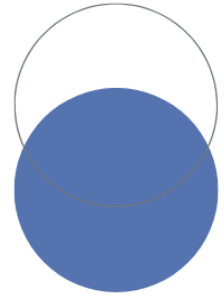


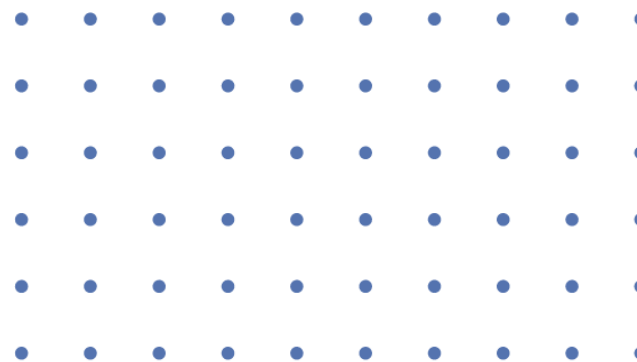


THE
LAW SOCIETY
OF HONG KONG
香港律師會



2022

Standing Committee on Policy and Resources



STANDING COMMITTEE ON POLICY AND RESOURCES



The Standing Committee on Policy and Resources is responsible for overseeing the finance and administration of The Law Society, as well as formulating policy strategies for consideration by the Council.

During the year, the Standing Committee convened on 12 occasions. It reviewed and monitored the annual budget, income and expenditure as well as the registration and compliance statistics of The Law Society. It also oversaw the human resources and personnel aspects of The Law Society including staff employment matters, staff medical insurance and salary review.

In addition, the Standing Committee considered matters relating to nominations of representatives to external organisations, invitations to sponsor or support events and functions organised by external organisations, unclaimed money in client accounts, the arrangements for claims status under section 25 of the *Legal Practitioners Ordinance* (Cap.159), the regulatory regime for granting exemptions under the Overseas Lawyers Qualification Examination, events in celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR, activities and initiatives for celebrating the 115th Anniversary of The Law Society, establishment of official social media platforms for The Law Society, the mechanism for signing and submission of online forms, the publication format of *Hong Kong Lawyer*, student membership application procedure, conflict of interest issues, as well as the Professional Indemnity Scheme. The Standing Committee also made recommendations on the composition and chairmanship of other Standing Committees for the Council's consideration and on amendments to the Standing Orders. The Standing Committee also reviewed memberships of committees and working parties under it.

HONG KONG LAWYER EDITORIAL BOARD

The Law Society publishes a monthly journal, *Hong Kong Lawyer* (“the Journal”), which contains analysis of recent law and legal practice-specific advice, with priority given to matters affecting legal practitioners in Hong Kong.

In line with the emerging global trend of digital publication, *Hong Kong Lawyer* has published in a digital-only version since 2021.

The digital Journal is published monthly and available in both the Law Society App and the official *Hong Kong Lawyer* website. Members as well as other legal professionals can read the digital Journal online via computer, smart phone, tablet or other mobile devices. The digital Journal is also hyperlinked to internal and external references which are easily accessible and therefore also serves as a good source of reference and research materials. Individual stories (or the entire digital Journal) can be conveniently shared via social media and email. Readers may subscribe to the free E-newsletter offered by the publisher to be kept posted on the release of the latest issues of the digital Journal.

Members of the *Hong Kong Lawyer* Editorial Board meet at least once a month to discuss and identify topics of interest to the profession. The Editorial Board, comprising members from private practice, government agencies, in-house and the academia, many of whom possess a wealth of knowledge and experience in IT, journalism and linguistics, works closely with the publisher of *Hong Kong Lawyer* to monitor the overall quality and standard of the publication and the official *Hong Kong Lawyer* website.

WORKING PARTY ON THE LAW SOCIETY IT SYSTEMS

With the assistance of members of the Working Party, The Law Society has appointed a solution provider which commenced the Membership Database System and Website System Revamp Project (“Revamp Project”) in 2020. The new Law Society Website, as the first phase of the Revamp Project, was successfully launched in July 2021, giving a brand-new user experience to general members and external users. Phase Two of the Revamp Project involving revamp of the Membership Database System is underway. The hardware procurement and installation for Phase Two has been completed.

With the support and recommendations from the Working Party, The Law Society replaced all desktop computers of the Secretariat which were over 6 years old. This accounts for approximately 70% of all user computers.

The Revamp Project and the various system upgrades will help streamline work, improve the operational efficiency of the Secretariat and enhance the stability and robustness of the IT systems for the benefit of all concerned, including internal users, general members and the public.

In order to improve members’ experience, the Working Party considered the possibility of converting some of the frequently used paper application forms to online forms, and gave advice generally on the signing and submission of online forms.

The Working Party will continue to keep The Law Society IT Systems under review.

WORKING PARTY ON REVIEW OF THE LAW SOCIETY’S MEMORANDUM AND ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

The Working Party was tasked by the Council to review and update the Memorandum and Articles of Association (“M&A”) of The Law Society.

The review and updating exercise involved various aspects, with the objectives of modernising The Law Society’s existing M&A so as to align it with the requirements of the new *Companies Ordinance* (Cap.622), streamlining the M&A to increase the administrative efficacy of The Law Society, and removing identified anomalies in the existing provisions.

The original review exercise of the draft new articles of association (“AA”) in place of the existing M&A under section 105(2) of the *Companies Ordinance* was completed in 2019 and The Law Society obtained the written approval of the Registrar of Companies for adoption in 2020. Pending improvement to the public health condition between 2020 to 2022 when a general meeting of members of The Law Society could be convened to consider the adoption of the draft new AA, some new issues had arisen. The Council invited the Working Party to review those new issues and consider further changes to the draft new AA. The Working Party has been working towards introducing those new changes when the meeting is convened.

WORKING PARTY ON SOCIAL MEDIA

For more interactive and instant communications with our members and the general public, The Law Society launched its official social media accounts on four platforms, namely Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube) at its 115th Anniversary on 8 April to serve as instant, approachable and interactive communication channels with members and the general public.

Formed in early 2022, the Working Party on Social Media is tasked to oversee the social media strategy and contents. It makes recommendations on planning, creation and implementation of contents on different social media platforms and aims to improve the performance of platforms, enhance posts engagement to reach out more followers and visitors.

Our social media platforms publish a variety of contents including the Law Society news, member and community events, post-event highlights, members' benefits, support for professionals, highlights of the official journal "Hong Kong Lawyer", pro bono programmes and educational contents. The platforms also serve to channel important information from our stakeholders including the Judiciary. To engage and connect with our target audiences, a wide variety of visual formats including photos, short videos, animated graphics and infographics had been deployed.

The number of followers and visitors on all social media platforms has increased steadily. Up to 31 December, there were more than 1,350 followers on Facebook, 550 followers on Instagram, 3,100 followers on LinkedIn and 210 subscribers on YouTube, reaching over 81,000 unique visitors on Facebook, 14,500 unique visitors on Instagram, 2,800 unique visitors on LinkedIn and accumulate over 52,000 views on YouTube over a period of 8 months.