Ms. Serina Chan, Chairlady of Pro Bono Committee of The Law Society.

RECREATION AND SPORTS COMMITTEE

The Recreation and Sports Committee (“RSC”) is set up with the aim to serve members by providing a whole range of recreational activities and sports which assists and encourages them to lead a balanced life within demanding work routines and to foster friendship with their fellow members and other professionals. The Committee convened six meetings over the year. Captains and convenors of the 14 sports teams and nine recreational interest groups also met bi-monthly to report on their activities.

The 14 sports teams include badminton, basketball, cycling, distance running, hiking, dragon boat, football, golf, snooker, swimming, table tennis, tennis, tenpin bowling, and volleyball. The nine recreational interest groups include bridge, Chinese calligraphy and painting, cooking, food and wine appreciation, dancing, live band, martial arts, photography, singing, and yoga. The teams and interest groups provided year-round training sessions and classes to over 700 members who have signed up for the Recreation and Sports Programme 2018.

Apart from offering classes and activities for members, the RSC teams and groups were also invited to take part in external competitions including various invitational matches with other professionals, public bodies, industry association and charitable organisations, both local and overseas, and have made marvellous achievements this year.

Mega annual events organised by the RSC over the year included the 8th Members and Family Fun Day, 8th Legal Professional Cup and 13th Recreation and Sports Night. Both the Swimming Gala and Cooking Competition celebrated their 10th anniversary this year.

The Law Society is a member of the Recreation and Sports Club for Hong Kong Professional Bodies (“RSCP”) and takes part in inter-professional sports and recreational tournaments regularly held by RSCP. RSCP forms a networking platform enabling members to bond with members of other major professional bodies in Hong Kong.

Over 700 activities including those recreational and sporting classes and training sessions were organised and participated by RSC this year. Together, RSC activities attracted and served about 8,000 participants.

YOUNG SOLICITORS’ GROUP (“YSG”)

The YSG was established to serve the needs and interests of members with less than five year’s post-qualification experience and trainee solicitors. Its mission is to facilitate and assist the career and personal developments of the younger generation in the legal profession by offering diversified services and activities that are of interest to, and to the benefit of, its members. In addition, YSG also serves as an interactive platform for our trainee solicitors, junior and senior members of the profession, and law students.

Help newcomers adapt and create bonding

CONNECTED Mentorship and Buddy Scheme

To provide opportunities for trainee solicitors to establish long term friendship and mentorship relationships with members of different seniority in the profession, YSG invited trainee solicitors to join its flagship “CONNECTED” Mentorship and Buddy Scheme. The “CONNECTED” 2018 programme successfully recruited almost 300 participants including mentors (senior members), buddies (junior members) and mentees (trainee solicitors).

The 2018 programme was kicked off on 23 March where mentors, buddies and mentees met for the first time. On 1 September, over 50 participants joined a half-day trip to Lamma Island. During the events, mentors shared their thoughts and advice on various issues pertinent to the professional and personal developments of their mentees, such as how to deal with office stress, and maintain work-life balance. Mentors and buddies also organised different social gatherings to meet their mentees throughout the year. The closing event for the 2018 programme is scheduled to take place on 26 January 2019 where participants would be invited to join a workshop guiding them through preparing and tasting handcrafted teas of authentic origins in China and tea drinking etiquettes.

Meet & Greet – Trainees & New Members Friday Lunch / Drinks

Newly qualified solicitors and trainee solicitors are invited to meet with Council Members, members of the Standing Committee on Member Services and YSG Committee members at the lunch gatherings and evening drinks held on Fridays. Seven gatherings were attended by over 100 newly admitted solicitors and trainee solicitors over the year including an after-work drinks which provided an alternative to participants who could not

take part during lunchtime.

Welcome Cocktail Reception for Trainee Solicitors

The event was held on 23 November to welcome trainee solicitors to The Law Society. Around 150 first-year and second-year trainee solicitors gathered at the Law Society Function Room where they were introduced to the YSG's initiatives and a variety of other activities, which may cater their needs and interest, such as recreational and sporting events, member benefit programmes, and cross-jurisdictional visits. More senior legal practitioners were also present to share practical career advice with the trainee solicitors.

Encourage professional development

Distinguished Speakers' Luncheon

The YSG has organised two insightful and enlightening Distinguished Speakers' Luncheons over the year. On 22 September, Ms. Anna Wu, Chairperson of Competition Commission, shared with participants the history of equality laws and the establishment of the Equal Opportunities Commission, the economic mandate of equality and why we need institutions to protect rights. On 1 December, Ms. Teresa Ko, Former Chairperson, Listing Committee of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange and Non-Executive Director and Deputy Chairperson, Hong Kong Takeovers and Mergers Panel of the Securities and Futures Commission, revealed her secrets of work-life balance as a full-time working mother.

Facilitate cross-professional collaboration

Joint Professional Networking Event

To facilitate closer relationship with other young professionals, the YSG jointly organised the Joint Professional Event "Beyond the Stage of Cantonese Opera" on 13 October with the young groups of other professional bodies including Hong Kong Bar Association, Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants, The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, The Hong Kong Institute of Architects, The Hong Kong Institute of Planners, The Hong Kong Institute of Chartered Secretaries, The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors and The Hong Kong Medical Association.

The theme for this year was "Cantonese Opera: Beyond the Stage" where an American-born award-winning Cantonese opera performer introduced to participants the music, instruments and costumes used in performing the art. Participants were also given the opportunity to go on stage to learn the movements of and the props used in Cantonese opera. The sharing session was followed by a mingling and networking session.

Embrace the next generation

The YSG assumes the task to enhance communications with and among law students, and to promote Law Society's student membership. Application forms for student membership were distributed at law school's orientation camps and the following events.

Law School Career Talks

Career talks were held at The Chinese University of Hong Kong (“CUHK”) (8 February), City University of Hong Kong (“CityU”) (11 October) and The University of Hong Kong (“HKU”) (23 October). Council Members and Members of the Standing Committee on Standards & Development were invited to share with law students about the legal career path and choices, and personal experiences including tips to succeed in recruitment interviews, summer internship, traineeship and legal practice.

Participation in the Law Fair

YSG took part in the Hong Kong Law Fair 2018 on 8 September held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. At the Law Society’s booth, Council, SCMS and YSG Members introduced to delegates the function and structure of The Law Society, answered enquiries about student membership and general questions related to the legal profession.

Meet the Practitioners Drinks Reception for Law Students

The annual event was held on 21 September at a social enterprise café in Admiralty and was attended by 100 participants comprising of legal practitioners and law students from CUHK, CityU and HKU as well as members of the Asian Law Students’ Association. Participants were introduced the work of The Law Society and YSG activities. The event also served as a platform for experienced legal practitioners and YSG members to share their personal experience and inspirational views with law students.

Give back to community

In support to the Law Week Organising Committee, which was also supported by the Tung Wah Groups of Hospitals and Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups, YSG recruited volunteers to provide community services to help young children from underprivileged families through the Law Week’s Children Programme. On 6 October and 1 December, volunteers read stories and played games with around 90 primary students.

WORKING PARTY ON HISTORICAL ARCHIVE

The Working Party is tasked to recommend a policy for the establishment of an archive (the “Archive”) for The Law Society so that materials and information of historical value can be preserved and made accessible systematically. It will consider forming a sub-group to perform the Archive work, and whenever necessary, make further recommendations on the compliance and implementation of the archival policy.

In May, Mr. Roderick Woo, Founding Chairman of the Working Party since its inception in 2010, resigned as Chairman, and was succeeded by Vice-Chairman Mr. Fred Kan, who will continue to lead the Working Party in facilitating and rendering appropriate assistance to the establishment and maintenance of the Archive.

WORKING PARTY ON LAW LIBRARY

The Working Party on Law Library was set up to reorganise the existing law library collection and facilities with an aim to better serve our members.

As the Law Library transformed into a full online one in January, the Working Party was disbanded.