



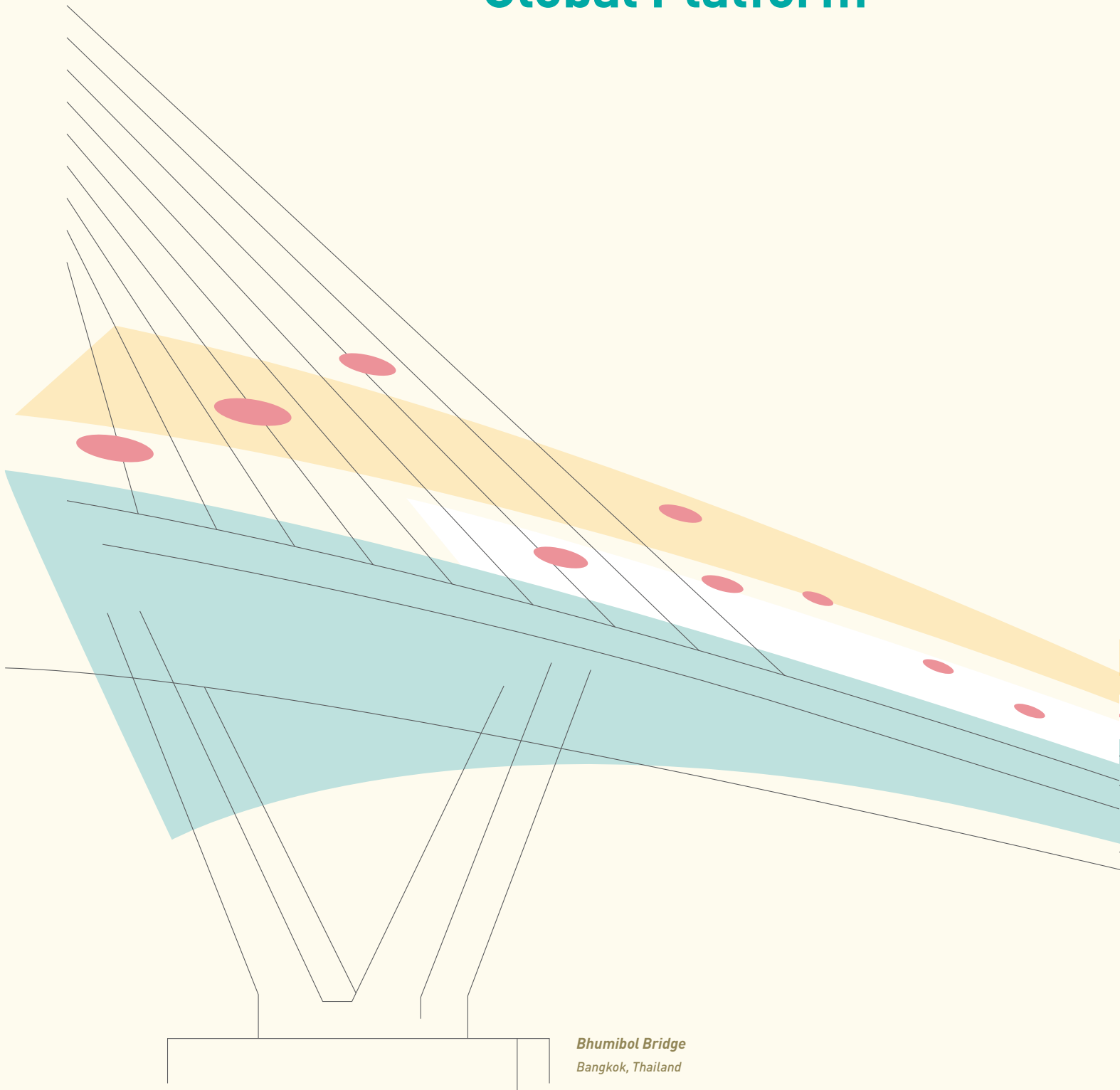
THE
LAW SOCIETY
OF HONG KONG
香港律師會

2017

ANNUAL
REPORT



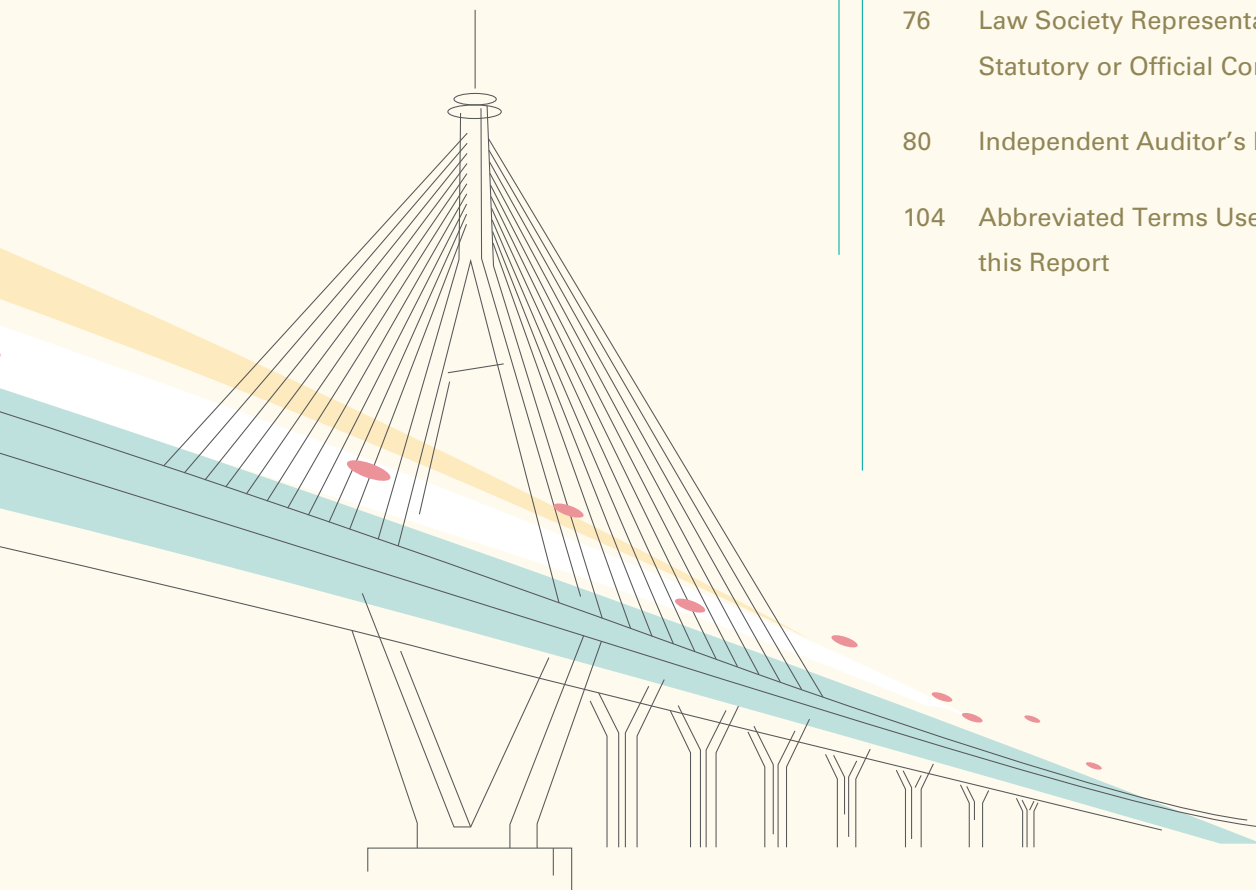
Making **A Difference**
on The **Global Platform**



Bhumibol Bridge
Bangkok, Thailand

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The Council 2017



From left to right

Huen WONG
Peter C.L. LO *(until May)*
Michael J. LINTERN-SMITH
Billy W.Y. MA
Cecilia K.W. WONG





From left to right

Thomas S.T. SO *President*

Melissa K. PANG *Vice-President*

Amirali B. NASIR *Vice-President*

Stephen W.S. HUNG

Junius K.Y. HO *(until May)*



From left to right

Brian W. GILCHRIST

Denis G. BROCK

Nick CHAN

Bonita B.Y. CHAN

Mark DALY

C.M. CHAN



From left to right

Serina K.S. CHAN

Warren P. GANESH

Simon S.C. LAI

Roden M.L. TONG

Robert C. RHODA *(from May)*

Jonathan ROSS *(from May)*

Report of the Council

The Council submit herewith its annual report together with the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2017.

Principal place of business

The Law Society of Hong Kong (“The Law Society”) is a company limited by guarantee, and is incorporated and domiciled in Hong Kong and has its registered office and principal place of business at 3/F, Wing On House, 71 Des Voeux Road Central, Hong Kong.

Principal activities

The principal activity of The Law Society is to act as the professional and regulatory body for solicitors in Hong Kong. The principal activities and other particulars of The Law Society’s subsidiaries are set out in note 8 to the financial statements.

Business review

A review of The Law Society’s operation and management, financial position and risks, environmental policies and performances and future direction of The Law Society are set out on pages 8 to 17 and 20 to 47 of the Annual Report.

Financial statements

The deficit of The Law Society for the year ended 31 December 2017 and the state of The Law Society’s affairs as at that date are set out in the financial statements on pages 82 to 103.

Membership

As at 31 December 2017, there were 10,798 (2016: 10,345) members of The Law Society. The total number of Practising Certificates issued was 9,463 (2016: 9,076). There were 892 (2016: 870) firms of solicitors.

Bankers

The bankers are The Bank of East Asia Limited, The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, Hang Seng Bank Limited, Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited, Wing Lung Bank Limited,

Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited and Bank of Communications Co., Limited.

Council Members

The Council Members during the financial year and up to the date of this report and their attendance at the Council Meetings are shown in the table on page 5.

In accordance with article 15(a) of The Law Society’s articles of association, at the forthcoming annual general meeting the five members longest in office since election or re-election shall retire but shall be eligible for re-election.

At no time during the year was The Law Society, any of its subsidiaries or any of its related companies a party to any arrangement to enable the Council Members of The Law Society to acquire benefits by means of the acquisition of an interest in The Law Society or any other body corporate.

Except for the related party transactions as disclosed in note 18(a) to the financial statements, no contract of significance to which The Law Society, any of its subsidiaries or any of its related companies was a party, and in which the Council Members had a material interest, subsisted at the end of the year or at any time during the year.

Indemnity of Council Members

A permitted indemnity provision (as defined in section 469 of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance) for the benefit of the Council Members of The Law Society is currently in force and was in force throughout this year.

Auditors

KPMG retire and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-appointment. A resolution for the re-appointment of KPMG as auditors of The Law Society is to be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

By order of the Council

Thomas S. T. So

President

Hong Kong, 13 March 2018

Attendance of Council Members at the Council meetings during the financial year and up to 13 March 2018, the date of this report:

	Regular Meetings	Unscheduled Meetings	Total	Official Duties
Thomas S. T. So, President	24	3	27	1
Melissa K. Pang, Vice President	25	3	28	1
Amirali B. Nasir, Vice President	26	3	29	0
Stephen W. S. Hung (re-elected on 26 May 2017)	27	3	30	1
Junius K. Y. Ho (retired on 26 May 2017)	6	0	6	0
Huen Wong	19	3	22	0
Peter C. L. Lo (retired on 26 May 2017)	7	0	7	0
Michael J. Lintern-Smith	22	2	24	0
Billy W. Y. Ma (re-elected on 26 May 2017)	24	2	26	0
Cecilia K. W. Wong	22	2	24	2
Brian W. Gilchrist	22	2	24	0
Denis G. Brock (re-elected on 26 May 2017)	16	2	18	1
Nick Chan	22	3	25	0
Bonita B. Y. Chan	22	3	25	0
Mark Daly	17	2	19	0
C. M. Chan	24	1	25	0
Serina K. S. Chan	28	2	30	0
Warren P. Ganesh	28	3	31	0
Simon S. C. Lai	22	2	24	0
Roden M. L. Tong	24	3	27	0
Robert C. Rhoda (elected on 26 May 2017)	15	2	17	0
Jonathan Ross (elected on 26 May 2017)	19	2	21	0

Key Metrics in 2017 (As of 31 December 2017)

Members

(with or without
Practising Certificate)

10,798

Members with Practising Certificate

9,463

(out of whom, 6,951 (73%)
are in private practice)

Trainee Solicitors

1,156

Registered Foreign Lawyers

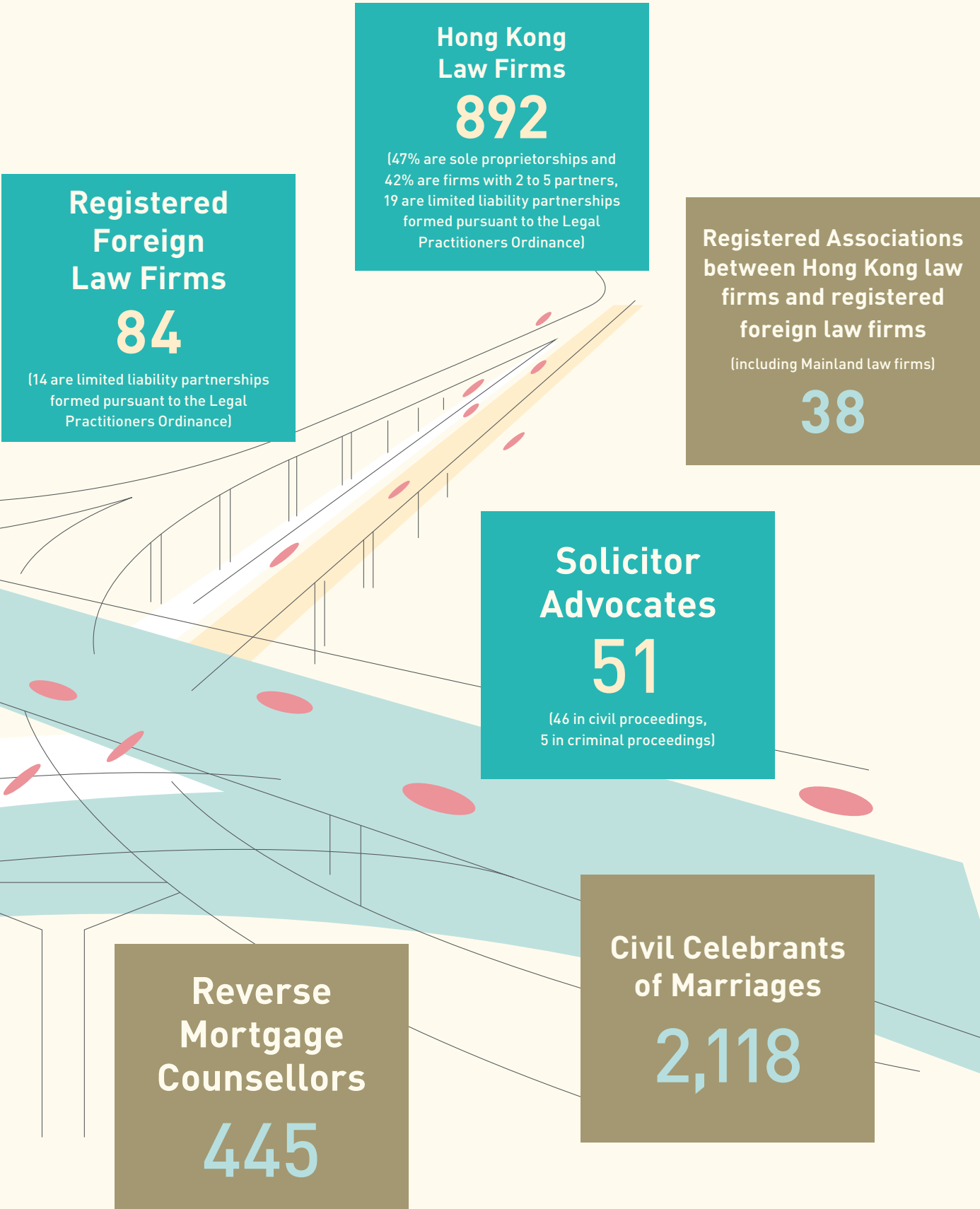
1,433

(from 34 jurisdictions)

Student Members

321

*Shanghai elevated road junction
and interchange overpass*
Shanghai, China



Hong Kong Law Firms

892

(47% are sole proprietorships and 42% are firms with 2 to 5 partners, 19 are limited liability partnerships formed pursuant to the Legal Practitioners Ordinance)

Registered Foreign Law Firms

84

(14 are limited liability partnerships formed pursuant to the Legal Practitioners Ordinance)

Registered Associations between Hong Kong law firms and registered foreign law firms

(including Mainland law firms)

38

Solicitor Advocates

51

(46 in civil proceedings, 5 in criminal proceedings)

Reverse Mortgage Counsellors

445

Civil Celebrants of Marriages

2,118

President's & Secretary General's Reports

Heidi Chu
Secretary General

Thomas S.T. So
President



President's Report

Making a difference on the global platform

Hong Kong is a blessed place with enviable characteristics. Not only is it strategically located as a gateway to the Pearl River Delta and the Mainland, it is also situated in the heart of Asia where we can reach half the world's population within five hours of flying time. On top of its central geographical location and good network infrastructure, Hong Kong has an abundance of talent providing high-end professional service support.

Strengthening our Hong Kong brand as a world-class legal service provider

All of these attributes have earned Hong Kong the global status of a leading financial centre and business hub. Competition for all sectors on this global platform is intense and The Law Society strives to *make a difference* for our members by strengthening our Hong Kong brand as a world-class legal service provider.

Promoting services and sharing skills

The Belt and Road Initiative (the "Initiative") has brought immense opportunities for an expansion of the legal services market to various emerging economies. The Law Society has been coordinating efforts to open up emerging markets, promoting the services Hong Kong solicitors can offer to them, as well as sharing our standards of risk management in legal practices. During the year, we presented at various events and roadshows in the cities of the ASEAN Member States including Jakarta (in March), Bangkok (in July), Hanoi (in July), Singapore (in October) and Kuala Lumpur (in November).

Additionally, we showcased our high standards on legal practice management by introducing The Law Society's Mandatory Risk Management Education Programme to our Mainland counterparts in Shanghai (in February), Dongguan (in March), Chongqing (in April), Chengdu (in June) and Guangzhou (in December).

Facilitating connectivity

On 12 May, The Law Society held its first Belt and Road Conference in Hong Kong and attracted over 650 participants. The Conference created a platform for our members to connect with potential business partners from overseas jurisdictions. At the Conference, 39 law associations from 24 jurisdictions signed a "Hong Kong Manifesto" initiated by The Law Society to unite efforts to advance the legal profession's interests and to capitalise on the business opportunities arising from the Initiative.

We were grateful for our overseas guests who travelled a long way to visit Hong Kong for the Conference. The Law Society therefore also took the opportunity to host a celebration dinner for its 110th anniversary on 13 May and invited our members as well as our overseas guests to join in this memorable celebration. It was a joyful occasion with The Law Society taking the lead to connect the global legal profession as one big family.

Equipping members

Hong Kong's role in the long-term development of the Initiative was highlighted in an Arrangement signed in December by the HKSAR Government with the National Development and Reform Commission for Advancing Hong Kong's Full Participation in and Contribution to the Initiative (the "Arrangement"). Hong Kong is to serve as a super platform to facilitate, for instance, cross-border regulated investment activities and the financing of infrastructure projects. Enterprises in the Mainland are encouraged to set up their regional headquarters in Hong Kong and to use Hong Kong as a platform to go global in partnership with Hong Kong enterprises.

Taking into account that the projects arising from the Initiative would mostly be cross-jurisdictional, The Law Society has introduced more training courses on cross-border transactions to equip our practitioners with the necessary skills.

Steering efforts to align with external development strategies

The Arrangement enables Hong Kong to play an active role in driving the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area and to act as a two-way open platform to facilitate international and Mainland investors, respectively, to go in and out of the Bay Area cities. During the year, we organised delegations to promote Hong Kong legal services to the Bay Area including our participation at the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Cooperation Forum held in Foshan in November and the Belt and Road Legal Services Forum held in Shenzhen in December.

The Arrangement has also affirmed Hong Kong's status as a global hub for, among others, maritime and aviation services. In December, The Law Society recruited members to serve on the Transportation and Logistics Committee, which was recently set up to examine issues relating to shipping and aviation and other relevant practice areas.

Innovating to tap into the cross-border dispute resolution service market

Online Dispute Resolution ("ODR") is a mechanism for resolving disputes through the use of electronic communications and other information and communications technology. ODR has increasingly been adopted in various jurisdictions, largely due to the convenience this mechanism offers in resolving cross-border disputes.

In anticipation of the rise of cross-border transactions as a result of the Initiative's development, The Law Society, together with other stakeholders, has been actively exploring the eBRAM (eBelt and Road Arbitration and Mediation) platform. eBRAM aims at providing an online dispute resolution platform, hosted in Hong Kong, to offer full arbitration and mediation services over the Internet for countries in the Belt and Road region. Security of the data shared and stored on the platform and ease of communication among parties from different regions of a diverse range of languages were among the factors that were considered in designing the platform.

Ensuring compliance with practice standards

The practice of law in Hong Kong is a highly regulated profession. Maintaining the highest professional standards and ensuring the strictest compliance with them not only benefits clients who get the best service possible, but it also strengthens our Hong Kong brand as a world-class legal service provider, as well as our profession's competitiveness in the legal market. The Law Society takes any breach of the standards of practice very seriously. Regulatory costs incurred for the protection of the public interests cannot be avoided, but following the substantial intervention costs incurred in 2016, the Council reviewed and approved different ways to control regulatory costs. The Law Society exercised its statutory powers pursuant to the Legal Practitioners Ordinance ("LPO") to intervene in the practices of two law firms in 2017. Compared to 2016, the intervention costs in 2017 were 61% lower.

Nurturing a culture of generosity

At the 2017 Ceremonial Opening of the Legal Year on 9 January, I took the opportunity to reiterate the importance of generosity to a true legal professional to engage in pro bono and community service work. Giving back to community has always been a major focus of The Law Society's work. In 2017, we organised different pro bono and community activities, offering a wide range of choices for members to suit their interests and availability. Apart from the provision of free legal assistance to the public through the Law Society's Free Legal Helpline and Free Legal Advice Consultation Service, members also helped enhance the legal knowledge of the public through other Law Society activities like giving school talks and seminars for non-governmental organisations ("NGOs"),

writing newspaper articles, facilitating group discussions of students in our annual Teen Talk event or giving community presentations on law-related topics during The Law Society's Law Week. Further, family activities like visits to the homes of the elderly and teaching English to underprivileged children were also available for members who wished to share the experience of serving the community with their families.

Looking ahead

The Central Government's economic initiatives on the global platform are bound to bring about valuable business opportunities for Hong Kong enterprises and service providers. The Law Society will continue to support our members in taking advantage of the opportunities arising from the enhanced flow of goods, services and investments across the world and in particular in the new ASEAN platform. Going forward, we will continue with The Law Society's initiatives including the provision of relevant capacity building programmes (e.g., training on cross border transactions), thematic symposiums to provide updates on global trends, and networking events to enable members to expand their personal networks. The Law Society will also continue to organise official visits to the overseas jurisdictions which show good business potential for members. With the favourable backdrop of the conclusion of the free trade agreements between the HKSAR Government and the ASEAN Member States, it is most likely that the ASEAN Member States will be our priority destinations in 2018.

The legal service market has been evolving rapidly. There are a multitude of factors driving the changes, which can all be linked to rapid advances in technology. To sustain the profession, all practitioners including those resistant to technological changes must be prepared to adapt to this new era. The Law Society will direct more resources to assist practitioners in taking advantage of currently available and viable technological solutions to enhance their practices. The theme for The Law Society's 2nd Belt and Road Conference in 2018 will be on artificial intelligence, blockchain and the cloud. To encourage innovation to enhance access to justice, The Law Society will launch our first Hackathon for Access to Justice in 2018.

I look forward to members' active participation in The Law Society's future initiatives.

2017 has been a fruitful year and I take this opportunity to extend my gratitude for the support given to me by my fellow Council members and the Secretariat.



Thomas S.T. So
President



Secretary General's Report

2017 was the 110th anniversary of The Law Society, a memorable and eventful year. The summary below sets out major quantifiable tasks that our team performed for our members throughout the year, under the guidance of the Council and the Committees:

- (a) organised over 91 social and networking events for our members, including Family Fun Day, Sports Night, a Christmas Party, a Cooking Competition, an Annual Cocktail, the Spring Reception, and luncheon talks, among many others;
- (b) coordinated 67 community projects, including Law Week, Teen Talk, Community Fun Day, the Legal Pioneer Mentorship Programme, the Helpline to provide free legal advice, elderly visits, as well as community and school talks;
- (c) received 24 delegations from the Greater China region and other overseas jurisdictions;
- (d) coordinated 21 outbound visits and events to 14 cities in the Greater China region and sent 20 delegations to international conferences and meetings in other overseas jurisdictions;
- (e) organised 12 side sessions, workshops, and seminars in the Greater China region and overseas jurisdictions;
- (f) arranged the signing of nine memoranda of understanding / cooperation agreements with overseas professional bodies;
- (g) organised the selection and sponsorship of eight young lawyers as well as their participation, together with other Law Society representatives, at four international conferences hosted by the Commonwealth Lawyers Association, the International Bar Association ("IBA"), the Inter-Pacific Bar Association ("IPBA"), and the Union Internationale des Avocats ("UIA");
- (h) issued over 20 submissions on public consultations and two press statements on issues relevant to the legal profession;
- (i) organised 375 training courses, attended by 17,471 participants, under the Continuing Professional Development ("CPD") Scheme and the Risk Management Education ("RME") Programme;
- (j) administered the annual Overseas Lawyers Qualification Examination ("OLQE") to a total of 212 candidates;
- (k) coordinated the activities of 14 Law Society sports teams and nine recreational teams;
- (l) processed applications for (i) the subscription of 10,803 members, 18 associate members, and 321 student members, (ii) the registration of 680 trainee solicitor contracts, (iii) the admission of 574 solicitors, (iv) the issue of 9,468 practising certificates in English and 4,402 in Chinese, (v) the registration of 1,806 foreign lawyers and 84 foreign firms, as well as (vi) the issue of 618 certificates of standing;
- (m) conducted CPD audits on 519 practitioners;
- (n) handled 1,037 complaints on practitioners and employees of law firms; and
- (o) visited 63 law firms on 94 occasions to provide assistance on their accounting procedures and to inspect documents to ensure compliance with the Solicitors' Accounts Rules (Cap. 159 sub. leg.) ("SAR").

Much of our work, however, is less quantifiable. Thus, more descriptive details on the work that we did in 2017 are set out in the various sections in this Annual Report.

Membership movements and breakdown

Our membership increased by 4.4% from 10,345 to 10,798 as of the end of 2017. The growth rate is slightly higher than the average rate of 4.1% for the five-year period from 2012 to 2016. Out of our 10,798 members, 9,463 held a practising certificate, compared to 9,076 in 2016 representing a 4.3% increase.

The charts on the right show a snapshot of the distribution of our membership in terms of their practice, seniority and gender as at the end of 2017.

The number of consultants slightly increased by 1% with a corresponding drop in the number of sole proprietors. Further, the gap in the numbers of male and female practising certificate holders remained unchanged at 4%.

During the year, 35 new Hong Kong law firms and eight new foreign law firms commenced practice. On the other hand, 15 Hong Kong law firms and five foreign law firms ceased practice. Out of the five foreign firms that were closed, three became Hong Kong law firms.

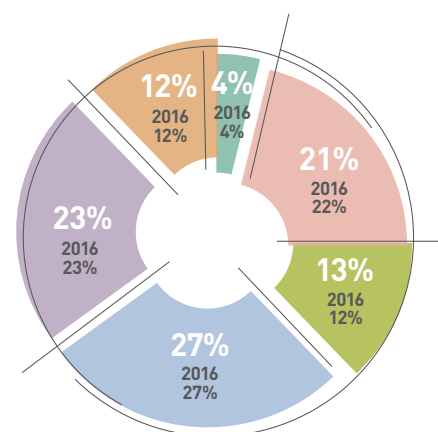
With the implementation of the Legal Practitioners (Amendment) Ordinance 2012, which permitted law firms in Hong Kong to structure as limited liability partnerships ("LLPs") from 1 March 2016 onward, a total of 35 law firms have become LLPs out of which 14 were formed during 2017. Of the 35 LLPs, two had ceased practice and out of those in practice as of the end of the year, 14 were foreign firms and 19 were local firms. It was anticipated that LLPs might be an attractive choice for those who intended to expand their partnerships, as LLPs afford limited liability protection to innocent partners pursuant to the provisions in the Ordinance.

Practice

10,798 Solicitor Members in total

(2016: 10,345)

- Sole Proprietors
- Partners
- Consultants
- Assistant Solicitors
- Practising Certificate holders, not in Private Practice
- No Practising Certificate

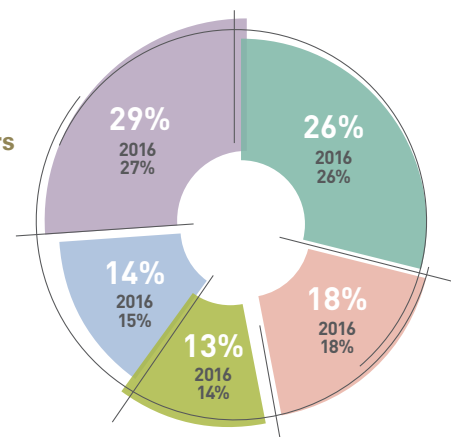


Seniority

9,463 Practising Certificate Holders

(2016: 9,076)

- ≤ 5 years PQE
- > 5-10 years PQE
- >10-15 years PQE
- >15-20 years PQE
- >20 years PQE

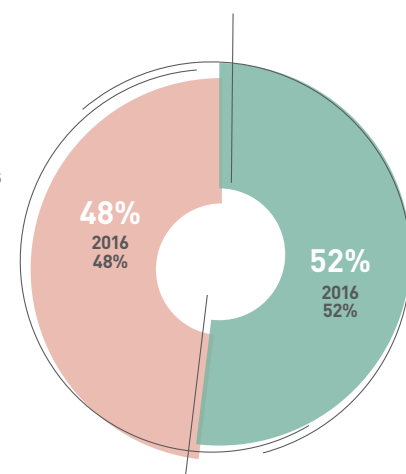


Gender

9,463 Practising Certificate Holders

(2016: 9,076)

- Male
- Female



The jurisdiction of The Law Society Council extends to the conduct not only of a person who is, or was at the relevant time, a solicitor, a foreign lawyer, or a trainee solicitor, but also to an employee of a solicitor or foreign lawyer. At the end of 2017, 15,581 unqualified persons were employed by Hong Kong law firms and 527 by foreign law firms, an increase of 1.8% and 12.4% respectively, compared to 2016.

Financial position

A deficit of about HK\$1.9 million was recorded for 2017, compared to a deficit of about HK\$42 million in 2016.

Our major sources of income included fees for membership, solicitors' practising certificates, foreign lawyers' registration and miscellaneous applications like certificates of good standing. The income for the year was about HK\$103.1 million, representing an increase of about 20.1% from 2016. The increase in income was largely attributable to the resumption of the previous level of annual membership subscription fee of HK\$800 per member, the successful recovery of litigation costs, the increase in practising certificate fees due to an increase in the number of practising certificate holders, and a rise in miscellaneous income as a result of increased administrative charges.

The other fee rates of application for practising certificate, and registration as a foreign lawyer and a foreign firm remained unchanged for the year. Student membership continued to be free to encourage more law students to join The Law Society.

With respect to expenditure, compared to 2016, it decreased by 17.8% to approximately HK\$105 million. The decrease was mainly due to a drop in intervention costs to HK\$14.8 million, compared to HK\$37.5 million in 2016. The Law Society is empowered under the LPO to intervene in the practice of a law firm to protect the

interests of a firm's clients and the public. In 2017, The Law Society exercised its statutory power to intervene in the practices of two law firms, compared to four in 2016. Through its intervention agents, The Law Society took control of the office and clients' money of the intervened firms, made arrangements for clients of the intervened firms to engage alternative solicitors, and took possession of the intervened firms' documents. Subject to any court order for the payment of costs, any intervention costs incurred by The Law Society shall be paid by the solicitors whose practice had been intervened. To ensure that The Law Society has sufficient reserve to meet the necessary costs that might be incurred in carrying out its statutory regulatory functions, the Council resolved to set aside a sum every year so it could build up a special reserve to cover regulatory costs. In 2017, the Council put HK\$10 million in the reserve.

To further control expenditure, The Law Society ceased participating in some international conferences in 2017 including, for instance, the Annual Conferences of the IPBA, the American Bar Association, and the IBA. This decreased the international affairs expenditure by nearly 50%.

Owing to the deficit for the year, the accumulated surplus was reduced to HK\$190.6 million. Our cash position increased by 2% from about HK\$166.2 million in 2016 to about HK\$169.4 million at the end of 2017. The Law Society managed its cash reserves prudently and maintained them in fixed deposits spread among seven banks with not more than 22% of the total cash reserves in any one bank. Liquidity is closely monitored to ensure sufficient resources to meet The Law Society's operating needs and to maximise interest earnings. As of the end of the year, about 51% of the total cash reserves were maintained with banks with maturity within three months. The details of the exposure to financial risks including credit, liquidity, and interest rate risks and the policies and practices adopted to manage these risks are set out in Note 15(a) to (c) of the Financial Statements on page 101.

Environmental protection

The Law Society is committed to ensuring that all services offered, as well as our own internal operations, are conducted in an environmentally responsible manner.

The Law Society library facilities were fully digitalised during the year. Installation of four new work-stations each equipped with a computer for access to The Law Society's Online Library in the common area at The Law Society Reception commenced in December.

All member solicitors, registered foreign lawyers, associate members, and trainee solicitors are entitled to receive a printed copy of the *Hong Kong Lawyer*. To save paper for the protection of the environment, we regularly encouraged and reminded members to opt out from receiving the printed version. The same applies to our Annual Report. The "Opt-Out" icon is prominently placed on The Law Society website. Members can notify The Law Society of their decision to opt out at any time. For other publications like our weekly Circulars and the Law List, only electronic versions are available.

Internally, measures to protect the environment are stipulated in The Law Society's staff manual. Staff are reminded to:

- (a) think carefully whether there is a need to copy or print a document and if there is a need, it should be done in the double-sided mode;
- (b) recycle and reuse envelopes and draft paper; and
- (c) switch off all lights, electrical equipment and appliances before leaving the office.

There is also a system in place to collect plastic and paper materials, toner and ink cartridges for recycling. Used envelopes are centrally stored for the staff to reuse. We are in full support of energy saving. We joined the Energy Audit Campaign provided by the Hong Kong Electric Company Limited during the year. The Audit result showed that The Law Society had kept energy saving in mind in its daily operations, and implemented many good practices. The Law Society's office energy performance was rated good in the Audit.

About the Team

Excellence, transparency, empathy, and fairness are the guiding values embraced by our team in the Secretariat in every task we undertake and every service we offer. We implement the policies approved by the Council and provide support to the work of the committees.

In June, The Law Society Clubhouse ceased operation. To fulfill the space needs generated by The Law Society's expanding operation, renovation commenced in December to create more office area space for the Secretariat. The space freed up by our migration to a fully digitalised library allowed us to create additional work-stations. The former Clubhouse was refurbished into a multi-function room – used for conducting some of The Law Society's RME/CPD workshops, lunchtime seminars, as well as evening receptions, which relieved the pressure of sourcing suitable venues in Central.

In 2017, to cope with the heavy workload in the Standards and Development Department, one headcount was added for the position of Assistant Director, Regulation and Guidance. Our Manager for the Clubhouse, Mr. Herwin Lee, who served The Law Society for 21 years started his happy retirement in July. Two headcounts, initially engaged to operate the Clubhouse, were no longer needed with its

closure. As such, our total headcount for permanent staff stood at 97 at the end of 2017. On personnel movement, the Secretariat had an overall turnover rate of 28.28% in 2017, compared to 20% in 2016. Two new Assistant Directors joined us during the year – Ms. Phoebe Chow in External Affairs Department and Ms. Eileen Tam in the Practitioners Affairs Department. Human capital is the most valuable asset of an organisation and we place heavy importance on the retention of talent. In 2017, seven members of our staff received long service awards in appreciation of their loyalty to The Law Society. Their years of service with us ranged from 10 to 30 years.

Staff functions organised during the year included the Spring Dinner in February, Staff Dinner in September, and Christmas Party in December. Staff seminars on topics like the Mandatory Provident Fund, medical insurance, and personal health were organised throughout the year. An annual budget was also set aside to sponsor staff training on work-related knowledge and skills.

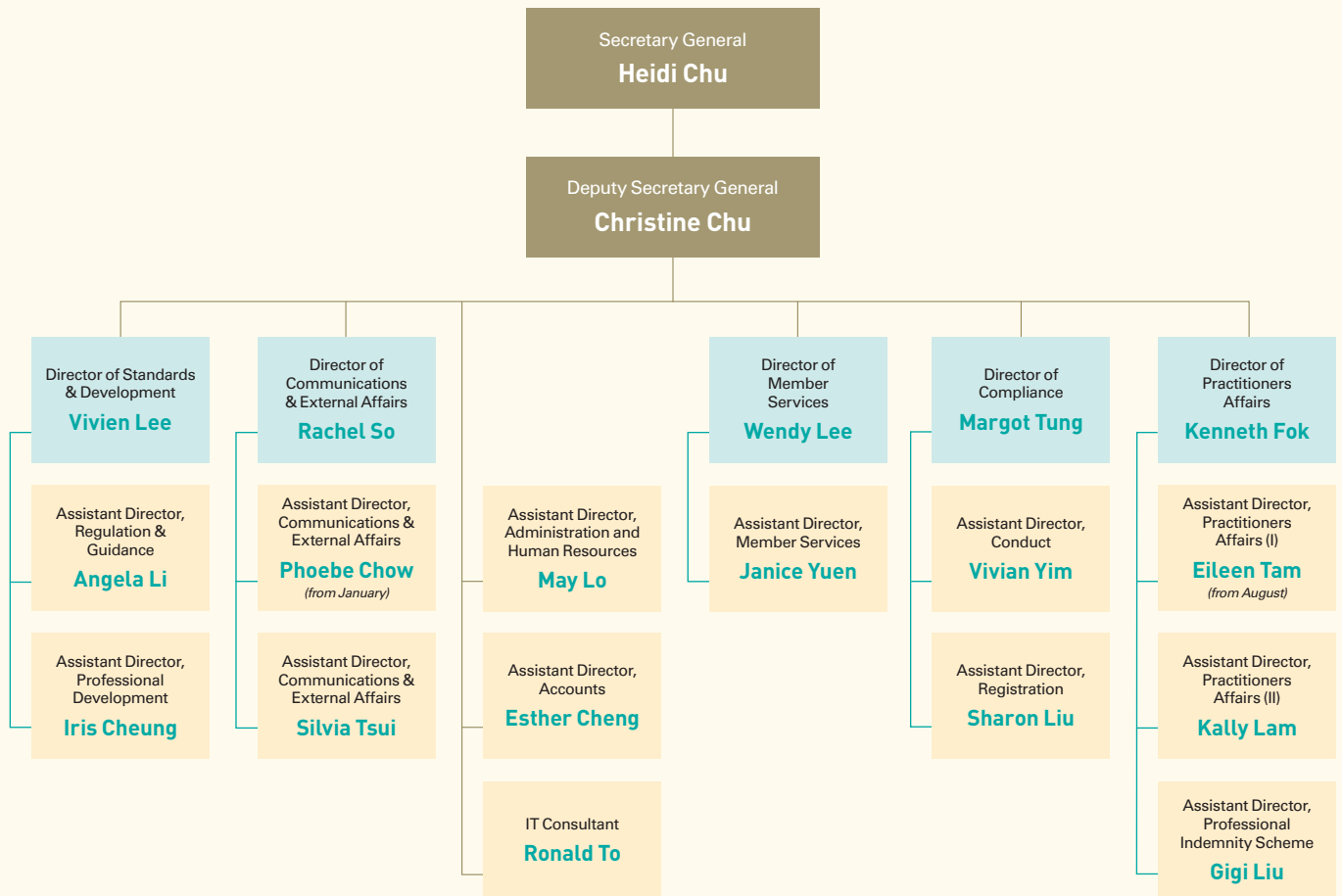
Our team is proud to serve the profession and with our members' trust and support, we will continue to excel in what we do in the coming year.



Heidi Chu
Secretary General

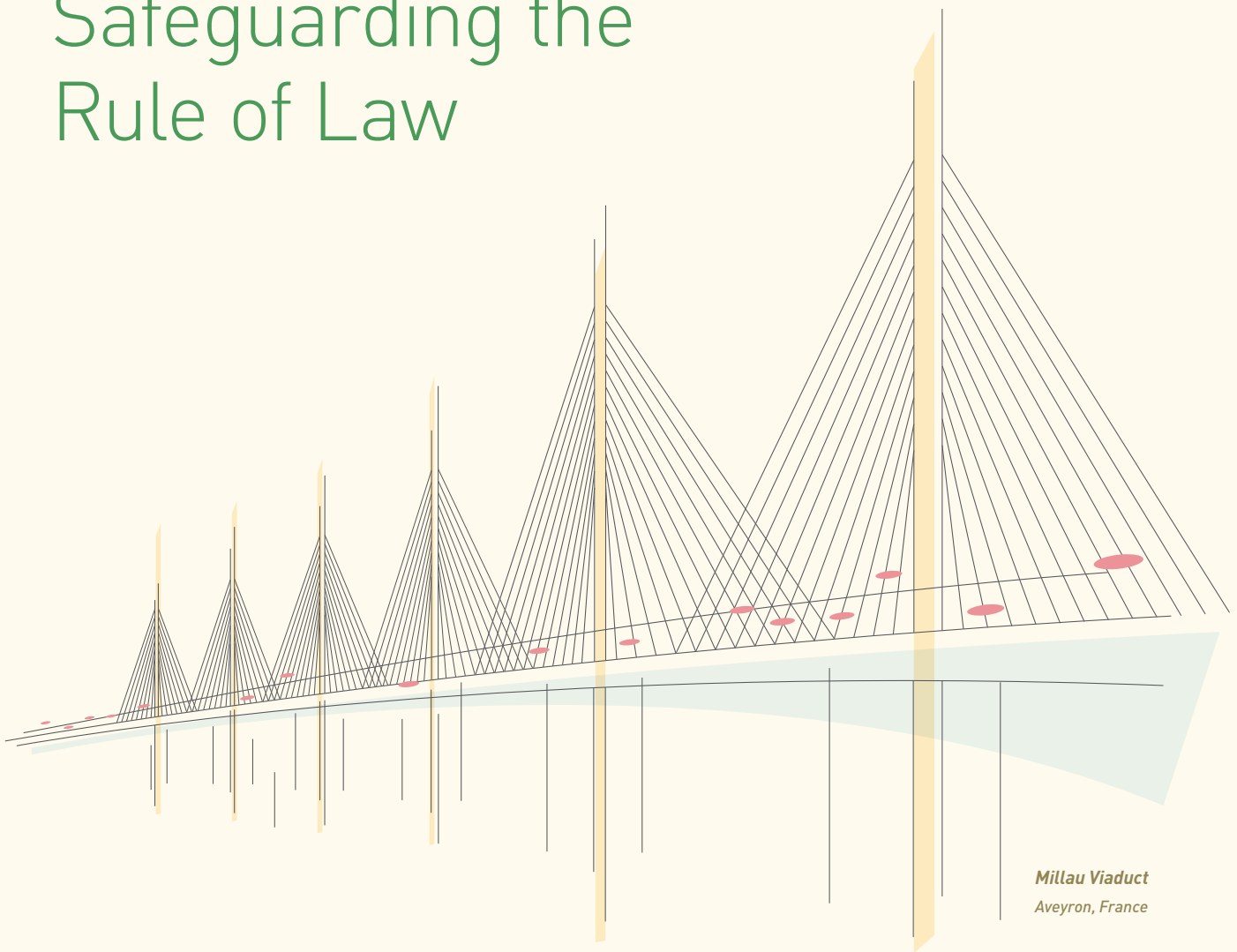


Law Society Secretariat





Safeguarding the Rule of Law



Millau Viaduct
Aveyron, France

One of the important roles of The Law Society is to safeguard the Rule of Law and to uphold those principles on which this core value is founded.

2017 marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the implementation of “One Country, Two Systems”. The principles of this unique system are enshrined in our Basic Law.

The Law Society’s position has always been that the Basic Law is clear, but in case of doubt, the matter should preferably be resolved through the Hong Kong courts.

The Law Society has full confidence in the proper functioning of our judicial system under “One Country, Two Systems” in accordance with the Basic Law. We acknowledge that the power of interpretation of the Basic Law is vested in the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (“NPCSC”) under Art. 158(1) of the Basic Law. Interpretation, if used at all, must be used with caution and restraint, since fundamental principles of the Rule of Law as due process, transparency, and reasoned judgments from an independent Judiciary are essential elements in maintaining the Rule of Law. Reflecting on the

experience we gained in the previous interpretations of the Basic Law, the process leading to an interpretation by the NPCSC can perhaps be improved by instilling more transparency in the process and by allowing stakeholders in Hong Kong to submit their views on the subject matter in advance for consideration by the NPCSC.

During its visit to Beijing in April, the Council took the opportunity to express its views on constitutional and human rights issues to various central authorities. While the Council acknowledged that the NPCSC had the power to interpret the Basic Law,



Council visit to Beijing in April

it reiterated its wish that the power should be exercised only when it was absolutely necessary. The Council also considered that there was room for enhancing the transparency of the process of an interpretation of the Basic Law by the NPCSC.

“One Country, Two Systems” is a unique concept that allows two different legal systems to co-exist. There is a strong consensus in Hong Kong that there should be continual respect between the two legal systems and that the distinctiveness of the common law tradition should be maintained in Hong Kong under the Basic Law.

Differences between the two legal systems were illustrated by the debate concerning the decision adopted by the NPCSC on 27 December (“NPCSC Decision”) with respect to the co-location arrangement at the Mainland Port Area within the West Kowloon Station of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (“the Express Rail Link”).

The Council recognised the social and economic benefits as well as the advantages of the Express Rail Link and the co-location arrangement. However, the legal issue for Hong Kong was whether the process of applying Mainland law to the Mainland Port Area was consistent with the Rule of Law under the common law system and the Basic Law. The Council took the view that it was in the interests of Hong Kong that the legal basis for the co-location arrangement be clarified and had urged the Government to clearly convey the concerns to the Mainland authorities.

The independence of the Judiciary is an important cornerstone of society.

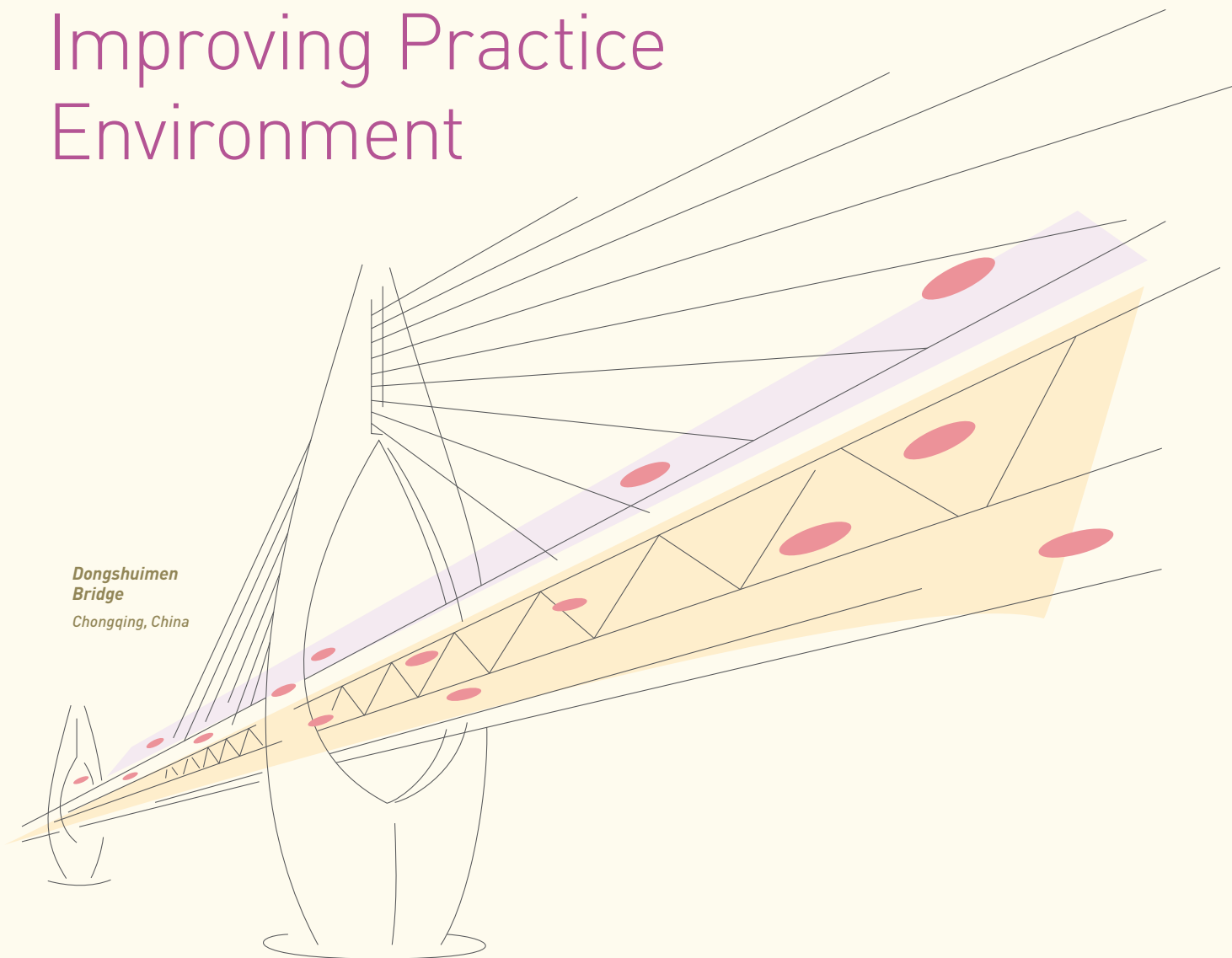
In 2017, there have been disturbing instances of the publication of abusive comments and threats at judges because of their judgments in certain court cases. Although these actions were undertaken by a small minority of the community, they could be damaging to the respect that the public has for a court’s decision made through the due process of law. Further, it is an affront

to the Rule of Law to attempt to bring public pressure on a judge to decide or review a case in any particular way. The Law Society publicly condemned these deplorable acts by issuing a press statement in February.

In August, The Law Society issued another press statement jointly with the Hong Kong Bar Association. There were some editorial comments and other opinions reported in some international and local media in respect of the Hong Kong Court of Appeal’s decisions in relation to applications for reviews of sentences in cases of unlawful assembly. The unfounded comments that judicial decisions were made or influenced by political considerations originating outside Hong Kong were unjustified and damaging to Hong Kong’s legal system, and to Hong Kong, as a whole.

The Law Society will continue its tireless efforts to defend the Rule of Law, the key to the social stability, economic success, and overall well-being of Hong Kong.

Improving Practice Environment



Dongshuimen Bridge
Chongqing, China

The shifting competitive landscape in the legal service industry continued to pose fierce challenges to solicitors in practice. A key role of The Law Society is to develop and sustain a practice environment where a strong, effective and independent legal profession can thrive.

Reduction of overheads

One of the substantial overhead costs for operating a law firm is the mandatory contributions payable by the firm to the Hong Kong Solicitors Indemnity Fund. The amount of contribution is calculated in accordance with a statutory formula stipulated in the Solicitors (Professional Indemnity) Rules (Cap. 159, sub. leg.) (“PIS Rules”). The Council had no discretion to

deviate from the statutory formula until 2010 when the PIS Rules were amended to enable the Council to reduce the total amount of contributions due for the next indemnity year. Since then, with the assistance of professional actuarial projections, the Council annually considers the projected Fund surplus for the following five years under different economic scenarios in conjunction with the Fund’s loss history and investment returns and

decides if an adjustment to the contribution can be made. The PIS contributions payable by law firms had been reduced by one-third in the indemnity years 2010/11, 2011/12, 2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/16 and by 50% in the indemnity year 2016/17. The amount of reduction provided to the profession over these five indemnity years totaled HK\$961 million. In 2017, on the basis of the projections, the Council decided to exercise its power to reduce the contributions for the indemnity year 2017/18 by one-third.

The Working Party on Practice in Service Centres, At Home, In Domestic Premises or by Virtual Offices continued its work during the year to review the feasibility of conducting legal practice in each of these scenarios with a view to reducing overheads of operating a physical office in the traditional way. Regulatory hurdles in relation to potential sharing of premises, staff and facilities in the less conventional modes of operation had to be addressed. The Working Party had prepared draft guidelines for the relevant Committee to consider when processing applications to practise in service centres.

Improvements to existing practice

Party and party rates

The solicitors' hourly rates for party and party taxation in civil proceedings ("SHRs") do not really affect solicitors because solicitors' costs are agreed with clients. However, if there is an unreasonably wide recoverability gap resulting from substantial differences between the SHRs and the market rates, it could adversely affect the competitiveness of Hong Kong as an international financial centre.

The failure to have an effective mechanism to enable parties in a dispute to recover reasonable costs on the success of a meritorious claim could drive users away from choosing Hong Kong as a preferred venue for international dispute resolution.

In view of these adverse consequences, The Law Society had been tirelessly raising concerns about the obsolete SHRs with the Judiciary. The Law Society also commissioned an independent consultancy report in 2013 ("2013 Report") to study the level of adjustments that should be made to SHRs to reflect changes in the market conditions. On the basis of the findings of the 2013 Report, The Law Society urged the Judiciary to review and update the SHRs. The Judiciary responded by setting up a Working Party in January 2014. The Law Society had

monitored closely the work progress of the Judiciary's Working Party and urged it to progress the review expeditiously. The Law Society also reflected members' comments on the review to the Working Party including comments on the faulty design of the questionnaire in the survey conducted by the Working Party and the suitability of the survey consultant.

On 1 December, the Judiciary advised that it had concluded its review and would revise the SHRs with effect from 1 January 2018. The adjustments made by the Judiciary were close to the level recommended in the 2013 Report commissioned by The Law Society. However, those rates in the 2013 Report were rates recommended in 2013. Nevertheless, The Law Society considered the review a step forward and the revised rates represent a substantial increment to the 1997 SHRs.

Matrimonial fixed costs

Fixed costs for matrimonial causes under the District Court (Fixed Costs) in Matrimonial Causes Rules (Cap. 336F) were last reviewed in 2000. A review was long overdue. The Family Law Committee sought an update and in February, submitted a proposal to the Judiciary to amend the rules with a view to updating the fixed costs.

Duty lawyer fees

The Criminal Law and Procedure Committee had engaged the Duty Lawyer Service and the Home Affairs Bureau (“HAB”) and sought an update on the fees payable to duty lawyers. The HAB responded in September that it had decided to conduct a review of the duty lawyer fees. A working group comprising representatives from The Law Society, the Duty Lawyer Service, the Department of Justice (“DOJ”) and the Legal Aid Department (“LAD”) had been set up by the HAB to conduct the review.

PIS indemnity limit

The existing PIS indemnity limit of HK\$10 million per claim (inclusive of defence costs) has been in place for more than two decades since 1994. After careful consideration of factors such as the rise in property values over the last twenty years, PIS claims statistics, the financial position of the Solicitors Indemnity Fund and the compulsory professional indemnity limits required in other jurisdictions, The Law Society had resolved to increase the PIS indemnity limit to HK\$20 million per claim, effective from a date to be appointed. The proposed increase in the PIS indemnity limit would enhance the benefits provided to both members and the public, bring

Hong Kong law firms in line with overseas standards and increase the overall competitiveness of the legal profession in Hong Kong. The increased limit of indemnity will not result in an increase of PIS contributions and there will be no change in the calculation of the PIS contribution formula.

An increase of the PIS indemnity limit will require legislative amendments to the PIS Rules and The Law Society will take the steps to seek the necessary approvals for the amendments.

Anti-money laundering

The Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing (Financial Institutions) Ordinance (Amendment) Bill 2017 (“the Amendment Bill”) was introduced into the Legislative Council (“LegCo”) in June 2017. The Amendment Bill applies the statutory client due diligence (“CDD”) and record-keeping requirements in the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing (Financial Institutions) Ordinance (“AMLO”) to solicitors and foreign lawyers, accountants, real estate agents, and trust or company service providers (“TCSPs”) when they engage in specified transactions and to introduce a licensing regime for TCSPs.

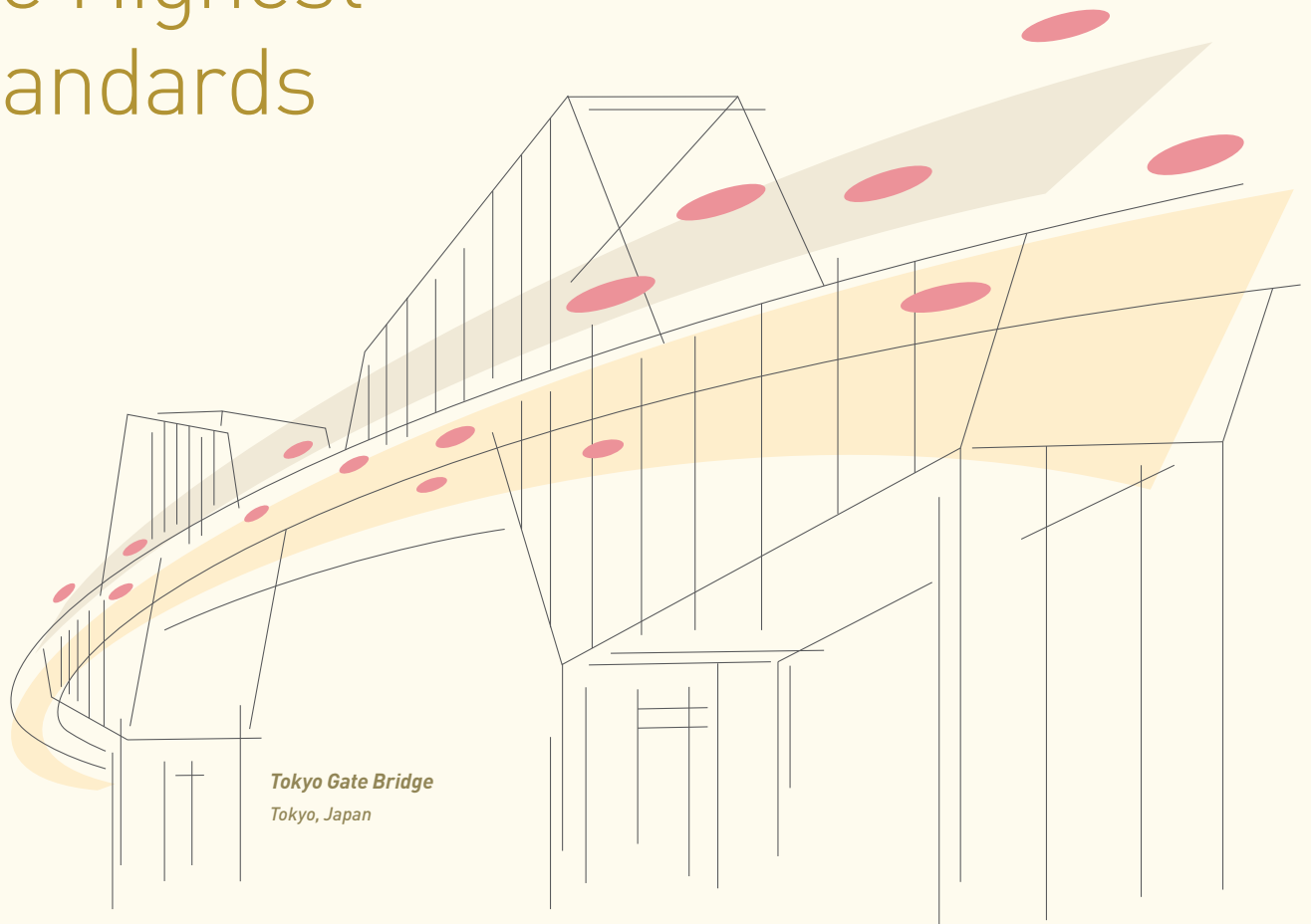
The Law Society’s Anti-Money Laundering Committee (“AML Committee”) devoted much time and effort in reviewing the Amendment Bill and engaging in numerous rounds of discussions and exchanges of correspondence with the Government officials and LegCo representatives on the subject, as well as raised The Law Society’s concerns on the proposed amendments. A briefing session was held in March to enable members to express their views to the Government on the Government’s proposals. Members of the AML Committee also attended the LegCo meeting for public deputations putting forward The Law Society’s submissions on the Government’s proposed amendments. The Government acknowledged that The Law Society, as a self-regulatory body, should be the sole authority under the AMLO to enforce the statutory CDD and record-keeping requirements for legal professionals and may issue guidelines as it considers appropriate for the operation of the relevant requirements. Practice Direction P, a comprehensive set of AML guidelines for the legal profession implemented by The Law Society since 2008, is also recognised by the Government as an effective AML mechanism.

Contributions to law reforms

The Law Society, through the valuable input of the various specialist committees under the Standing Committee on Practitioners Affairs, communicates the views of the solicitors' profession through public submissions during consultations on law reforms. In 2017, 20 public submissions were made on a wide range of areas, some of which are set out below:

- Proposals to Enhance the Financial Dispute Resolution Scheme
- Submission on Law Reform Commission report on sexual offences involving children and persons with mental impairment
- Consultation Paper on Proposals to Enhance Asset Management Regulation and Point-of-sale Transparency
- Enhancing Transparency of Beneficial Ownership of Hong Kong Companies
- Consultation Paper on the Proposed Amendments to the Securities and Futures (Professional Investor) Rules
- Enhancing Anti-Money Laundering Regulation of Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions United Nations (Anti-Terrorism Measures) Ordinance – Proposals for Amendments
- Arbitration and Mediation Legislation (Third Party Funding) (Amendment) Bill 2016
- Review of the Building Management Ordinance (Cap. 344)
- Consultation on Proposals to Reduce and Mitigate Hacking Risks Associated with Internet Trading
- Consultation on The Proposed Guidelines on Online Distribution and Advisory Platforms
- Submission on Evidence (Amendment) Bill 2017
- Consultation Paper on The Securities and Futures (Open-Ended Fund Companies) Rules and Code on Open-Ended Fund Companies
- Consultation Paper on Review of the Growth Enterprise Market (GEM) and Changes to the GEM and Main Board Listing Rules
- Concept Paper on New Board
- Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing (Financial Institutions) (Amendment) Bill and Proposed Consequential Amendments to the LPO
- Consultation Paper on Capital Raisings by Listed Issuers
- Consultation Paper on Delisting and Other Rule Amendments
- Consultation Paper on Review of the Corporate Governance Code and Related Listing Rules
- Consultation Paper on Proposed Changes to Documentary Requirements relating to Listed Issuers and Other Minor Rule Amendments
- Consultation Paper: Part 1 Gender Recognition

Maintaining the Highest Standards



*Tokyo Gate Bridge
Tokyo, Japan*

The solicitors' profession is self-regulatory. The Council is obliged to ensure the establishment and promotion of high standards of work within the profession. This includes encouraging legal practitioners to continue to study, acquire and supplement their legal knowledge and skills.

Nurturing life-long learning

The Law Society has implemented the CPD Scheme since 1998 and the RME Programme since 2004. The aim of the CPD Scheme is to provide a convenient framework for the legal profession to meet the changing demands of clients and society. It requires practitioners to attending accredited courses to update their legal knowledge and skills. The RME Programme aims to raise practitioners' awareness of risk-related issues and promote good risk management practices within the legal industry.

In 2017, The Law Society and the Hong Kong Academy of Law Limited ("the Academy") conducted a total of 375 CPD and RME courses and attracted an attendance of 17,471 participants. Further, The Law Society accredited 4,963 CPD courses provided by other providers and three new providers under the Provider Accreditation Scheme.

With respect to the CPD Scheme, The Law Society has taken into consideration the need for busy practitioners to have a variety of means by which they can comply with the CPD requirements by

permitting and encouraging methods of learning other than attendance at traditional lecture based courses. During the year, The Law Society also accredited five postgraduate and other law courses, six legal journals and books, 82 legal research projects and seven committees for CPD purposes.

With respect to the RME Programme, a tender was undertaken to appoint trainers to conduct training on cross-borders transactions and the risks associated with such practice. In addition, as part of the initiative to promote the RME Programme to ASEAN countries, a tender was conducted to appoint consultants to review and update the core courses of the RME Programme and to advise on any necessary revisions.

Apart from the regular core courses and 17 electives offered under the RME Programme, the following *ad hoc* risk management courses on specific areas were conducted during the year:

- Risk Management and the New Competition Law;
- Professional Conduct 2017;
- SAR as amended by the Solicitors' Accounts (Amendment) Rules 2012; and
- Seminar on Property Fraud; and
- Risk Management in Family Mediation Practice.

With respect to ensuring all solicitors develop adequate practice management skills, under the LPO, a solicitor cannot practise on his own account or in partnership until he has satisfied the Council that he has been bona fide employed in the practice of a solicitor in Hong Kong for at least two years. To ensure that a solicitor is properly equipped with the necessary practice management skills before he is allowed to operate his own firm as a sole proprietor or as a partner, the LPO has been amended to include a requirement on the completion of an approved practice management course prior to an application for an unconditional practising certificate. This legislative amendment has not come into operation and no commencement date has been fixed yet. The Law Society completed the development of a practice management course

that was launched as an RME elective during the year on a trial basis before introducing it as the mandatory practice management course under the LPO.

To broaden members' exposure to the legal developments overseas, The Law Society also invited eminent speakers around the world to participate in seminars and conferences held in Hong Kong including, for instance, (i) The Law Society's Belt and Road Conference on 12 May, (ii) the LAWASIA Conference on Risk Management and Professional Indemnity Insurance held in Hong Kong with the support of The Law Society on 15 and 16 June; and (iii) The Law Society's Cross Strait Four Regions Young Lawyers Forum on 19 and 20 October.



Seminar on Property Fraud



The Law Society's Belt and Road Conference

Gatekeeper of admission standards

The Law Society is empowered under s. 4 of the LPO to prescribe the requirements for admission as solicitors of Hong Kong. Solicitors are the backbone of society tasked with the important responsibility of ensuring the fair administration of justice. The Law Society has a statutory duty to prescribe admission requirements to ensure those who enter the solicitors' profession are of the highest standards.

There are two routes to admission as a solicitor of Hong Kong, via the trainee solicitor route and the overseas lawyers qualification route.

In respect of the overseas lawyers qualification route, The Law Society is responsible for administering the OLQE which is held annually.

In 2017, The Law Society administered the 23rd OLQE since its launch in 1995. 212 candidates sat the OLQE, out of whom 206 were from 20 overseas jurisdictions (12 were common law jurisdictions and eight were non-common law jurisdictions). The remaining six candidates were Hong Kong barristers. The overall pass rate was 51%.

For the trainee solicitor route, prior to entering into a trainee solicitor contract, a person is currently required to complete the Postgraduate Certificate in Laws ("PCLL") provided by the three law schools in Hong Kong. Under rule 7 of the Trainee Solicitors Rules (Cap. 159, sub. leg.), The Law Society is also empowered alternatively to set and/or approve an examination for anyone wishing to enter into a trainee solicitor contract. During the year, The Law Society worked on its proposal of introducing a common

entrance examination pursuant to rule 7 of the Trainee Solicitors Rules. The Law Society announced that, starting from 2021, a person may only enter into a trainee solicitor contract if that person has passed a Common Entrance Examination ("CEE"). The CEE will be set and marked by The Law Society. The Law Society will require certified completion of the PCLL course but will not require any examination to be set by the providers of the PCLL. The Law Society will review the prerequisites for taking the CEE periodically.

The proposed CEE is aimed at ensuring solicitors have all been assessed to the same rigorous standard. This will improve consistency and enhance the quality and competence of the entrants to the solicitors' profession thereby ensuring that the public interest is served and the confidence of the community in the profession is sustained.



Cross Strait Four Regions Young Lawyers Forum

The Law Society set up working groups and they continued to consider the syllabus, examination procedures, and logistics of the CEE during the year. We will continue to work on the various aspects of the CEE engaging all stakeholders in the process.

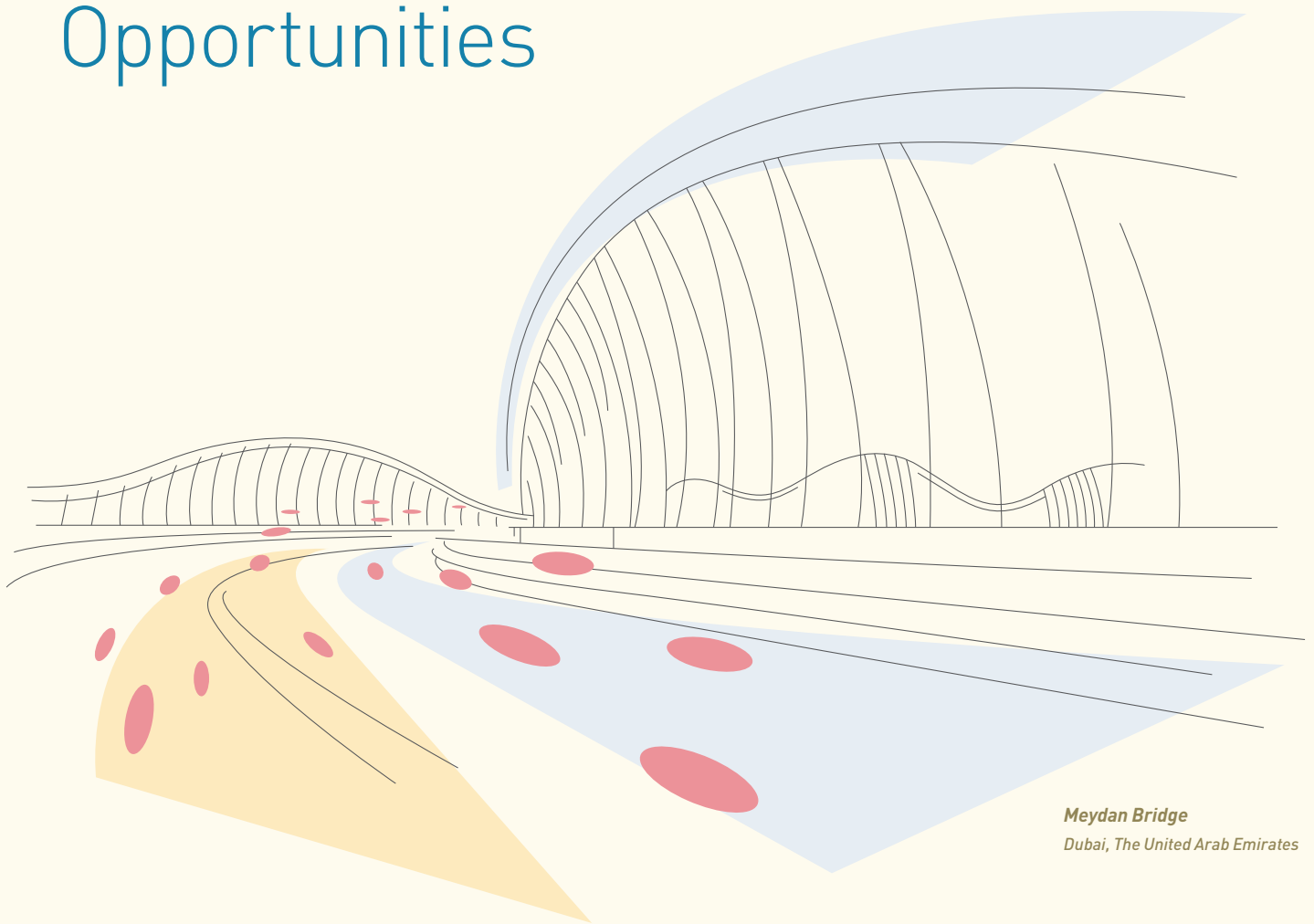
Ensuring compliance with rules and regulations

As a legal service hub in Asia, Hong Kong is blessed with legal talent from around the world. As of the end of the year, there were 84 foreign law firms and 1,433 registered foreign lawyers from 34 overseas jurisdictions. For the protection of the public, foreign law firms and foreign lawyers who are qualified to practise the laws of their overseas jurisdictions of admission are prohibited from practising Hong Kong law.

Further, under the LPO, other than practising Hong Kong solicitors and barristers, one must be registered with The Law Society as a foreign lawyer before he or she is permitted to provide legal services as a foreign legal practitioner to the public. The Law Society has reminded its members that where overseas qualified lawyers are engaged in law firms to assist clients, there might be a risk that the clients would take their communication as legal advice in the foreign law. However, without being registered as a foreign lawyer, these overseas lawyers are not entitled to practise foreign law in Hong Kong. Against this background, The Law Society, in consultation with the Immigration Department, completed a review of its process of considering applications for no-objection letters in support of applications to the Immigration Department for employment visa for overseas personnel to work in law firms in Hong Kong.

During the year, Investigation Counsel of The Law Society made 14 visits to 11 law firms. Two of these visits were made under s. 8AA of the LPO to verify compliance with the provisions of the LPO or any Practice Direction issued by The Law Society, and to determine whether the conduct of those against whom an inspection was made should be inquired into or investigated. In addition, three court inspections were conducted by inspectors at magistrates' courts. For these court inspections, the Council appointed inspectors to verify compliance with rule 5D of the Solicitors' Practice Rules and to monitor the proper completion of court attendance forms.

Exploring New Opportunities



Meydan Bridge
Dubai, The United Arab Emirates

Exploring new business opportunities for members is one of the important tasks of The Law Society.

The Law Society has been actively promoting Hong Kong legal services to the international community at every possible opportunity. We are also putting in substantial efforts to enhance the global understanding of the unique position of Hong Kong as a Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China under the implementation of the concept of "One Country, Two Systems". Through the attendance at selected international conferences by our

representatives, The Law Society has been able to keep abreast of the global development of the legal market.

In 2017, The Law Society held its inaugural Belt and Road Conference on 12 May which attracted over 650 participants from 23 overseas jurisdictions, who exchanged views on how to capitalise on Belt and Road-related opportunities. The Hong Kong Manifesto initiated by The Law Society was also signed at the occasion by 38 organisations from 23 overseas jurisdictions which were all supportive of the following goals put forward, namely to:

- promote legal cooperation between lawyers from the "Belt and Road" regions;
- engage lawyers' associations to promote cooperation and interaction amongst their respective members;
- create a platform for exchange of information on laws touching on matters related to the Belt and Road Initiative;
- establish a community for networking and business referrals; and



"Think Asia, Think Hong Kong" in London in September



The 28th POLA Summit in Colombo in July



A plenary session of the Belt and Road Conference in May

- hold annual/biennial conferences to share tasks, present new ideas, respond to challenges and opportunities.

The Law Society will continue its work in enhancing the role of the Hong Kong legal professionals in the Belt and Road Initiative.

During the year, The Law Society also took the opportunity at the following occasions to promote Hong Kong legal services to the international community:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>(a) 3rd International Lawyers Forum in Berlin in March;</p> | <p>(b) LAWASIA Foreign Direct Investment Seminar in Osaka in May;</p> <p>(c) St. Petersburg International Legal Forum in St. Petersburg in May;</p> <p>(d) SmartHK by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council ("HKTDC") in Fuzhou in May;</p> <p>(e) Hong Kong-Guangdong Joint Investment and Partnership Mission to Thailand and Vietnam in Bangkok and Hanoi in July;</p> <p>(f) 28th Presidents of Law Associations in Asia ("POLA") Summit in Colombo in July;</p> | <p>(g) Joint Seminar with Malaysian Bar in Hong Kong in September;</p> <p>(h) 30th LAWASIA Conference in Tokyo in September;</p> <p>(i) Business and Legal Conference in Budapest in September;</p> <p>(j) HKTDC "Think Asia, Think Hong Kong" in London in September;</p> <p>(k) LAWASIA Foreign Direct Investment Breakfast Forum in Sydney in October;</p> <p>(l) UIA 61st Congress in Toronto in October;</p> |
|--|--|---|

"In Style • Hong Kong"
Symposium in
Kuala Lumpur in
November



Guangdong Lawyers Association "Belt and Road" Legal Services Forum in Shenzhen in December



MOU signing with Bar Association of India in January



MOU signing with Mongolian Bar Association in January

- (m) HKTDC "In Style • Hong Kong" Symposium in Kuala Lumpur in November;
- (n) The 9th Lujiazui Law Forum in Shanghai in November;
- (o) InvestHK "Belt and Road" Seminar on Hong Kong Legal and Dispute Resolution Services in Beijing in November; and
- (p) Guangdong Lawyers Association "Belt and Road" Legal Services Forum in Shenzhen in December.

Through networking with law societies and bar associations around the world, The Law Society has established extensive connections with the legal profession in different overseas jurisdictions laying a good foundation for collaborative initiatives for the benefit of our members. In 2017, The Law Society entered into a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") with each of the following:

- (a) Bar Association of India in January;
- (b) Mongolian Bar Association in January;
- (c) PERADI in March;
- (d) Bar of Attorneys in Gdańsk in June;
- (e) French National Bar Council in October;
- (f) The Law Society of New South Wales in October;



MOU signing with PERADI in March



MOUs signing with The Law Society of New South Wales and the French National Bar Council in October



MOU signing with The Law Society of England and Wales in October

- (g) Law Society of England and Wales in October;
- (h) Georgian Bar Association in December; and
- (i) Slovenian Bar Association in December

Opening up new areas of work for our members is another priority for The Law Society.

In an effort to help promote arbitration services of solicitors, The Law Society set up a Panel of Solicitor Arbitrators in September

as a centralised database for easy reference by arbitration service users. A webpage was also created for the Panel on The Law Society website. Further, in November, we invited members to join a newly set up Panel of Parenting Co-ordinators, with the aim of giving members a means to healthfully and amicably resolve familial disputes arising from parenting issues.

Other recent areas of work for solicitors include solicitor advocates, civil celebrants of marriages, and reverse mortgage counselors. The

numbers of solicitors qualifying into these areas keep increasing. As of the end of the year, there were 51 solicitor advocates, 2,118 civil celebrants and 445 reverse mortgage counselors.

The Law Society will continue its efforts to secure more opportunities for our members and maintain the healthy and sustainable development of our profession.

The Law Society's Global Network

Overseas



MOUs signed with the following organisations prior to 2017:

- A. Czech Republic - Czech Bar Association
- B. Australia (Victoria) - Law Institute of Victoria
- C. Australia (Queensland) - Queensland Law Society
- D. Republic of Korea - Korean Bar Association
- E. Croatia - Croatian Bar Association
- F. Cambodia - The Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia
- G. Australia - The Law Council of Australia
- H. Japan (Tokyo) - Tokyo Bar Association
- I. Japan - The Japan Federation of Bar Associations
- J. Luxembourg - Le Barreau de Luxembourg
- K. Japan (Osaka) - Osaka Bar Association
- L. Italy (Milan) - Milan Bar Association
- M. Japan (Okinawa) - Okinawa Bar Association
- N. Russia - Federal Chamber of Lawyers of the Russian Federation
- O. Malaysia - The Malaysian Bar
- P. Hungary - Hungarian Bar Association
- Q. Spain (Madrid) - Madrid Bar Association
- R. Germany - German Federal Bar
- S. Sri Lanka - Bar Association of Sri Lanka
- T. Poland - The Polish National Bar of Attorneys

MOUs signed with the following organisations in 2017:

- U. India - Bar Association of India
- V. Mongolia - Mongolian Bar Association
- W. Indonesia - Indonesian Advocates Association ("PERADI")
- X. Poland (Gdańsk) - Bar of Attorneys in Gdańsk
- Y. France - French National Bar Council
- Z. Australia (New South Wales) - The Law Society of New South Wales
- AA. United Kingdom (England and Wales) - Law Society of England and Wales
- BB. Georgia - Georgian Bar Association
- CC. Slovenia - Slovenian Bar Association

International conferences and events attended in 2017:

1. Opening of the Legal Year of Singapore (8-9 Jan)
2. Opening of the Legal Year of Malaysia (12-13 Jan)
3. Training workshop cum visit to Indonesia (8-10 Mar)
4. 10th LAWASIA Employment Law Conference, Chennai (11-12 Mar)
5. 20th Commonwealth Law Conference, Melbourne (20-24 Mar)
6. 3rd International Lawyers Forum, Berlin (30-31 Mar)
7. IPBA 27th Annual Meeting & Conference, Auckland (6-9 Apr)
8. LAWASIA Foreign Direct Investment Seminar, Osaka (15 May)
9. St. Petersburg International Legal Forum, St. Petersburg (16-20 May)
10. One-day conference in Gdańsk (29 Jun)
11. Hong Kong-Guangdong Joint Investment and Partnership Mission to Thailand and Vietnam (16-21 Jul)
12. 28th POLA Summit, Colombo (22-24 Jul)
13. 55th AIJA Congress, Tokyo (28 Aug-1 Sep)
14. Joint Seminar with Malaysian Bar, Hong Kong (12 Sep)
15. 30th LAWASIA Conference, Tokyo (18-21 Sep)
16. Half-day Business and Legal Conference in Budapest (19 Sep)
17. HKTDC "Think Asia, Think Hong Kong", London (21 Sep)
18. Opening of the Legal Year of England and Wales (1-3 Oct)
19. International Conference of Legal Regulators, Singapore (1-3 Oct)
20. IBA Annual Conference, Sydney (8-13 Oct)
21. LAWASIA Foreign Direct Investment Breakfast Forum, Sydney (9 Oct)
22. UIA 61st Congress, Toronto (27-31 Oct)
23. International Institute of Law Association Chief Executive Conference, London (1-4 Nov)
24. HKTDC "In Style Hong Kong" Symposium, Kuala Lumpur (6-8 Nov)
25. Opening of the Legal Year of Paris (30 Nov-2 Dec)
26. Information Session with Israel Bar Association, Hong Kong (8 Dec)



Greater China Region

● MOUs signed with the following organisations in the Greater China region

The Law Society signed an MOU with All China Lawyers Association in 2013 (lawyers association on national level)

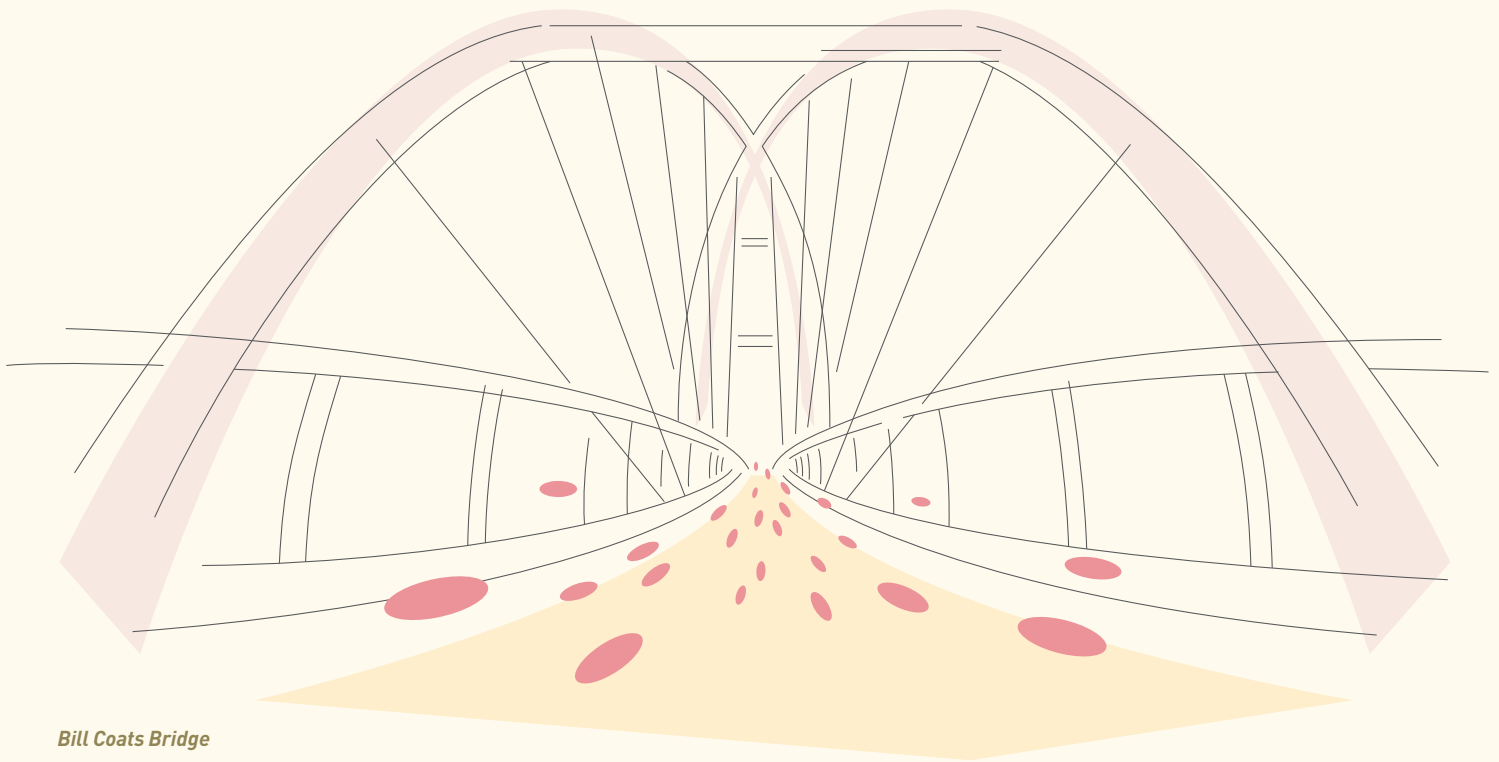
1. Anhui Lawyers Association
2. Beijing Lawyers Association
3. Changhua Bar Association
4. Changzhou Lawyers Association
5. Chongqing Lawyers Association
6. Dalian Lawyers Association
7. Foshan Lawyers Association
8. Fujian Lawyers Association
9. Guangdong Lawyers Association
10. Guangxi Lawyers Association
11. Hangzhou Lawyers Association
12. Hebei Lawyers Association
13. Henan Lawyers Association
14. Hubei Lawyers Association
15. Hunan Lawyers Association
16. Jiangsu Lawyers Association
17. Jiangxi Lawyers Association
18. Jilin Lawyers Association
19. Kaohsiung Bar Association
20. Liaoning Lawyers Association
21. Macau Lawyers Association
22. Nanjing Lawyers Association
23. Nantou Bar Association
24. Ningbo Lawyers Association
25. Qingdao Lawyers Association
26. Shaanxi Lawyers Association
27. Shandong Lawyers Association
28. Shanghai Bar Association
29. Shanxi Lawyers Association
30. Shenzhen Lawyers Association
31. Sichuan Lawyers Association
32. Taichung Bar Association
33. Taipei Bar Association
34. Taiwan Bar Association
35. Tianjin Lawyers Association
36. Union of Beijing Business Services
37. Xi'an Lawyers Association
38. Xinjiang Lawyers Association
39. Zhejiang Lawyers Association

● Conferences and events attended in 2017

- A. Taiwan Legal Symposium, Taipei (10-11 Jan)
- B. RME Introductory Session, Shanghai (15 Feb)
- C. Exchange Tour and RME Introductory Session, Kaohsiung and Tainan (16-19 Mar)
- D. Renmin University of China Law School Legal Seminar, Shanghai (19 Mar)
- E. RME Introductory Session, Dongguan (25 Mar)
- F. Annual Meeting of Presidents of Yangtze River Economic Belt Lawyers Associations, Shanghai (1 Apr)
- G. RME Introductory Session, Chongqing (14 Apr)
- H. HKTDC SmartHK, Fuzhou (25 May)
- I. China Law Society Legal Seminar, Zhengzhou (5 Jun)
- J. Visit to Chongqing and Chengdu (21-24 Jun)
- K. China Legal Services "Belt and Road" Legal Services Seminar, Shenzhen (25 Jun)
- L. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs Legal Seminar in Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR, Shenzhen (8-9 Jul)
- M. Taichung Bar Association Celebration Ceremony and Legal Seminar (2-3 Sep)
- N. Taiwan Bar Association Celebration Ceremony, Kaohsiung (9 Sep)
- O. China Law Society Seminar on Legal Risks and Measures for International Investment, Beijing (12-13 Oct)
- P. Common Law Courses for Renmin University of China Law School, Beijing (9-10, 23-24 Nov)
- Q. The 9th Lujiazui Law Forum, Shanghai (18 Nov)
- R. InvestHK "Belt and Road" Seminar on Hong Kong Legal and Dispute Resolution Services, Beijing (21 Nov)
- S. Guangdong-HK-Macau Cooperation Forum, Foshan (27-28 Nov)
- T. Guangdong Lawyers Association "Belt and Road" Legal Services Forum, Shenzhen (2-3 Dec)
- U. RME Session on Litigation Risk, Guangzhou (16 Dec)



Providing Relevant and Effective Support to Members



Bill Coats Bridge

Houston, The United States of America

The Law Society is dedicated to providing relevant and effective support to our members.

The support we provide covers different aspects including the professional development and the well being of our individual members as well as sector-specific needs.

Professional support

Law

The Law Society and the Academy regularly organise seminars to update members on imminent changes to

the law and practice. Updates in 2017 included seminars in relation to the following:

- (a) The Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) (Amendment) Ordinance which took effect in February;
- (b) the Arbitration and Mediation Legislation (Third Party Funding) (Amendment) Ordinance 2017 and the Arbitration (Amendment) Ordinance 2017 which came into operation in June;
- (c) the Financial Institutions (Resolution) Ordinance which came into effect in July; and
- (d) General regular updates in the following areas:
 - the SAR
 - competition law
 - legal aid schemes
 - property fraud cases
 - personal injury claims

- Companies Ordinance Cap. 622 (3 years after its promulgation)
- human trafficking
- insolvency law
- criminal law

Apart from updates in law and practice, The Law Society and the Academy also provided skills training to legal practitioners. During the year, the following workshops were conducted:

- (a) Training on written and practical advocacy and trial techniques for those who wished to enhance their advocacy skills in general, as well as those who intended to take the higher rights of audience (“HRA”) assessments to obtain HRA.
- (b) Five sharing sessions on mediation to enable solicitor-mediators to enhance their mediation skills and to facilitate their renewal of membership on the Panels of Mediators.
- (c) Eight briefing sessions with practical demonstrations on the new electronic legislation database known as Hong Kong e-Legislation (“HKeL”) launched by the DOJ in February.

Ethics

The Law Society handles daily enquiries from members on matters relating to the LPO and its subsidiary legislation, The Law Society’s Practice Directions and

the Hong Kong Solicitors’ Guide to Professional Conduct (“Conduct Guide”). The more complicated enquiries are referred to The Law Society’s Guidance Committee for consideration.

During the year, the Guidance Committee considered 11 enquiries on professional conduct issues. In March, The Law Society published the Chinese translation of the *Hong Kong Solicitors’ Guide to Professional Conduct, Volume 1*.

Practice management

The Law Society has set up a dedicated committee on Practice Management to support members in this area. The Committee organised a seminar on “Talent Retention and Succession Planning” in October.

It also commissioned external consultants to write four articles on practice management trends and related issues for publication in The Law Society’s official journal, *Hong Kong Lawyer*.

Further, The Law Society has been working on issues arising from the use of awards for the purpose of practice promotion. In recent years, members and law firms have been approached by commercial operators who give out awards or citations to solicitors or law firms with those awards and citations stating that the solicitors or law firms are the leaders or leading firms in certain legal practices in Hong Kong or in other jurisdictions or containing other statements of similar nature. Some



Training Courses on Civil Written and Practical Advocacy

members or firms have chosen to use the awards and the citations in conjunction with their practice promotion by exhibiting the awards and the citations in their offices, on their websites or outgoing e-mails and some on their headed note papers or firm brochures. A Members’ Forum on the topic was organised in July. Views received and amendments proposed by members to the regulatory framework were being considered by the relevant Committees with a view to determining if the existing rules and regulations required clarification in this regard.

Risk management is an important element of practice management. In addition to the RME courses provided by The Law Society and the Academy, the Academy invited 12 law firms, which are accredited RME course providers, to share their RME know-how by conducting 12 courses during the year for the benefit of the general membership.

To assist members identify and avoid property frauds in conveyancing transaction, The Law Society launched an Immigration Offence Hotline with the Immigration Department in May. The Hotline assists members with the verification checks of Hong Kong identity cards when there is a suspected immigration offence.

Accounts

One of the roles of The Law Society's Monitoring Accountants is to pay routine visits to newly established law firms, both local and foreign, to provide guidance on how to ensure compliance with the SAR. In 2017, they conducted a total of 94 visits to 63 Hong Kong and foreign law firms.

The Law Society has prepared a list of Frequently Asked Questions and Answers on the SAR to assist members in understanding how the updated SAR operates in practice. The list was posted on the The Law Society website in November.

Technology

Two seminars on key learnings from the latest cyber attacks and on Blockchain and Artificial Intelligence were organised by the InnoTech Committee in July and December to raise awareness of the various aspects of cyber risks and new cyber developments. The Committee has also been examining the influence of big data on the development of legal practice and working on a Technology roadmap outlining what The Law Society should do to assist the profession to take advantage of

technology. Further, an update of *The Law Society Software Directory and Selection Guide* to incorporate an objective assessment on practice management software available in the market was published and posted on The Law Society website in September.

Legal development updates via monthly journals

The Law Society publishes a monthly journal, *Hong Kong Lawyer*, which contains a wide spectrum of commentaries with priority given to matters affecting legal practitioners in Hong Kong. Articles typically cover new or prospective developments in the law and legal practice or current affairs of relevance to the legal profession. With the digital version of *Hong Kong Lawyer* available on both The Law Society App and the *Hong Kong Lawyer* website, members can read it online via a computer, smart phone, tablet or other mobile device. Not only does it contain the same content as the print journal, it also contains additional insights and articles from legal experts. The online version of the in-print content is also searchable with hyperlinked sources. The E-journal thus also serves as a good source of reference materials for research. Individual stories (or the entire journal) can also be conveniently shared with others via social media and email.

Support for Members' Well-Being

Maintaining a work-life balance is important to the well being of our members. The Law Society provides

a framework for members to participate in different kinds of sports, recreational and social activities and to have some fun in between their busy work schedules.

In 2017, The Law Society administered 14 sports teams and nine recreational groups with practice sessions and competitions throughout the year for members. In addition, a variety of members' functions were organised, including:

- Spring Reception on 6 February;
- a coffee tasting workshop on 23 March;
- Members' Lunch Gatherings on 31 March and 13 September;
- visits to the Court of Final Appeal on 12 April and 18 October;
- 110th Jubilee Law Society Dinner Reception on 13 May;
- Members and Family Fun Day on 14 May;
- Clubhouse Farewell Party on 9 June;
- Members' Forum and Dinner Gathering on 28 July;
- visit to Fire and Ambulance Services Education Centre and Museum for members' kids on 19 August;
- Swimming Gala on 20 August;
- moon cake workshop on 23 September;
- 12th Recreation and Sports Night on 21 October;



Spring Reception



110th Jubilee Law Society Dinner Reception



The Law Society Clubhouse Farewell Party



7th Members and Family Fun Day



Members' Forum and Dinner Gathering

- Chinese seal carving classes on 21 October and 25 November;
- Cooking competition on 22 October;
- 7th Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Lawyers Sports Meet on 10–12 November as a co-host;
- Annual Cocktail on 27 November; and
- Christmas Party on 14 December.

The online research platform “LawSociety Lexis” free of up-front charge continued to be available exclusively for Law Society members, registered foreign lawyers and trainee solicitors for the 7th year since its launch in 2011. A range of products and services under the various categories of Culture & Lifestyle, Dine & Wine, Education & Learning, Health & Leisure, Household & Living and IT products and services sourced for the benefit of members were posted on The

Law Society website and The Law Society App. Other member benefits included the offer of free Chinese New Year red packets.

Support for sector-specific needs

In-house lawyers

An increasing number of our members work as in-house lawyers. As of the end of 2017, about 26.5% of our members holding a practising certificate were not in private practice.



12th Recreation and Sports Night



The Law Society Annual Christmas Party 2017



2017 Annual Conference of In-House Lawyers



The 7th Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Lawyers Sports Meet

The Law Society held its Annual Conference of In-House Lawyers on topics of common interest to in-house solicitors on 29 September and attracted over 400 participants. In addition, a visit to the headquarters of Midea Group in Shunde was organised for our in-house practitioners in July and seminars promoting the sharing of experiences among in-house solicitors were held throughout the year.

Young solicitors and trainee solicitors

About 28% of our members were admitted on or after 1 January 2013, i.e. with 5 years or less post-admission experience. The Law Society's Young Solicitors' Group was

set up to support the needs of this substantial group of our membership. In addition to organising activities for young members to facilitate networking among themselves as well as reaching out to law students and trainee solicitors, The Law Society also helps promote the culture of sharing in the profession. In 2017, the CONNECTED Programme continued for the 7th year. The purpose of the Programme was to provide an opportunity for trainee solicitors to meet both the younger members (their "buddy") and the senior members (their "mentor") of The Law Society facilitating a better mutual understanding among members of different backgrounds through interactive activities.

In November, the Council reviewed the minimum monthly salary for trainee solicitors and revised it to HK\$13,000 for the first year of training and HK\$15,000 for the second year of training for trainee solicitor contracts commencing on or after 1 January 2018.

Student members

Three career talks for law students were held on 13 February, 12 and 31 October to share insights on the range of career options open to law students.

The Law Society will continue its efforts to identify the needs of our members and provide relevant and effective support to them.



2017 CONNECTED kick-off event



Roll of Honour – Mr. Charles Lee



Roll of Honour – Mr. Robin Peard

Roll of Honour

According to The Law Society's Articles of Association, the Council may as a special honour admit to membership of the Roll of Honour any solicitor whose name remains on the roll of solicitors and who has, in the opinion of the Council, given such distinguished service to the Society or its Council, the development of the legal profession in Hong Kong or the practice of law, that his contribution warrants recognition by the Society. A member of the Roll of Honour shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of a member of the Society but shall not be required to pay any membership fee.



Roll of Honour – Ms. Anna Wu

During the year, Mr. Charles Lee, Mr. Robin Peard and Ms. Anna Wu were formally admitted to the Law Society's Roll of Honour at The Law Society's Annual General Meeting held on 26 May.

Mr. Lee, Mr. Peard and Ms. Wu are highly respected members of the profession whose distinguished contributions to The Law Society, the practice of law and the development of the legal profession in Hong Kong as a whole have set a role model for us all. There were 28 members on The Law Society's Roll of Honour as of the end of the year.

Giving Back to Community



Infinity Bridge
Middlesbrough, The United Kingdom

Our members have been actively participating in pro bono and community work, often quietly fulfilling their social responsibilities in different meaningful ways. The Law Society helps members to do so by providing structured opportunities. During the year:

- we organised a series of community projects including, e.g. “Teen Talk”, involving over 100 solicitor volunteers facilitating discussions on topics of legal interest among 1,200 secondary student participants from over 78 schools in 18 districts;
- our Free Legal Helpline handled 1,677 requests for legal assistance in the areas of personal injury, matrimonial law, criminal law, and mediation with the help of over 130 solicitor volunteers;
- the “Legal Pioneer Mentorship Programme” enlisted over 48 mentors for 13 school teams comprising 101 student mentees who participated in two visits to Lai King and Cape Collinson Correctional Institutions as well as in a microfilm production on topics including Law and Order, Campus Bullying, Triad-involved Offences and Fraud;

- our members disseminated legal knowledge through (i) school and community talks, public discussions, legal knowledge quizzes and moot court competitions for students, and (ii) newspaper columns, radio and online media including the production of seven short videos featuring legal topics on Basic

Law, Family Law, Wills and Probate, Anti-Money Laundering, Traffic Accident Liability, Cyber Crime and Personal Injury which were broadcast on YouTube and Facebook;

- community events including visits by our volunteers to the Home for the Elderly in Chai Wan and children in Po Leung Kuk and two

half-day programmes, comprising legal talks and visits to ethnic minorities, new immigrants and low income families were held;

- we collaborated with various organisations on different voluntary projects benefiting different sectors of the community, for example, we worked on:



Law Week and Teen Talk 2017 Joint Opening Ceremony on 25 November



Elderly Visit on 8 April



Legal Pioneer Mentorship Programme Phase 8 Closing and Phase 9 Opening Ceremony on 18 November



School Talk on 17 March



Visit to High Court and Legal Aid Department on 28 November

- the “Social Enterprise Legal Seminar Series” with the Hong Kong Council of Social Service (“HKCSS”) to help social enterprises understand the legal aspects of their operation; specifically, we co-hosted (i) a seminar on domestic and sexual violence in March, (ii) a seminar on “Legal Aspects of Fund Raising for Social Enterprises” in June, and (iii) a seminar on domestic violence and child custody in November for representatives of social enterprises;
- the “NGOs Governance Platform Project” with the HKCSS to promote best practice and experience sharing among board members of their NGO members;
- the “Business-School Partnership Programme” with the Education Bureau to promote better cooperation and closer alliances between the business sectors and the schools, so as to lead students out of the classroom to gain a wider perspective of the world and better prepare them for the workforce. During the year, we also held two visits to the Independent Commission Against Corruption (including a talk on criminal procedures) and the High Court and the LAD – 108 students from 13 secondary schools participated;
- the “Free Legal Advice Service on Building Management” with the Home Affairs Department providing assistance to owners corporations and building owners. During the year, 186 cases were processed;



Children programme on 9 December



2017 Pro Bono and Community Service Award Presentation Ceremony on 13 December

- the “Pro Bono IP Advisory Service” with the Intellectual Property Department (“IPD”) to provide legal assistance to small and medium sized enterprises on intellectual property issues – 87 consultation sessions were completed by the end of the year; further, also jointly with the IPD, The Law Society published two booklets, namely, *Intellectual Property Audit and Due Diligence* and *Intellectual Property Licensing*

in June and December respectively as introductory reference materials on these topics for small and medium sized enterprises; and

- community services for children of under-resourced families with the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals aiming to raise awareness of the core values of the Hong Kong legal system through interaction with Law Society volunteers.

Further, The Law Society also organises an annual Pro Bono and Community Work Recognition Programme to honour our members who have selflessly contributed their time and expertise for the benefit of the community. In 2017, in addition to 8 Distinguished Awards, 23 law firms and 107 members were awarded under the Programme.

Membership of Standing Committees, Committees, Working Groups, Working Parties and Organising Committees

Committees and Working Parties Reporting Directly to the Council

Belt and Road Committee

Frederick K.C. KAN *(Chair)*
Nick CHAN *(Vice-Chair)*
Bonita B.Y. CHAN
Anthony W.K. CHOW
Julianne P. DOE *(joined in October)*
Stephen W.S. HUNG
Clarice M.T. KAN *(joined in October)*
Amirali B. NASIR
Melissa K. PANG
Robert C. RHODA *(joined in December)*
Thomas S.T. SO
Huen WONG

Secretary: Assistant Director, Communications and External Affairs

Honours Committee

Huen WONG *(Chair)*
Anson K.C. KAN
Michael J. LINTERN-SMITH
Amy Y.K. LIU
Amirali B. NASIR
Paul C.Y. TAN

Secretary: Secretary General

New Working Group on Pro Bono Insurance

Melissa K. PANG *(Chair)*
Serina K.S. CHAN
Heidi K.P. CHU
Junius K.Y. HO
Amirali B. NASIR

Secretary: Director of Member Services

LegCo Liaison Group

Thomas S.T. SO *(Chair)*
Stephen W.S. HUNG
Heidi K.P. CHU
Amirali B. NASIR
Melissa K. PANG

Secretary: Director of Practitioners Affairs

Hong Kong Solicitors Indemnity Fund Ltd

Denis G. BROCK *(Chair)*
 Brian W. GILCHRIST
 Colin B. COHEN *(joined in May)*
 Christopher G. HOWSE
 Richard KEADY *(joined in May)*
 Alexander H.Y. LEUNG *(joined in May)*
 Peter C.L. LO
 Patrick R. MOSS
 Amirali B. NASIR
 Andrew W.Y. NG
 Kevin C.K. SHUM
 David G. SMYTH
 Norris H.C. YANG

Secretary: Essar Insurance Services Ltd.

PIS Claims Committee

Brian W. GILCHRIST *(Chair)*
 Colin B. COHEN *(Vice-Chair)*
 Charles W. ALLEN
 Keith M. BRANDT
 Simon P. CLARKE
 George D. LAMPLOUGH
 Jeffrey H. LANE
 Ronald W.T. TONG
 Cleresa P.Y. WONG
 Felix K.Y. YAU

Secretary: Essar Insurance Services Ltd.

PIS Investment Sub-Committee

Peter C.L. LO *(Chair)*
 John S. GALE
 IP Shing Hing
 Elen LAU
 LEE Kher Sheng
 Kevin C.K. SHUM
 Norris H.C. YANG

Secretary: Assistant Director, Professional Indemnity Scheme

PIS Panel Solicitors Selection Board

Huen WONG *(Chair)*
 Stephen W.S. HUNG
 Amirali B. NASIR
 Roden M.L. TONG *(joined in March)*

Secretary: Assistant Director, Professional Indemnity Scheme

Professional Indemnity Advisory Committee

David G. SMYTH *(Chair)*
 Kevin R. BOWERS
 Richard KEADY
 Susan P.S.K. LIANG
 Andrew W.Y. NG
 Peter K.H. NGAI
 Robin S. PEARD
 Thomas S.T. SO
 Fiona J. STEWART
 Gareth H. THOMAS

Secretary: Assistant Director, Professional Indemnity Scheme

Working Party on PIS Gross Fee Income Reports and Contributions

IP Shing Hing *(Chair)*
 Amirali B. NASIR
 Andrew W.Y. NG
 Huen WONG

Secretary: Assistant Director, Professional Indemnity Scheme

Standing Committee on Compliance

Nick CHAN	<i>(Chair)</i>	(11/12)
C.M. CHAN	<i>(Vice-Chair)</i>	(7/12)
Denis G. BROCK		(6/12)
Alfred K.H. CHAN	<i>(resigned in July)</i>	(4/6)
Pierre T.H. CHAN	<i>(joined in August)</i>	(4/4)
Serina K.S. CHAN		(11/12)
Paul K.Y. CHOW	<i>(joined in April)</i>	(6/7)
Warren P. GANESH	<i>(joined in August)</i>	(5/5)
Patrick R.P. HAMLIN	<i>(resigned in September)</i>	(7/9)
Dennis H.F. HIE		(10/12)
Patricia D.Y. HO	<i>(joined in August)</i>	(2/4)
Stephen W.S. HUNG		(7/12)
Simon S.C. LAI		(4/12)
Henson LAM		(8/10)
Andrew Y.B. LEE		(9/10)
Jason C.K. LI	<i>(resigned in July)</i>	(4/6)
Peter C.L. LO	<i>(resigned in May)</i>	(1/5)
Billy W.Y. MA		(8/12)
Amirali B. NASIR		(9/12)
Melissa K. PANG		(3/12)
Gregory D. PAYNE		(9/12)
Hanifa RAMJAHN	<i>(resigned in July)</i>	(3/6)
Robert C. RHODA	<i>(joined in July)</i>	(3/6)
Jonathan ROSS	<i>(joined in July)</i>	(4/6)
Annie P.Y. WONG		(9/10)

Secretary: Director of Compliance

Note: Figures shown in the “()” denote the meeting attendance during the year.

Consents Committee

Melissa K. PANG	<i>(Chair)</i>
C.M. CHAN	<i>(resigned in July)</i>
Nick CHAN	
IP Shing Hing	
Raymond M.S. KWOK	
Henry H.W. LAI	
Billy Y.C. LAM	
Henson LAM	
William C.W. LAM	
Jonathan T.W. LEE	
Amirali B. NASIR	
Paul K.Y. NG	
Roden M.L. TONG	
Annie P.K. WONG	
Kelly Y.H. WONG	
Ann M.S. YEUNG	

Secretary: Director of Compliance

Compliance Department



Investigation Committees

[Note: These Committees are Subcommittees of the Standing Committee on Compliance, consisting of three members, and consider agendas by circulation. Members are selected by the Compliance Department from members of the Standing Committee on an ad hoc basis to consider individual agendas.]



Standing Committee on External Affairs

Simon S.C. LAI	<i>(Vice-Chair until June; Chair from July)</i>	(7/10)
Huen WONG	<i>(Chair until June)</i>	(8/10)
Robert C. RHODA	<i>(Vice-Chair from July)</i>	(6/10)
Junius K.Y. HO	<i>(retired in July)</i>	(3/4)
Stephen W.S. HUNG		(8/10)
Carmen W.M. KAN		(2/10)
Frederick K.C. KAN		(7/10)
Nadine LAI		(7/10)
Daphne F.Y. LO		(8/10)
Amirali B. NASIR		(9/10)
Melissa K. PANG		(5/10)
Thomas S.T. SO		(6/10)
Michelle W.T. TSOI		(7/10)
Maggie Y.T. TSUI		(9/10)
Louise K.F. WONG		(6/10)
James K.T. WONG		(6/10)
Philip W.C. WONG		(9/10)
Ann M.S. YEUNG		(5/10)

Secretary: Director of Communications and External Affairs

Note: Figures shown in the “()” denote the meeting attendance during the year.

Law Week 2017 Organising Committee

Nancy B.Y. LEUNG	<i>(Chair)</i>
Arthur Y.Y. LAW	<i>(Vice-Chair)</i>
George K.H. CHAN	
Rico W.K. CHAN	
Simon S.M. CHAN	
Ian P.N. CHU	
Stephen W.S. HUNG	
William C.Y. KONG	
Nadine LAI	
Daphne F.Y. LO	
Rachel M.C. LO	
SAUW Yim	
Michelle W.T. TSOI	
Cecilia Grace L.A. WONG	
James K.T. WONG	
Louise K.F. WONG	
Nathan S.K. WONG	
Ann M.S. YEUNG	

Secretary: Director of Communications and External Affairs

Teen Talk 2017 Organising Committee

Roden M.L. TONG	<i>(Chair)</i>
Nadine LAI	<i>(Vice-Chair)</i>
Nick CHAN	
Serina K.S. CHAN	
Simon S.M. CHAN	
Donald W.W. CHAN	
Pierre T.H. CHAN	
Ian P.N. CHU	
Cherie C.W. FONG	
Patricia D.Y. HO	
Stephane B.H. HUI	
Stephen W.S. HUNG	
David Y.C. LUK	
Claudia Y.H. NG	
James K.T. WONG	
Euphemia M.S. WONG	
Jackie N.M. YEUNG	

Secretary: Director of Communications and External Affairs

The Law Society 110th Anniversary Celebration Dinner Organising Committee

Huen WONG	<i>(Chair)</i>
Nick CHAN	
Serina K.S. CHAN	
Simon M.Y. CHAN	
Neville C.H. CHENG	
Ronald Y.H. KAN	
Nadine LAI	
Simon S.C. LAI	
Arthur Y.Y. LAW	
Daphne F.Y. LO	
Amirali B. NASIR	
Melissa K. PANG	
Robert C. RHODA	
SAUW Yim	
Thomas S.T. SO	
Michelle W.T. TSOI	
Maggie Y.T. TSUI	
Cecilia Grace L.A. WONG	
Louise K.F. WONG	
Philip W.C. WONG	
Cassandra K.C. WU	

Secretary: Director of Communications and External Affairs

Belt and Road Conference Organising Committee

Huen WONG *(Chair)*
 Bonita B.Y. CHAN *(Vice-Chair)*
 Geoffrey Y.M. CHAN
 Nick CHAN
 Sherman K.N. CHAN
 Simon S.M. CHAN
 Muhammad K. CHAUDHRY
 Heidi H.Y. CHUI
 Julianne P. DOE
 Ilan FREIMAN
 Frederick K.C. KAN
 Ronald Y.H. KAN
 Sebastian Y.F. KO
 Christine M. KOO
 Karen LAM
 William C.W. LAM
 Ricardo K.M. LEE
 Camille K.Y. LEUNG
 Timothy H.T. LI
 Paul L.K. LO
 Catherine L.M. MUN
 Amiral B. NASIR
 Melissa K. PANG
 Steffen PEDERSEN
 Robert C. RHODA
 Hin Han SHUM
 Ronald K.N. SUM
 Vincent S.K. TSO
 Henry Y.H. WAI
 Louise K.F. WONG
 Victor C.K. YAU
 Lorvan M.K. YIU

Secretary: Director of Communications and External Affairs

Community Relations Committee

Philip W.C. WONG *(Chair)*
 Ann M.S. YEUNG *(Vice-Chair)*
 Nick CHAN
 Serina K.S. CHAN
 Stanley W.L. CHAN
 Joyce C. CHENG
 Ian P.N. CHU
 Joseph C.K. HO *(resigned in August)*
 Nadine LAI

Arthur Y.Y. LAW
 SAUW Yim
 Michelle W.T. TSOI
 Maggie Y.T. TSUI
 Patricia WIJAYA
 Cecilia Grace L.A. WONG
 James K.T. WONG
 Nathan S.K. WONG
 Cassandra K.C. WU

Secretary: Director of Communications and External Affairs

Working Group on Law and New Generation Programme and School Talks

Serina K.S. CHAN *(Chair)*
 Patricia WIJAYA *(Vice-Chair)*
 George K.H. CHAN
 Nick CHAN
 Muhammad KAMRAN CHAUDHRY
 Joyce C. CHENG
 Ian P.N. CHU
 Joseph C.K. HO *(resigned in August)*
 Hilda LAM
 Winnie W.S. LO *(joined in February)*
 James K.T. WONG
 Cassandra K.C. WU

Secretary: Communications and External Affairs Officer

Working Group on “Sing Tao Legal Mailbox”

Cecilia Grace L.A. WONG *(Chair)*
 Nadine LAI *(Vice-Chair)*
 Isabella W.H. CHAN *(joined in September)*
 Stanley W.L. CHAN
 Katherine J.R. HUANG *(retired in December)*
 KAU Kin Wah *(joined in April)*
 MAK Hon Ming *(joined in September)*
 Albert M.K. SO
 Michelle W.T. TSOI
 SAUW Yim *(joined in September)*

Secretary: Communications and External Affairs Officer

Working Group on Community Talks and Services

SAUW Yim (Chair)
Michelle W.T. TSOI (Vice-Chair)
Nadine LAI
Stephanie W.Y. LAU
Daniel K.M. SHUM
Maggie Y.T. TSUI
Patricia WIJAYA
James K.T. WONG
Cassandra K.C. WU
WU Weijing
Jackie N.M. YEUNG
Cerin N.T. YIP
Henry P.H. YU

Secretary: Communications and External Affairs Officer

Working Group on “Legal Pioneer” Mentorship Programme

Nathan S.K. WONG (Chair)
Arthur Y.Y. LAW (Vice-Chair)
Serina K.S. CHAN
Ian P.N. CHU (joined in June)
Ronald Y.H. KAN
Nadine LAI
SAUW Yim
Judy W.C. YAM
Michelle K.Y. YUNG

Secretary: Communications and External Affairs Officer

Greater China Legal Affairs Committee

Melissa K. PANG (Chair)
Neville C.H. CHENG (Vice-Chair)
Henry Y.H. WAI (Vice-Chair)
James K.T. WONG (Vice-Chair)
Rico W.K. CHAN
Natalia K.Y. CHEUNG
Anthony W.K. CHOW
Brian P.C. HO
Stephen W.S. HUNG
Frederick K.C. KAN
Ronald Y.H. KAN

Ambrose S.K. LAM
William C.W. LAM
Alan Y.K. LAU
Jonathan T.W. LEE
Alexandra D.W. LO
Eric C.H. LUI
Patrick K.W. MAK
Catherine L.M. MUN
Thomas S.T. SO
Wilfred K.P. TSUI
Lawrence S.H. YEUNG
Gary S.K. YIN

Secretary: Assistant Director, Communications and External Affairs

Cross Strait Four Regions Young Lawyers Forum 2017 Organising Committee

Lawrence S.H. YEUNG (Chair)
Melissa K. PANG (Advisor)
Catherine L.M. MUN (Advisor)
George K.H. CHAN
Serina K.S. CHAN
Minnie M.Y. CHANG
Neville C.H. CHENG
Ian P.N. CHU
Heidi H.Y. CHUI
Cherie C.W. FONG
Dora C.Y. LEE
Tracy C.Y. LI
Tommy J.N. LIU
Amelia Y.W. LO
Anny C.L. LO
Daphne F.Y. LO
David Y.C. LUK
Vicky W.K. MAN
Hin Han SHUM
James K.T. WONG
Louise K.F. WONG

Secretary: Assistant Director, Communications and External Affairs

International Legal Affairs Committee

Amirali B. NASIR (Chair)
Stephen W.S. HUNG (Vice-Chair)
Simon M.Y. CHAN
Deborah S.W. FONG
Munenori KAKU
Frederick K.C. KAN
Olivia H.Y. KUNG
Alan H. LINNING
David Y.C. LUK
Melissa K. PANG
Robert C. RHODA
Louise K.F. WONG
Philip W.C. WONG
Maggie M.Y. YIM

Secretary: Assistant Director, Communications and External Affairs

Public Policy Committee

Nick CHAN (Chair)
James K.T. WONG (Vice-chair)
C.M. CHAN
Keith C.W. CHAN
Stanley W.L. CHAN
CHAN Tze Chin
Wendy CHAN
Eliza L.S. CHANG
Horace K.K. CHEUNG
Sebastian Y.F. KO
Angela Y.L. LAU
Terry C.Y. LIU
Raymond C.P. SIU
Roden M.L. TONG
Eric H.Y. WOO
Roderick B. WOO

Secretary: Director of Communications and External Affairs

Communications and External Affairs Department



Standing Committee on Member Services

Cecilia K.W. WONG	<i>(Chair)</i>	(7/7)
Eliza L.S. CHANG	<i>(Vice-Chair)</i>	(5/7)
Bonita B.Y. CHAN		(5/7)
Grand H.L. CHAN		(6/7)
Nick CHAN		(3/7)
Serina K.S. CHAN		(7/7)
Anthony W.K. CHOW		(5/7)
IP Shing Hing		(4/7)
Elaine Y.M. LO		(4/7)
Melissa K. PANG		(4/7)
Roden M.L. TONG		(4/7)

Secretary: Director of Member Services

Note: Figures shown in the “()” denote the meeting attendance during the year.

Clubhouse Committee

CHAN Tze Chin	<i>(Chair)</i>
Melissa K. PANG	<i>(Vice-Chair)</i>
Bonita B.Y. CHAN	
Heidi K.P. CHU	
Daphne F.Y. LO	
H.Y. WONG	

Secretary: Assistant Director, Member Services

In-House Lawyers Committee

Maggie Y.T. TSUI	<i>(Vice-Chair until October; Chair from October)</i>
Grand H.L. CHAN	<i>(Chair until October)</i>
Adamas K.S. WONG	<i>(Vice-Chair from October)</i>
C.M. CHAN	
Ricky M.T. CHAN	
CHAN Wing Kit	
Diana W.L. HUI	
Geoffrey W.C. MO	
Jonathan ROSS	<i>(joined in October)</i>
Irene W.K. SIU	
Roden M.L. TONG	<i>(joined in October)</i>
Cerin N.Y. YIP	

Secretary: Senior Member Services Officer

Member Benefit Committee

Bonita B.Y. CHAN	<i>(Chair)</i>
CHAN Tze Chin	<i>(Vice-Chair from February)</i>
Simon S.M. CHAN	<i>(joined in February)</i>
Heidi H.Y. CHUI	
Geoffrey F. KAM	<i>(joined in February)</i>
Nadine LAI	
Daphne F.Y. LO	
Sammy W.N. NG	<i>(joined in February)</i>
SAUW Yim	<i>(joined in February)</i>
Sharon S.Y. TAM	<i>(joined in February)</i>
Maggie Y.T. TSUI	
Adamas K.S. WONG	

Secretary: Member Services Officer

Practice Management Committee

Elaine Y.M. LO	<i>(Chair)</i>
Bonita B.Y. CHAN	<i>(resigned in March)</i>
Eliza L.S. CHANG	
David J. FLEMING	<i>(resigned in September)</i>
HOU An Che	
IP Shing Hing	
Amirali B. NASIR	
NG Ching Wo	
Ludwig S.W. NG	
Melissa K. PANG	
WONG Hau Yan	
YAU Chi Keung	

Secretary: Director of Member Services

Islamic Finance Working Party

Amirali B. NASIR	<i>(Chair)</i>
Davide BARZILAI	<i>(resigned in October)</i>
Balbir S. BINDRA	
John S. GALE	
Kingsley T.W. ONG	
Edmond M.Y. YEUNG	

Secretary: Director of Member Services

Working Party for SME Firms

Junius K.Y. HO *(Chair)*
 IP Shing Hing *(Chair)*
 Raymond M.L. CHAK *(resigned in July)*
 Joseph W.K. CHAN
 Angela M.K. HO
 Kenneth H.W. SIT
 YAU Chi Keung *(joined in April)*

Secretary: Director of Member Services

Pro Bono Committee

Serina K.S. CHAN *(Chair)*
 Philip K.S. CHAN *(joined in February)*
 Sherman K.N. CHAN *(joined in February)*
 Eric T.M. CHEUNG *(joined in February)*
 Michelle Y.W. CHOW
 E. John DAVISON
 Maryellen N.Y. KO *(joined in February)*
 Anthony W.M. KWAN
 Alexander H.S. LEUNG
 Michelle S.M. LUK
 Melissa K. PANG
 Alan G. SCHIFFMAN
 Davyd WONG
 Cassandra K.C. WU *(joined in February)*
 Felix P.H. YUEN *(joined in February)*

Secretary: Assistant Director, Member Services

Working Group on Insurance for Pro Bono Work

Eric T.M. CHEUNG *(Chair)*

Secretary: Director of Member Services

Working Group on Pro Bono Project on Building Management Work

Alexander H.S. LEUNG *(Chair)*
 Anthony W.M. KWAN
 Melissa K. PANG

Secretary: Assistant Director, Member Services

Working Group on Pro Bono Webpage

Davyd WONG *(Chair)*
 Serina K.S. CHAN
 May M.Y. LUN
 Maryellen N.Y. KO *(joined in June)*

Secretary: Assistant Director, Member Services

Working Group on Seminars for Social Enterprises

E. John DAVISON *(Chair)*
 Serina K.S. CHAN
 CHI Kee Ming
 Teresa C.W. CHU
 May M.Y. LUN
 Kirindi Y.T. TANG
 Stephen M. VINE
 Felix P.H. YUEN *(joined in April)*

Pro Bono and Community Work Recognition Committee

Melissa K. PANG *(Chair)*
 Sherman K.N. CHAN
 IP Shing Hing
 Daphne F.Y. LO
 Christopher K.Y. WONG
 Philip W.C. WONG

Secretary: Assistant Director, Member Services

Recreation and Sports Committee

Nick CHAN *(Chair)*
 Roden M.L. TONG *(Vice-Chair)*
 Agnes H.C. CHAN
 Simon S.M. CHAN
 Eliza L.S. CHANG
 Calvin K. CHENG
 Karen LAM
 Louisa S.M. LAM
 Sylvester SUNG
 Jackie N.M. YEUNG

Winston S.Q. YU
Hazel H.Y. LIU *(student representative
joined in January)*
Ray C. TSUI *(student representative
joined in January)*
Yannis K.Y. MAK *(student representative
joined in January)*

Secretary: Senior Member Services Officer

InnoTech Committee

(formerly Technology Committee)

Amirali B. NASIR *(Chair)*
Nick CHAN *(Vice-Chair)*
Alan C.W. CHIU
HO Ching Man
Sebastian Y.F. KO
Philip Z.F. KWOK
William W.S. LAM
Andrew S.K. LAW
LEE Man Hei *(joined in October)*
Steven K. LEE
PANG Kam Wing
Jolene REIMERSON
Charles H.W. TO *(joined in October)*
Alice F.M. TSUI *(joined in October)*
YU Pui Hang

Secretary: Director of Member Services

Working Group on the Law Society's App

Nick CHAN *(Chair)*
Grand H.L. CHAN
CHAN Tze Chin
IP Shing Hing
KWAN Chiu Yin

Secretary: Assistant Director, Member Services

Young Solicitors' Group

Bonita B.Y. CHAN *(Chair from September;
joined in September)*
Serina K.S. CHAN *(Chair until August)*
Vicky W.K. MAN *(Vice-Chair)*

Melissa K. PANG *(Vice-Chair from October;
joined in October)*
Sebastian Y.F. KO *(Vice-Chair until August)*
George K.H. CHAN
Eliza L.S. CHANG *(joined in October)*
Janice K.C. CHANG

Desmond C.T. CHEUNG
Anson James DOUGLAS
Gerald H.C. LAM
Hilda LAM
Kenneth L.K. LEE
Billy C.H. TANG
Catherine K.Y. WONG
Karen H.L. WONG
Louise K.F. WONG
Felix P.H. YUEN

Secretary: Assistant Director, Member Services

Interest Group on Mergers and Acquisitions

Ambrose S.K. LAM *(Chair)*
Jan R. BOGAERT
Nick CHAN
May W.M. CHAN
Michelle W. CHEN
Mason Y.K. CHING
Paul R.P. CHRISTOPHER
Basil H.L. HWANG
Christine M. KOO
Steven K. LEE
Steven C. NELSON
Wilfred K.P. TSUI
William A. WILSON III
Benson Shuobin XIAO
YEOH Soon Chin

Secretary: Director of Member Services

Law Society Publications Working Party

Huen WONG *(Chair)*
Amirali B. NASIR

Secretary: Assistant Director, Member Services

Working Party on Historical Archive

Roderick B. WOO *(Chair)*
Frederick K.C. KAN *(Vice-Chair)*
Jenkin S.F. CHAN
Stanley W.L. CHAN
Patrick R. MOSS
Amirali B. NASIR
Melissa K. PANG

Secretary: Assistant Director, Member Services

Working Group on Law Library

Daphne F.Y. LO *(Chair)*
Stephanie W.Y. LAU
Daniel K.M. SHUM
YU Ming Yik
YU Tat Man
Secretary: Director of Member Services

Member Services Department



Standing Committee on Policy and Resources

Thomas S.T. SO	<i>(Chair)</i>	(13/13)
Melissa K. PANG	<i>(Vice-Chair)</i>	(12/13)
Denis G. BROCK		(7/13)
Nick CHAN		(10/13)
Heidi K.P. CHU		(13/13)
Brian W. GILCHRIST		(10/13)
Stephen W.S. HUNG		(12/13)
Simon S.C. LAI	<i>(joined in August)</i>	(4/5)
Billy W.Y. MA		(7/13)
Amirali B. NASIR		(9/13)
Huen WONG		(9/13)
Cecilia K.W. WONG		(10/13)

Secretary: Assistant Director, Administration and Human Resources

Note: Figures shown in the “()” denote the meeting attendance during the year.

Hong Kong Lawyer Editorial Board

Huen WONG	<i>(Chair)</i>	
Peter C.H. CHAN		
Jenkin S.F. CHAN		
Nick CHAN	<i>(joined in July)</i>	
Heidi K.P. CHU		
Elliot FUNG		
Steven Brian GALLAGHER		
GU Minkang		
Warren P. GANESH		
Julienne JEN		
Dave C.K. LAU		
Byron T.W. LEUNG		
George Y.C. MOK	<i>(resigned in December)</i>	
Michelle K.M. Tsang		
Adamas K.S. WONG		
Tony Y.H. YEN		

Secretary: Assistant Director, Member Services

Working Party on Law Society Premises

Billy W.Y. MA	<i>(Chair from June)</i>
Junius K.Y. HO	<i>(Chair until May; resigned in May)</i>

Amirali B. NASIR
Melissa K. PANG
Huen WONG

Secretary: Secretary General

Working Party on the Law Society IT Systems

Nick CHAN	<i>(Chair)</i>
CHAK Man Lai	<i>(resigned in November)</i>

Kenneth Y. CHOY
Sebastian Y.F. KO
William W.S. LAM
Andrew S.K. LAW
Steven K. LEE
Amirali B. NASIR
Charles H.W. TO
YU Pui Hang

Secretary: IT Consultant

Working Party on Review of The Law Society's Memorandum and Articles of Association

Huen WONG	<i>(Chair)</i>
Julia F. CHARLTON	
Paul K.Y. CHOW	
Simon S.C. LAI	
Thomas S.T. SO	

Secretary: Deputy Secretary General

Working Party on Unclaimed Money in Client Account

Huen WONG	<i>(Convenor)</i>
Stephen W.S. HUNG	
Amirali B. NASIR	

Secretary: Deputy Secretary General

Finance and Administration
Department



Standing Committee on Practitioners Affairs

Denis G. BROCK	<i>(Chair)</i>	(1/3)
Warren P. GANESH	<i>(Vice-Chair)</i>	(3/3)
Simon H. BERRY		(2/3)
C.M. CHAN		(1/3)
Mark DALY		(2/3)
E. John DAVISON		(3/3)
Rebecca V.I. HO		(1/3)
IP Shing Hing		(3/3)
Richard KEADY	<i>(joined in February)</i>	(2/2)
Simon S.C. LAI		(1/3)
Jonathan C.Y. MOK	<i>(joined in February)</i>	(2/2)
Amirali B. NASIR		(2/3)
Roden M.L. TONG		(1/3)
Simon W.L. WONG		(2/3)
Eric H.Y. WOO		(2/3)

Secretary: Director of Practitioners Affairs

Note: Figures shown in the “()” denote the meeting attendance during the year.

Arbitration Committee

Huen WONG	<i>(Chair)</i>
Denis G. BROCK	
Stephen H.N. CHAN	
Mason Y.K. CHING	
H.Y. CHUI	
P.S. HAU	
Dominic Y.K. LAI	
Lily Y.Y. LAI	
John Y.C. LEE	
Catherine L.M. MUN	
Billy Y.K. NG	
Robert C. RHODA	
Philip ROMPOTIS	
Thomas S.T. SO	
Sam K.S. TSUI	
Janie L.Y. WONG	
Kenneth W.Y. WONG	
Eric H.Y. WOO	
Steven W.Y. YIP	

Secretary: Director of Practitioners Affairs

Arbitrators Admission Sub-committee

M.S. YEUNG	<i>(Chair from October)</i>
Martin J. DOWNEY	<i>(Chair until October; resigned in October)</i>
Gavin Z. DENTON	<i>(joined in October)</i>
Glenn R.A. HALEY	
James P. KWAN	
Dominic Y.K. LAI	
Simon D. POWELL	<i>(joined in October)</i>
Steven W.Y. YIP	

Secretary: Director of Practitioners Affairs

Civil Litigation Committee

Kenneth W.Y. WONG	<i>(Chair)</i>
Denis G. BROCK	
Johnny C.M. FEE	
D. Nigel FRANCIS	
Warren P. GANESH	
Dominic GEISER	
Patrick M.K. HUI	
Nicholas D. HUNSWORTH	
Richard KEADY	
Joseph S.M. KWAN	
Jeffrey H. LANE	
Brenda F. LEE	
Mark LIN	
Simon D. POWELL	
Nathan S.K. WONG	
Sherman C.N. YAN	

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (II)

Company Law Committee

Simon S.C. LAI	<i>(Chair)</i>
Grace K.W. CHAN	
Julia F. CHARLTON	
Jacqueline S.T. CHIU	
Paul K.Y. CHOW	
Stanley CHOW	
Lisa M.C. CHUNG	
Vincent P.C. KWAN	
Bernardine S.Y. LAM	
Lewis T. LUK	
John Martin MAGUIRE	

Psyche C.S. TAI
Patrick C.K. WONG
Frank K.F. YUEN

Secretary: Director of Practitioners Affairs
(from January to July)
Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (I)
(from August to December)

Competition Law Committee

Simon H. BERRY (Chair)
Nick CHAN
Stephen R. CROSSWELL
Sebastien J. EVRARD
Angus H. FORSYTH (resigned in June)
Clara INGEN-HOUSZ
Simon D. POWELL
Henry J.H. WHEARE
James H. WILKINSON
David P.H. WONG
YAM Kin Fung

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (II)

The Council Sub-committee on Competition Ordinance

Huen WONG (Chair)
IP Shing Hing
Thomas S.T. SO

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (II)

Constitutional Affairs and Human Rights Committee

Amirali B. NASIR (Chair)
BUT Sun Wai (resigned in October)
Nick CHAN
John J. CLANCEY
Mark DALY
Dr. James D. FRY
Junius K.Y. HO
IP Shing Hing
Melissa K. PANG
Raymond C.P. SIU
Thomas S.T. SO
Dr. Stephen THOMSON

Secretary: Director of Practitioners Affairs

Criminal Law and Procedure Committee

Kenneth H.S. NG (Chair)
Geoffrey N. BOOTH
BUT Sun Wai (resigned in October)
Bucky K.H. CHAN
Johnny C.H. HO
Stephen W.S. HUNG
Christopher KNIGHT
Paul M.W. LI
Kane K.F. MAK
Jonathan C. Y. MOK
Kevin STEEL
Eric TANG
Michael J. VIDLER
Ben K.K. WONG

Secretary: Director of Practitioners Affairs

Employment Law Committee

Walter Y.W. LEE (Chair)
Duncan A.W. ABATE
Kim BOREHAM
Lily S.M. CHANG
Fiona B.L. CHOW
Paul HASWELL
Lily Y.Y. LAI
Fiona M. LOUGHREY
Melissa K. PANG
Eric A. SZWEDA
Charles H.W. TO
Jennifer A. VAN DALE

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (II)

Family Law Committee

Dennis C.K. HO *(Chair)*
Anthony J. HUNG *(Vice-Chair)*
Sherman S.Y. CHEUNG
Winnie W.Y. CHOW
Barbara A. HUNG
Jennifer W.C. IP
Lily Y.Y. LAI
Karen S.Y. LAM
LAM Tze Yan
LEUNG Shek Lim
Dr. Athena N.C. LIU
Jonathan C.Y. MOK
Catherine K.G. POR
Cecilia K.W. WONG
Kenneth K.S. YUNG

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (II)

Higher Rights of Audience Committee

Denis G. BROCK *(Chair)*
CHIU Koon Shou
Andrew N. HART
Patrick M.K. HUI
Jason D. KARAS
Jacky H.S. LEE
Simon D. POWELL

Secretary: Director of Practitioners Affairs

Insolvency Law Committee

Keith M.K. HO *(Chair)*
CHIU Koon Shou *(Vice-Chair)*
Ian R. DE WITT
Junius K.Y. HO
Camille JOJO
Ludwig S.W. NG
Simon D. POWELL
Richard M. TOLLAN
King K.L. WONG
Vivian W.Y. WONG

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (II)

Insurance Law Committee

Martin C.v.M. LISTER *(Chair)*
Denis G. BROCK
Christine M. KOO
MAK Hon Ming
Gary MEGGITT
Mark F. REEVES
Rupert C. SKRINE
Sam K.S. TSUI
Shane F. WEIR
WONG Kwok Yan
Angela S.Y. YIM

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (II)

Intellectual Property Committee

Kenny K.S. WONG *(Chair)*
Steven J. BIRT
Simon C.C. CHAN
Nick CHAN
Ella S.K. CHEONG
Yvonne CHUA
A. Clinton D. EVANS
Chloe Y.F. LEE
Anita P.F. LEUNG
Rebecca M.C. LO
Annie S.T. TSOI
Adelaide H.M. YU

Secretary: Director of Practitioners Affairs
(from January to July)
Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (I)
(from August to December)

Investment Products and Financial Services Committee

Simon H. BERRY *(Chair)*
Cherry M.S. CHOW *(joined in October)*
Alan J. EWINS
Eliof S. W. FONG
Susan J. GORDON *(resigned in December)*
Peter M. LAKE
Jason C.Y. LEE
Alan H. LINNING

Amirali B. NASIR *(joined in July)*

Sara S.M. OR

Charlotte J. G. ROBINS

Padraig L. WALSH *(joined in October)*

Adamas K.S. WONG

Secretary: Director of Practitioners Affairs
(from January to July)
Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (I)
(from August to December)

Land Use Planning and Environmental Law Committee

E. John DAVISON *(Chair)*

IP Shing Hing

Andrew W.Y. NG

Christopher TUNG

Secretary: Director of Practitioners Affairs
(from January to July)
Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (I)
(from August to December)

Legal Aid Committee

Stephen W.S. HUNG *(Chair)*

Patrick M. BURKE

Sherlynn G. CHAN

Dennis C.K. HO

Junius K.Y. HO

Rebecca V.I. HO

J.C. Nicholas MILLAR

Melissa K. PANG

Virginia W.L. SZETO *(resigned in August)*

TANG Chi Keung

Michael J. VIDLER

Dr. WAN Charn Wing

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (II)

Liaison Committee with the CSD

Bucky K.H. CHAN

Paul M.W. LI

Kenneth H.S. NG

Secretary: Director of Practitioners Affairs

Liaison Committee with the Police

BUT Sun Wai *(resigned in October)*

Junius K.Y. HO

Ambrose S.K. LAM

MA Shiu Ngok

Melissa K. PANG

Kevin STEEL

Secretary: Director of Practitioners Affairs

Mediation Committee

Cecilia K.W. WONG *(Chair)*

Geoffrey N. BOOTH

Patrick M. BURKE

Bernard M. FLEMING

LAM Tze Yan

LEUNG Shek Lim

G.T. LUNG

Maureen E. MUELLER

Melissa K. PANG

Catherine K.G. POR

Jody K.Y. SIN

Sylvia W.Y. SIU

Norris H.C. YANG

Secretary: Director of Practitioners Affairs

Personal Injuries Committee

Mark F. REEVES *(Chair)*

Patrick M. BURKE

Eliza L.S. CHANG

Anthony L.C. CHIU

Christina W.C. HUNG

Nancy B.Y. LEUNG

Vitus W.H. LEUNG

J.C. Nicholas MILLAR

Amirali B. NASIR

Szwina S.K. PANG

Tommy K.M. WONG

Secretary: Director of Practitioners Affairs

Probate Committee

Billy W.Y. MA *(Chair)*

AU Miu Po

Viola HUNG

NG Kin Yuen

TAM Sau Hing

TSANG Kam Chuen

Herbert H.K. TSOI

WONG Tak Shing

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (I)
(from August to December)
Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (II)
(from January to July)

Joint Standing Committee on Probate Practice

Billy W.Y. MA

AU Miu Po

Viola HUNG

NG Kin Yuen

TAM Sau Hing

TSANG Kam Chuen

Herbert H.K. TSOI

WONG Tak Shing

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (I)
(from August to December)
Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (II)
(from January to July)

Property Committee

Lilian S.F. CHIANG *(Chair)*

Debbie F. CHEUNG

Keith P.K. CHEUNG

Tommy K.K. CHUNG

Doreen Y.F. KONG

Emily Y.M. LAM

Dennis W.C. LI

LUI Yiu Fai

Billy W.Y. MA *(joined in July)*

Lilian P.Y. MAK

Vernon Y.H. PANG

WONG Man Wa

Cleresa P.Y. WONG

David P.H. WONG

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (I)
(from August to December)
Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (II)
(from January to July)

Solicitor Advocates Interest Group

Geoffrey N. BOOTH

Denis G. BROCK

Christopher J. DOBBY

Matthew P. GEARING

Nicholas D. HUNSWORTH

Jason D. KARAS

KWAN Tak Hong

Jonathan N. MIDGLEY

Gerald S.P. MITCHARD

Ludwig S.W. NG

Gary A. SEIB

Kareena P.G. TEH

Richard M. TOLLAN

Yang Ing LOONG

Secretary: Director of Practitioners Affairs

Subgroup on LTO Forms

E. John DAVISON *(Chair)*

Lillian L.N. HO

David K.F. IP

Alexander H.S. LEUNG

Fanny S.F. MAK

Melissa K. PANG

Chris S.H. PANG

Anthony H.Y. SHIN

TING Lee Hoong

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (I)
(from August to December)
Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (II)
(from January to July)

Retirement Schemes Committee

David G. ADAMS *(Chair)*

Cynthia W.S. CHUNG

Christine M. KOO

Martin C.v.M. LISTER

Billy W.Y. MA

Sophia W.Y. MAN

TAM Chi Wai

WEI Chung Yin

Judy YANG

Secretary: Director of Practitioners Affairs
(from January to July)
Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (I)
(from August to December)

Revenue Law Committee

Steven R. SIEKER *(Chair)*

C.M. CHAN

Sally S.W. IP

Vincent P.C. KWAN

Angela Y.L. LAU

Cynthia S.W. LEE *(resigned in October)*

Simon J.G. RAE

Jacqueline Y.M. SHEK

William A. THOMSON

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (II)

Reverse Mortgage Committee

Billy W.Y. MA *(Chair)*

Heidi K.P. CHU

Junius K.Y. HO

Emily Y.M. LAM

Steven M.W. SHUM

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (I)
(from August to December)
Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (II)
(from January to July)

Working Party on Charities and Trust

E. John DAVISON *(Chair)*

C.M. CHAN

Brian W. GILCHRIST

Lester G. HUANG

Jacqueline Y.M. SHEK

William A. THOMSON

Stephen M. VINE

WONG Tak Shing

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (II)

Working Party on Enduring Powers of Attorney

Billy W.Y. MA *(Chair)*

E. John DAVISON

Herbert H.K. TSOI

Cecilia K.W. WONG

Secretary: Director of Practitioners Affairs
(from January to July)
Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (I)
(from August to December)

Working Party on Enforcement in Civil Proceedings

Thomas S.T. SO *(Chair)*

CHIU Koon Shou

D. Nigel FRANCIS

Dennis C.K. HO

Rebecca V.I. HO

Barbara A. HUNG

Brenda F. LEE

Ludwig S.W. NG

Catherine K.G. POR

TONG Wui Tung

King K.L. WONG

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (II)

Working Party on Engagement and Fee Arrangements with Barristers

Denis G. BROCK *(Chair)*

Patrick M.K. HUI

Mark LIN

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (II)

Working Party on Interpreters

Michael J. VIDLER *(Chair)*

Patrick M. BURKE

Anthony M.C. LAI

Karen McCLELLAN

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (II)

Working Party on Land Titles Ordinance

E. John DAVISON *(Chair)*

Judith SIHOMBING *(Vice-Chair)*

Peter AHERNE

AU Fun Kuen

Dora S.Y. CHAN

Emily Y.M. LAM

Alexander H.S. LEUNG

Andy O.T. NGAN

Anthony H.Y. SHIN

WONG Man Wa

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (I)
(from August to December)
Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (II)
(from January to July)

Working Party on Litigation Funding

Denis G. BROCK *(Chair)*

Patrick M. BURKE

Christopher J. DOBBY

Warren P. GANESH

Cameron D. HASSALL

Barbara A. HUNG

Jason D. KARAS

Paul M.W. LI

Gary MEGGITT

Amirali B. NASIR

Mark F. REEVES

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Working Party on Review of Non-Consent Scheme Forms

Amanda L.Y. LIU *(Chair)*

Doreen Y.F. KONG

LUI Yiu Fai

WONG Man Wa

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(from August to December)
Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (II)
(from January to July)

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Amirali B. NASIR

Kenneth W.Y. WONG

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Thomas S.T. SO

Kevin K.F. YAM

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Working Party on Resolution Regime

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Alan J. EWINS

Stephen M. FLETCHER

Eliof S.W. FONG

Keith M.K. HO

Nicholas D. HUNSWORTH

Jason C.Y. LEE

Martin C.v.M. LISTER

Sara S.M. OR

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Working Party on Revised DMC Guidelines

Doreen Y.F KONG *(Chair from February)*

LEUNG Siu Hon *(Chair until January)*

MA Ho Fai

WAN Shiu Man

David P.H. WONG

Terry P.L. YEUNG *(resigned in February)*

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (I)
(from August to December)

Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (II)
(from January to July)

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Practitioners Affairs Department



Standing Committee on Standards and Development

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Serina K.S. CHAN	<i>(Vice-Chair from October)</i>	(8/9)
Warren P. GANESH	<i>(Vice-Chair until October; resigned in October)</i>	(6/6)
Bonita B.Y. CHAN		(5/9)
C.M. CHAN	<i>(resigned in July)</i>	(0/3)
Heidi H.Y. CHUI		(6/9)
Albert T. DA ROSA JR.		(6/9)
Mark DALY	<i>(joined in July)</i>	(0/6)
HAU Pak Sun		(9/9)
Stephen W.S. HUNG		(7/9)
IP Shing Hing		(9/9)
Catherine L.M. MUN		(5/9)
Jonathan ROSS	<i>(joined in July)</i>	(5/6)
Peter K.P. SIT		(6/9)
Thomas S.T. SO		(0/9)
Simon S.P. TANG		(5/9)
Roden M.L. TONG	<i>(joined in July)</i>	(5/6)
Adamas K.S. WONG		(7/9)

Secretary: Director of Standards and Development

Note: Figures shown in the “()” denote the meeting attendance during the year.

Anti-Money Laundering Committee

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CHAN Wing Leung	
Lily S.M. CHANG	
Simon R. DEANE	
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LEE Kher Sheng	
Danny C.M. LEUNG	
Alan H. LINNING	
Kareena P.G. TEH	

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Ram D. BIALA	
Iris CHEUNG	
Johnny C.M. FEE	<i>(joined in July)</i>
Alexandra D.W. LO	
Michael A. OLESNICKY	
Stuart VALENTINE	<i>(joined in July)</i>

Secretary: Director of Standards and Development

CPD Accreditation Sub-committee

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Ram D. BIALA	
Francis K.W. CHEN	
Simon M.Y. CHAN	
Johnny C.M. FEE	
John D.S. HO	
Stephen W.K. LAU	
Albert K.M. LEUNG	
Christie K.S. MOK	
Christopher H.W. SO	
WAN Charn Wing	

Secretary: Assistant Director, Professional Development

Foreign Lawyers Committee

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Raymond CHAN	
May W.M. CHAN	
Carmel A. GREEN	
LI Huanting	
SIN Ping Kwan	
Rupert C. SKRINE	
Maëva L. SLOTINE	

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Guidance Committee

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 CHIU Koon Shou
 Patrick R. MOSS
 Amirali B. NASIR
 Gregory D. PAYNE
 Daniel K.M. SHUM
 Johnson M.H. TSANG
 Benny Y.B. YEUNG (resigned in June)

Secretary: Assistant Director, Regulation and Guidance

Guidance Sub-committee to Review Rule 5AA of the Solicitors' Practice Rules

Amirali B. NASIR (Chair)
 Stephen W.K. LAU
 Billy W.Y. MA

Secretary: Assistant Director, Regulation and Guidance

Legal Education Committee

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 Bonita B.Y. CHAN
 Nick CHAN
 Michael P.K. CHAN
 John J. CLANCEY
 Dennis Y.F. HA
 Nancy B.Y. LEUNG
 Michelle W.T. TSOI
 Kenny K.S. WONG
 Adrian K.M. WONG
 Felix K.Y. YAU
 Dieter YIH

Secretary: Director of Standards and Development

Working Group on the Standard of the Common Entrance Examination

Stephen W.S. HUNG (Chair)
 Nick CHAN
 Serina K.S. CHAN
 Dennis Y.F. HA
 Michelle W.T. TSOI

Secretary: Director of Standards and Development

Working Group on the Syllabus of the Common Entrance Examination

Stephen W.S. HUNG (Chair)
 Nick CHAN
 Serina K.S. CHAN
 John J. CLANCEY
 Warren P. GANESH
 Dennis Y.F. HA
 Nadine LAI
 Kenny K.S. WONG
 Dieter YIH

Secretary: Director of Standards and Development

Mediator and Parenting Coordinator Admission Committee

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 CHAN Bing Woon (Vice-Chair)
 Michael Halley BECKETT
 Junius K.Y. HO (resigned in March)
 Maureen E. MUELLER
 Jody K.Y. SIN

Secretary: Director of Standards and Development

Overseas Lawyers Qualification Examination Committee

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John R. BUDGE *(Chair until June;
resigned in June)*

Bonita B.Y. CHAN
Nick CHAN
Darcy Lynn DAVISON-ROBERTS
James C. LIN
Mark LIN

Secretary: Director of Standards and Development

Overseas Lawyers Examination Panel Convenors

Malcolm MERRY *(Chief Examiner)*

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Myrette J. FOK *(Convenor)*
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Alisa W.C. KWAN
Alexander H.S. LEUNG
Michael LOWER
George S.K. NGAI
Simon J. REID-KAY

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Amanda WHITFORT *(Convenor)*
Melville T.C. BOASE *(resigned in March)*
William S. CLARKE
Louis K.L. FUNG
Julienne JEN
Nancy B.Y. LEUNG
John R. READING, S.C.
Martin D. ROGERS
Bernard K.F. SIU
William M.P. CHUA

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Peter C.H. CHAN
Shirley S.L. CHUA
Dennis H.F. HIE
Michelle P.Y. LIU
Alexandra D.W. LO
Daphne F.Y. LO
Adrian K.M. WONG

HEAD IV : Accounts and Professional Conduct

Colin B. COHEN *(Convenor)*
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Ludwig S.W. NG
Peter K.P. SIT

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Adrian K.M. WONG *(Convenor)*
Melville T.C. BOASE *(resigned in March)*
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Anthony F. NEOH, S.C.
Andrew J. RAFFELL
Symon Y.W. WONG

HEAD VI : Hong Kong Constitutional Law

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Lin FENG
Michael RAMSDEN
Stephen THOMSON
ZHU Guobin

Risk Management Education Committee

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 CHUNG Lai Ming
 Hilda LAM
 Pearl P.L. LAM
 Vicky W.K. MAN
 Thomas S.T. SO

Secretary: Director of Standards and Development

RME Accreditation Sub-committee

Thomas S.T. SO (Chair)
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 CHUNG Lai Ming
 Dennis H.F. HIE
 Christopher KNIGHT
 Alan M.B. LAM
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 John Y.C. LEE

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Solicitors' Accounts Rules Committee

Amirali B. NASIR (Chair)
 Connie CARMICHAEL
 Serina K.S. CHAN (joined in February)
 Colin B. COHEN
 Brian W. GILCHRIST (joined in February)
 Thomas S.T. SO (joined in February)
 WONG Hau Yan
 Anny T.C. WU

Secretary: Assistant Director, Regulation and Guidance

Trainee Solicitors Committee

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 Dennis H.F. HIE
 Junius K.Y. HO (resigned in September)
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 Daphne F.Y. LO
 David Y.C. LUK
 Ivan C.K. NG

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Guide Working Party

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 Michael WILKINSON

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Simon S.P. TANG (Chair)
 Warren P. GANESH
 Stephen W.S. HUNG
 IP Shing Hing
 Henson LAM (joined in January)
 Thomas S.T. SO
 Margot TUNG

Secretary: Assistant Director, Regulation and Guidance

Working Party on Solicitor Corporation Rules

Junius K.Y. HO *(Chair)*

Anthony W.K. CHOW

IP Shing Hing

Frederick K.C. KAN

Christopher E.M. LAMBERT

Ivan C.K. NG

Peter K.P. SIT

Cecilia K.W. WONG

Secretary: Director of Standards and Development

Working Party on Solicitors' Practice Rules

Amirali B. NASIR *(Chair)*

Colin B. COHEN

IP Shing Hing

Patrick R. MOSS

NG Ching Wo

Ivan C.K. NG

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Secretary: Director of Standards and Development

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Professor Douglas ARNER

CHUNG Lai Ming

Adamas K.S. WONG

Victor C.K. YAU

Secretary: Director of Standards and Development

Working Party on Practice in Service Centres, at Home, in Domestic Premises or by Virtual Offices

PANG Kam Wing *(Chair)*

Nick CHAN

Mark DALY

Andrew S.K. LAW

Vivien LEE

SZETO Wai Sun

Margot TUNG

Edmond M.Y. YEUNG

YU Pui Hang

YUEN Tat Tong

Secretary: Assistant Director, Regulation and Guidance

Standards and Development
Department



Law Society Representatives On Statutory or Official Committees

Advisory Committee on Legal Advice for Unrepresented Litigants

Stephen W.S. HUNG (until November)

Advisory Group on Modernisation of Corporate Insolvency Law

Keith M.K. HO

Business of Intellectual Property Asia Steering Committee

Rebecca M.C. LO
Kenny K.S. WONG

Cadastral Survey Consultative Committee

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City University of Hong Kong – Law School Board

Thomas S.T. SO

City University of Hong Kong – PCLL Academic Board

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Nick CHAN
Stephen W.S. HUNG
Huen WONG
Felix K.Y. YAU

Companies Registry Customer Liaison Group

Jane M.S. NG

Costs Committee

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Amirali B. NASIR
Thomas S.T. SO
Dieter YIH

Court of Final Appeal Rules Committee

Denis G. BROCK
Thomas S.T. SO

Criminal Procedure Rules Committee

Kenneth H.S. NG

Working Group on The Review of Criminal Legal Aid Fees System

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Kenneth H.S. NG

Correctional Services Department – Law Society Liaison Committee

Bucky K.H. CHAN
Paul M.W. LI
Kenneth H.S. NG

Department of Justice – Steering Committee on Mediation

Thomas S.T. SO

Department of Justice – Working Group on Class Action

Huen WONG

District Court Rules Committee

Amirali B. NASIR

Duty Lawyer Service Council

BUT Sun Wai (until October)
Bonita B.Y. CHAN
Kenneth H.S. NG
Cecilia K.W. WONG

**Election Committee of the 22nd Session of
Advice Management Committee of Hong Kong
Teacher's Centre**

Nick CHAN

High Court Rules Committee

Denis G. BROCK
Brian W. GILCHRIST

Higher Rights Assessment Board

Denis G. BROCK
Bonita B.Y. CHAN
Melissa K. PANG

**Hong Kong Bar Association – Free Legal Service
Scheme Advisory Board**

Mark DALY

**Hong Kong Building Rehabilitation Facilitation
Services Limited – Service Providers Committee
and Promotion Committee**

Doreen Y.F. KONG (from November)

**Hong Kong Coalition of Professional Services
Limited**

Melissa K. PANG

**Hong Kong Council of Social Service – Steering
Committee for Community Housing Movement
Project**

Melissa K. PANG (from November)

Hong Kong Council of Volunteering

Melissa K. PANG

**Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants
– Disciplinary Panel**

Huen WONG

**Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants
– Ethics Committee**

Amirali B. NASIR

**Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre –
Appointment Advisory Board**

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**Hong Kong Legislation Database User Liaison
Group**

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**Hong Kong Mediation Accreditation
Association Limited**

Cecilia K.W. WONG

**Hong Kong Mediation Accreditation Association
Limited – Mediation Accreditation Committee**

Sylvia W.Y. SIU

**Hong Kong Mediation Accreditation Association
Limited – Communications and Publicity
Committee**

Sylvia W.Y. SIU

**Hong Kong Trade Development Council –
Professional Services Advisory Committee**

Huen WONG

**Intellectual Property Department – Focus Group on
Review of the Patent System in Hong Kong**

Henry J.H. WHEARE
Kenny K.S. WONG

International Association of Young Lawyers

Camille K.Y. LEUNG (until July)
Louise K.F. WONG (from August)

**International Bar Association – Bar
Issues Commission**

Heidi K.P. CHU
Melissa K. PANG
Thomas S.T. SO

International Bar Association – Council

Melissa K. PANG
Thomas S.T. SO

International Bar Association – Young Lawyers’ Committee National Representative

Nadine LAI

Joint Liaison Committee on Taxation

Simon J.G. REA
William A. THOMSON

Joint Mediation Helpline Office

Melissa K. Pang
Cecilia K.W. WONG

Judicial Officers Recommendation Commission

Stephen W.S. HUNG

Judiciary – Civil Justice Reform Monitoring Committee

Brian W. GILCHRIST

Judiciary – Working Group on Children and Ancillary Relief Procedures in Family Proceedings

Dennis C. K. HO

Land Registry Customer Liaison Group (Private Sector)

AU Kin Man
AU Man Chun
Alson CHAI
Doreen Y.F. KONG (from February)
LAM Man Yee
LEONG Chi Wai (from June)
Billy W.Y. MA (until January)
WONG Yee Mei (until May)

Land Registry Joint Standing Committee

Emily Y.M. LAM
Billy W.Y. MA
Terry P.L. YEUNG
Sylvia W.Y. SIU

Land Survey Ordinance (Ch.473) Disciplinary Board Panel

Serina K.S. CHAN (from June)
Stephen W.S. HUNG (from June)
Joseph C.W. LI (until May)

Land Titles Ordinance Review Committee

Peter P. AHERNE
NGAN On Tak
Jidith SIHOMBING
WONG Man Wa

Land Titles Ordinance Steering Committee

E. John DAVISON

LawAsia Council

C.M. CHAN
Melissa K. PANG

LawAsia Executive Committee

Melissa K. PANG

Legal Aid Services Council - Interest Group on Processing, Assignment and Monitoring of Assigned-Out Cases

Patrick BURKE
Melissa K. PANG

Legal Aid Services Council - Interest Group on Scope of Legal Aid

Patrick M. BURKE
Rebecca HO

Mr. Justice Pickering Memorial Fund

Billy W.Y. MA

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Advisory Committee**

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Keith M.K. HO (until January)
Richard M. TOLLAN (from January)

**Organising Committee of the 2017/2018 Family-
Friendly Employers Award Scheme**

Serina K.S. CHAN

Police/Law Society Liaison Committee

BUT Sun Wai (until October)
Junius K.Y. HO
Ambrose S.K. LAM
MA Shiu Ngok
Melissa K. PANG
Kevin STEEL

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Assessment Panel**

C.M. CHAN

**Standing Committee on Legal Education
and Training**

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Simon S.C. LAI (from August)
Vivien LEE
Huen WONG (until July)

**Subcommittees of the PCLL Academic Board of the
University of Hong Kong**

(i) Admission Subcommittee

Stephen W.S. HUNG

(ii) Curriculum Subcommittee

Nick CHAN

(iii) Human Resources Subcommittee

Felix K.Y. YAU

**Sub-Committee of The Standing Committee
on Legal Education and Training on English
Language Proficiency**

Huen WONG

**The Chinese University of Hong Kong –
PCLL Academic Board**

Stephen W.S. HUNG
Huen WONG

**The Hong Kong Coalition of Service Industries –
Executive Committee**

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**The Hong Kong Institute of Architects –
Advisory Board**

Amirali B. NASIR

**The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors –
Advisory Board**

Amirali B. NASIR

The Joint Professional Centre Limited

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Billy W.Y. MA

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Academic Board**

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Nick CHAN
Stephen W.S. HUNG
Felix K.Y. YAU

**The University of Hong Kong – Board of
Faculty of Law**

Thomas S.T. SO

Union International Des Advocats

Frederick K.C. KAN

**Young Coalition Professional Group of The Hong Kong
Coalition of Professional Services**

Serina K.S. CHAN
Sebastian Y.F. KO

Independent Auditor's Report to the members of The Law Society of Hong Kong

(Incorporated in Hong Kong and limited by guarantee)

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Law Society of Hong Kong ("The Law Society") set out on pages 82 to 103, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2017, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the cash flow statement for the year then ended and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of The Law Society as at 31 December 2017 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards ("HKFRSs") issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("HKICPA") and have been properly prepared in compliance with the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Hong Kong Standards on Auditing ("HKSAs") issued by the HKICPA. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of The Law Society in accordance with the HKICPA's *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* ("the Code") and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Information other than the financial statements and auditor's report thereon

The Council Members are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises all the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Council Members for the financial statements

The Council Members are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with HKFRSs issued by the HKICPA and the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance and for such internal control as the Council Members determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Council Members are responsible for assessing The Law Society's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Council Members either intend to liquidate The Law Society or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. This report is made solely to you, as a body, in accordance with section 405 of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance, and for no other purpose. We do not assume responsibility towards or accept liability to any other person for the contents of this report.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with HKSAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with HKSAs, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of The Law Society's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Council Members.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Council Members' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on The Law Society's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause The Law Society to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Council Members regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

KPMG

Certified Public Accountants

8th Floor, Prince's Building
10 Chater Road, Central, Hong Kong

13 March 2018

Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income

For the year ended 31 December 2017

(Expressed in Hong Kong dollars)

	Note	2017 HK\$	2016 HK\$
Income	3	103,063,177	85,793,033
Staff costs	4(a)	(54,343,718)	(51,079,795)
Office expenses	4(b)	(4,993,623)	(5,036,313)
Depreciation	7	(3,685,387)	(3,868,388)
Members' expenses	4(c)	(7,938,839)	(7,781,183)
Other operating expenses	4(d)	(33,995,430)	(59,888,860)
Deficit before taxation	4	(1,893,820)	(41,861,506)
Income tax	6(a)	8,080	(107,401)
Deficit and total comprehensive income for the year		(1,885,740)	(41,968,907)

The notes on pages 86 to 103 form part of these financial statements.

Statement of financial position

At 31 December 2017

(Expressed in Hong Kong dollars)

	Note	2017 HK\$	2016 HK\$
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	7	116,705,338	120,134,462
Investments in subsidiaries	8	22	22
Deferred tax assets	13(b)	471,992	463,912
Deposits		913,376	–
		118,090,728	120,598,396
Current assets			
Deposits, prepayments and other receivables	9	2,167,060	3,622,113
Amount due from a related company	10	398,033	592,900
Cash and deposits with banks	11	169,358,407	166,210,266
Current tax recoverable	13(a)	–	139,828
		171,923,500	170,565,107
Current liabilities			
Membership, practising certificate and other fees received in advance		63,167,941	60,363,358
Creditors and accrued charges	12	36,256,664	38,324,782
		99,424,605	98,688,140
Net current assets		72,498,895	71,876,967
Net assets		190,589,623	192,475,363
Representing:			
Accumulated surpluses and reserves		190,589,623	192,475,363

Approved and authorised for issue by the Council on 13 March 2018

Council Members

Thomas S. T. So

Melissa K. Pang

Secretary General

Heidi K. P. Chu

The notes on pages 86 to 103 form part of these financial statements.

Statement of changes in equity

For the year ended 31 December 2017

(Expressed in Hong Kong dollars)

	Accumulated Surplus HK\$	Reserve for regulatory costs (note) HK\$	Total HK\$
Balance at 1 January 2016	234,444,270	–	234,444,270
Changes in equity for 2016:			
Deficit and total comprehensive income	(41,968,907)	–	(41,968,907)
Balance at 31 December 2016 and 1 January 2017:	192,475,363	–	192,475,363
Changes in equity for 2017:			
Deficit and total comprehensive income	(1,885,740)	–	(1,885,740)
Transfer from accumulated surplus to reserve for regulatory costs	note (10,000,000)	10,000,000	–
Balance at 31 December 2017	180,589,623	10,000,000	190,589,623

Note:

To build up a reserve for The Law Society to fulfil its statutory regulatory functions, the Council resolved on 5 December 2017 that a sum of HK\$10 million be transferred from The Law Society's accumulated surplus to a special reserve for regulatory costs.

The notes on pages 86 to 103 form part of these financial statements.

Cash flow statement

For the year ended 31 December 2017
(Expressed in Hong Kong dollars)

	Note	2017 HK\$	2016 HK\$
Operating activities			
Cash generated from/(used in) operations	11(b)	2,917,989	(2,061,951)
Hong Kong profits tax refunded		139,828	–
Net cash generated from/(used in) operating activities		3,057,817	(2,061,951)
Investing activities			
Increase in deposits with banks with maturity of more than three months at acquisition		(16,083,411)	(27,534,785)
Interest received		1,259,963	923,778
Payment for the purchase of property, plant and equipment and related deposits		(1,169,639)	(891,123)
Net cash used in investing activities		(15,993,087)	(27,502,130)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(12,935,270)	(29,564,081)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January		99,015,500	128,579,581
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December	11(a)	86,080,230	99,015,500

The notes on pages 86 to 103 form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the financial statements

(Expressed in Hong Kong dollars)

1 Status of The Law Society

The Law Society is a company limited by guarantee with no share capital. The liability of each member is limited to an amount not exceeding \$50. As at 31 December 2017, The Law Society had 10,798 members (2016: 10,345).

2 Significant accounting policies

(a) Statement of compliance

For the purposes of compliance with section 379 and 380 of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance (Cap. 622), these financial statements have been prepared to present a true and fair view of the financial position and financial performance of The Law Society only. Consequently, they have been prepared in accordance with all applicable Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards ("HKFRSs"), which term collectively includes all applicable individual Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards, Hong Kong Accounting Standards ("HKASs") and Interpretations issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("HKICPA"), accounting principles generally accepted in Hong Kong and the requirements of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance (Cap. 622) that are relevant to the preparation of company level financial statements by a parent company.

The Law Society is a holding company as it has two subsidiaries. However, The Law Society regards these two subsidiaries, when taken together, as immaterial in accordance with section 381(3) of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance (Cap. 622), and therefore is not required to prepare consolidated financial statements.

A summary of the significant accounting policies adopted by The Law Society is set out below.

The HKICPA has issued certain new and revised HKFRSs that are first effective or available for early adoption for the current accounting period of The Law Society. Note 2(c) provides information on any changes in accounting policies resulting from initial application of these developments to the extent that they are relevant to The Law Society for the current and prior accounting periods reflected in these financial statements.

(b) Basis of preparation of the financial statements

The measurement basis used in the preparation of the financial statements is the historical cost basis.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with HKFRSs requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis of making the judgements about carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

(Expressed in Hong Kong dollars)

2 Significant accounting policies (continued)

(f) Leased assets

An arrangement, comprising a transaction or a series of transactions, is or contains a lease if The Law Society determines that the arrangement conveys a right to use a specific asset or assets for an agreed period of time in return for a payment or a series of payments. Such a determination is made based on an evaluation of the substance of the arrangement and is regardless of whether the arrangement takes the legal form of a lease.

Assets that are held by The Law Society under leases which transfer to The Law Society substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership are classified as being held under a finance lease.

Leases which do not transfer substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to The Law Society are classified as operating leases.

Where The Law Society has the use of other assets held under operating leases, payments made under the leases are charged to profit or loss in equal instalments over the accounting periods covered by the lease term, except where an alternative basis is more representative of the pattern of benefits to be derived from the leased asset. Lease incentives received are recognised in profit or loss as an integral part of the aggregate net lease payments made.

(g) Impairment of assets

Internal and external sources of information are reviewed at the end of each reporting period to identify indications that the following assets may be impaired or an impairment loss previously recognised no longer exists or may have decreased:

- property, plant and equipment; and
- investments in subsidiaries.

If any such indication exists, the asset's recoverable amount is estimated.

(i) Calculation of recoverable amount

The recoverable amount of an asset is the greater of its fair value less cost of disposal and value in use. In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset. Where an asset does not generate cash inflows largely independent of those from other assets, the recoverable amount is determined for the smallest group of assets that generates cash inflows independently (i.e. a cash-generating unit).

2 Significant accounting policies (continued)

(g) Impairment of assets (continued)

(ii) Recognition of impairment losses

An impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss if the carrying amount of an asset, or the cash-generating unit to which it belongs, exceeds its recoverable amount. Impairment losses are recognised to reduce the carrying amount of the asset or assets in the cash-generating unit on a pro rata basis, except that the carrying value of an asset will not be reduced below its individual fair value less costs of disposal, or value in use, if determinable.

(iii) Reversal of impairment losses

An impairment loss is reversed if there has been a favourable change in the estimates used to determine the recoverable amount.

A reversal of an impairment loss is limited to the asset's carrying amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised in prior years. Reversals of impairment losses are credited to profit or loss in the year in which the reversals are recognised.

(h) Disciplinary proceedings and ancillary costs

Disciplinary proceedings and ancillary costs are recognised in profit or loss in the year in which they are incurred. Whilst every effort is made by The Law Society to secure reimbursement of such amounts, due to the uncertainty as to whether such costs will be recovered by reference to the provisions of section 25(1) of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance, reimbursements of such costs are recognised in profit or loss only to the extent that they have been received. Also included in the financial statements under this heading are the costs incurred in respect of interventions within solicitors' practices. Such costs are only recoverable from the solicitors concerned and, in view of their nature, such costs are unlikely to be recovered in full.

(i) Deposits, prepayments and other receivables

Deposits, prepayments and other receivables are initially recognised at fair value and thereafter stated at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less allowance for impairment of doubtful debts, except where the receivables are interest-free loans made to related parties without any fixed repayment terms or the effect of discounting would be immaterial. In such cases, the receivables are stated at cost less allowance for impairment of doubtful debts.

Impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts are recognised when there is objective evidence of impairment and are measured as the difference between the carrying amount of the financial asset and the estimated future cash flows, discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate where the effect of discounting is material. Objective evidence of impairment includes observable data that comes to the attention of The Law Society about events that have an impact on the asset's estimated future cash flows such as significant financial difficulty of the debtor.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

(Expressed in Hong Kong dollars)

2 Significant accounting policies (continued)

(i) Deposits, prepayments and other receivables (continued)

Impairment losses for receivables whose recovery is considered doubtful but not remote are recorded using an allowance account. When The Law Society is satisfied that recovery is remote, the amount considered irrecoverable is written off against receivables directly and any amounts held in the allowance account relating to that debt are reversed. Subsequent recoveries of amounts previously charged to the allowance account are reversed against the allowance account. Other changes in the allowance account and subsequent recoveries of amounts previously written off directly are recognised in profit or loss.

(j) Creditors and accrued charges

Creditors and accrued charges are initially recognised at fair value and subsequently stated at amortised cost unless the effect of discounting would be immaterial, in which case they are stated at cost.

(k) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at bank and on hand, demand deposits with banks and other financial institutions, and short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible into known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value, having been within three months of maturity at acquisition.

(l) Employee benefits

Salaries, annual bonuses, paid annual leave, contributions to defined contribution retirement plans and the cost of non-monetary benefits are accrued in the year in which the associated services are rendered by employees. Where payment or settlement is deferred and the effect would be material, these amounts are stated at their present values.

(m) Income tax

Income tax for the year comprises current tax and movements in deferred tax assets and liabilities. Current tax and movements in deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognised in profit or loss except to the extent that they relate to items recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity, in which case the relevant amounts of tax are recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity, respectively.

Current tax is the expected tax payable on the taxable income for the year, using tax rates enacted or substantively enacted at the end of the reporting period, and any adjustment to tax payable in respect of previous years.

2 Significant accounting policies (continued)

(m) Income tax (continued)

Deferred tax assets and liabilities arise from deductible and taxable temporary differences respectively, being the differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities for financial reporting purposes and their tax bases. Deferred tax assets also arise from unused tax losses and unused tax credits. Apart from differences which arise on initial recognition of assets and liabilities, all deferred tax liabilities and all deferred tax assets, to the extent that it is probable that future taxable profits will be available against which the asset can be utilised, are recognised.

The amount of deferred tax recognised is measured based on the expected manner of realisation or settlement of the carrying amount of the assets and liabilities, using tax rates enacted or substantively enacted at the end of the reporting period. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are not discounted.

(n) Provisions and contingent liabilities

Provisions are recognised for liabilities of uncertain timing or amount when The Law Society has a legal or constructive obligation arising as a result of a past event, it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation and a reliable estimate can be made. Where the time value of money is material, provisions are stated at the present value of the expenditure expected to settle the obligation.

Where it is not probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required, or the amount cannot be estimated reliably, the obligation is disclosed as a contingent liability, unless the probability of outflow of economic benefits is remote. Possible obligations, whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more future events are also disclosed as contingent liabilities unless the probability of outflow of economic benefits is remote.

(o) Revenue recognition

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable. Provided it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to The Law Society and the revenue and costs, if applicable, can be measured reliably, revenue is recognised in the profit or loss as follows:

- (i) Annual membership subscriptions, practising certificate fees, registration fees and other fees are recognised on a time-apportioned basis over the period to which they relate.
- (ii) Tuition fees for continuing professional development are recognised over the period of instruction.
- (iii) Interest income from bank deposits is recognised as it accrues using the effective interest method.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

(Expressed in Hong Kong dollars)

2 Significant accounting policies (continued)

(p) Related parties

- (a) A person, or a close member of that person's family, is related to The Law Society if that person:
 - (i) has control or joint control over The Law Society;
 - (ii) has significant influence over The Law Society; or
 - (iii) is a member of the key management personnel of The Law Society or The Law Society's parent.
- (b) An entity is related to The Law Society if any of the following conditions applies:
 - (i) The entity and The Law Society are members of the same group (which means that each parent, subsidiary and fellow subsidiary is related to the others).
 - (ii) One entity is an associate or joint venture of the other entity (or an associate or joint venture of a member of a group of which the other entity is a member).
 - (iii) Both entities are joint ventures of the same third party.
 - (iv) One entity is a joint venture of a third entity and the other entity is an associate of the third entity.
 - (v) The entity is a post-employment benefit plan for the benefit of employees of either The Law Society or an entity related to The Law Society.
 - (vi) The entity is controlled or jointly-controlled by a person identified in (a).
 - (vii) A person identified in (a)(i) has significant influence over the entity or is a member of the key management personnel of the entity (or of a parent of the entity).
 - (viii) The entity, or any member of a group of which it is a part, provides key management personnel services to The Law Society or to The Law Society's parent.

Close members of the family of a person are those family members who may be expected to influence, or be influenced by, that person in their dealings with the entity.

3 Income

The principal activity of The Law Society is to act as the professional and regulatory body for solicitors in Hong Kong.

Income consists of:

	Note	2017 HK\$	2016 HK\$
Annual membership fees		8,420,800	3,040,800
Practising certificate fees		46,980,000	45,027,500
Foreign lawyer registration fees		15,457,500	14,683,500
Foreign law firm registration fees		1,298,007	1,216,105
Other fees	3(a)	16,593,417	10,560,386
Disciplinary proceedings and ancillary costs reimbursed	2(h)	4,571,564	2,800,607
Continuing professional development		2,937,121	2,111,061
Miscellaneous income	3(b)	5,544,805	5,429,296
Bank interest income	11(b)	1,259,963	923,778
		103,063,177	85,793,033

- (a) Other fees include fees received for applications for waivers from compliance with guidelines on drafting Deeds of Mutual Covenant, applications and registration for examinations and applications for certificates of standing.
- (b) Miscellaneous income comprises principally income from advertisements in The Law Society's circulars, recharges to the Professional Indemnity Scheme for The Law Society's salaries and overheads incurred during the year in administering the Scheme.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

(Expressed in Hong Kong dollars)

4 Deficit before taxation

Deficit before taxation is arrived at after (crediting)/charging:

	Note	2017 HK\$	2016 HK\$
(a) Staff costs			
Salaries and allowances		48,629,775	45,473,803
Contributions to defined contribution retirement plan		5,749,666	5,433,667
Provident fund contribution forfeitures		(568,749)	(455,420)
Recruitment and training		533,026	627,745
		54,343,718	51,079,795
(b) Office expenses			
Rates and service charges		1,435,804	1,422,248
Electricity and telephone		443,684	518,901
Postage		164,417	222,738
Printing and stationery		1,883,371	1,932,111
Repairs and maintenance		449,056	466,741
Office cleaning and others		617,291	473,574
		4,993,623	5,036,313
(c) Members' expenses			
Issue of membership cards		127,600	126,900
Functions		5,037,366	4,218,941
Meetings		1,302,022	1,496,505
Facilities		1,471,851	1,938,837
		7,938,839	7,781,183
(d) Other operating expenses			
Disciplinary proceedings and ancillary costs* (including office rental of \$430,947 (2016: \$188,160))	2(h)	20,409,285	44,332,498
Professional education		75,109	158,727
Professional and consultancy fees		451,519	618,793
Professional development		6,997,316	9,303,796
Auditor's remuneration		140,000	156,200
Insurance and medical		2,908,065	2,121,565
Impairment loss on amount due from a subsidiary		30,925	387,144
Sundry		2,983,211	2,810,137
		33,995,430	59,888,860

* \$14,811,090 (2016: \$37,548,638) was incurred in respect of interventions within solicitors' practices, and \$2,522,669 (2016: \$4,351,247) was incurred in respect of litigation cases.

5 Remuneration of Council Members

Remuneration of Council Members disclosed pursuant to section 383(1) of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance and Part 2 of the Companies (Disclosure of Information about Benefits of Directors) Regulation are as follows:

	2017 HK\$	2016 HK\$
Council Members' fees	–	–
Salaries, allowances and benefits in kind	–	–
Discretionary bonuses	–	–
Retirement scheme contributions	–	–
	–	–

6 Income tax in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income

(a) Taxation charged to profit or loss:

	2017 HK\$	2016 HK\$
Current tax – Hong Kong Profits Tax		
Provision for the year	–	–
Under-provision in respect of prior years	–	73,705
	–	73,705
Deferred tax		
Origination and reversal of temporary differences	(8,080)	33,696
	(8,080)	107,401

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

(Expressed in Hong Kong dollars)

6 Income tax in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income (continued)

(b) Reconciliation between tax expense charged to profit or loss and accounting deficit at the applicable tax rate:

	2017 HK\$	2016 HK\$
Deficit before taxation	(1,893,820)	(41,861,506)
Notional tax on deficit before taxation, calculated at the Hong Kong Profits Tax rate 16.5% (2016: 16.5%)	(312,480)	(6,907,148)
Tax effect of non-deductible expenses	203,190	198,087
Tax effect of non-taxable income	(232,690)	(152,423)
Under-provision in prior years	–	73,705
Tax effect of unrecognised temporary differences	(3,556)	(27,473)
Tax effect of unrecognised tax losses	337,456	6,922,653
Actual tax expense charged to profit or loss	(8,080)	107,401

7 Property, plant and equipment

	Interest in leasehold land held for own use under a finance lease HK\$	Building held for own use HK\$	Leasehold improvements HK\$	Furniture, fixtures and equipment HK\$	Total HK\$
Cost:					
At 1 January 2017	105,885,279	45,062,601	14,188,213	7,499,157	172,635,250
Additions	–	–	–	256,263	256,263
Disposals	–	–	(306,246)	(759,859)	(1,066,105)
At 31 December 2017	105,885,279	45,062,601	13,881,967	6,995,561	171,825,408
Accumulated depreciation:					
At 1 January 2017	3,380,409	29,671,670	13,061,642	6,387,067	52,500,788
Charge for the year	970,127	1,802,504	346,803	565,953	3,685,387
Written back on disposals	–	–	(306,246)	(759,859)	(1,066,105)
At 31 December 2017	4,350,536	31,474,174	13,102,199	6,193,161	55,120,070
Net book value:					
At 31 December 2017	101,534,743	13,588,427	779,768	802,400	116,705,338
Cost:					
At 1 January 2016	105,885,279	45,062,601	14,126,263	7,869,237	172,943,380
Additions	–	–	61,950	829,173	891,123
Disposals	–	–	–	(1,199,253)	(1,199,253)
At 31 December 2016	105,885,279	45,062,601	14,188,213	7,499,157	172,635,250
Accumulated depreciation:					
At 1 January 2016	2,410,282	27,869,166	12,676,645	6,875,560	49,831,653
Charge for the year	970,127	1,802,504	384,997	710,760	3,868,388
Written back on disposals	–	–	–	(1,199,253)	(1,199,253)
At 31 December 2016	3,380,409	29,671,670	13,061,642	6,387,067	52,500,788
Net book value:					
At 31 December 2016	102,504,870	15,390,931	1,126,571	1,112,090	120,134,462

The leasehold land and building are held in Hong Kong under medium-term and long term leases.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

(Expressed in Hong Kong dollars)

8 Investments in subsidiaries

	2017 HK\$	2016 HK\$
Unlisted shares, at cost	22	22

Details of the subsidiaries are as follows:

Name of company	Place of incorporation and operation	Proportion of ownership interest held by the company	Principal activity
The Law Society of Hong Kong Publications Limited *	Hong Kong	100%	Publishing the journal of The Law Society
The Law Society Clubhouse Limited *	Hong Kong	100%	Club services for members of The Law Society (note)

Note: Operations had been ceased since 9 June 2017.

* Not audited by KPMG.

9 Deposits, prepayments and other receivables

	2017 HK\$	2016 HK\$
Deposits and prepayments	1,345,134	3,002,143
Other receivables	821,926	619,970
	2,167,060	3,622,113

Deposits, prepayments and other receivables are expected to be recovered or recognised as an expense within one year.

10 Amounts due from a subsidiary and related company

The amounts due from a subsidiary and related company are unsecured, interest-free and have no fixed terms of repayment.

The amount due from a subsidiary has been fully impaired during the year.

11 Cash and deposits with banks

(a) Cash and deposits with banks comprise:

	2017 HK\$	2016 HK\$
Deposits with banks with maturity within three months at acquisition	63,171,343	78,430,100
Cash at bank and on hand	22,908,887	20,585,400
Cash and cash equivalents in the cash flow statement	86,080,230	99,015,500
Deposits with banks with maturity of more than three months at acquisition	83,278,177	67,194,766
Cash and deposits with banks in the statement of financial position	169,358,407	166,210,266

(b) Reconciliation of deficit before taxation to cash generated from/(used in) operations:

	Note	2017 HK\$	2016 HK\$
Deficit before taxation		(1,893,820)	(41,861,506)
Adjustments for:			
Bank interest income	3	(1,259,963)	(923,778)
Depreciation	7	3,685,387	3,868,388
Impairment loss on amount due from a subsidiary	4(d)	30,925	387,144
Changes in working capital:			
Decrease/(increase) in deposits, prepayments and other receivables		1,455,053	(731,828)
Decrease in amounts due from related companies		194,867	3,241,405
Increase in amounts due from subsidiaries		(30,925)	(27,703)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors and accrued charges		(2,068,118)	26,427,152
Increase in membership, practising certificate and other fees received in advance		2,804,583	7,558,775
Cash generated from/(used in) operations		2,917,989	(2,061,951)

As at 31 December 2017, The Law Society had \$28,988,604 (2016: \$18,240,699) cash and deposits with banks which were unclaimed client monies held on behalf of law firms pursuant to the Council's directions under section 8(2) of the Solicitors' Accounts Rules (Cap 159, sub leg) and to section 2(1) of Schedule 2 of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance (Cap. 159). These unclaimed client monies are not recognised in the statement of financial position given its nature of trust monies.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

(Expressed in Hong Kong dollars)

12 Creditors and accrued charges

Creditors and accrued charges are expected to be settled within one year or are repayable on demand.

13 Income tax in the statement of financial position

(a) Current taxation in the statement of financial position represents:

	2017 HK\$	2016 HK\$
Provision for Hong Kong Profits Tax for the year	–	–
Provisional Profits Tax paid	–	(139,828)
Current tax recoverable	–	(139,828)

(b) Deferred tax assets and liabilities recognised:

The components of deferred tax assets recognised in the statement of financial position and the movements during the year are as follows:

	Depreciation in excess of the related depreciation allowances HK\$
Deferred tax arising from:	
At 1 January 2016	497,608
Charged to profit or loss	(33,696)
At 31 December 2016	463,912
At 1 January 2017	463,912
Charged to profit or loss	8,080
At 31 December 2017	471,992

- (c)** The Law Society has not recognised deferred tax assets in respect of cumulative tax losses of approximately \$43,591,969 (2016: \$41,955,472) as it is not probable that future taxable profits against which the losses can be utilised will be available. The tax losses in Hong Kong do not expire under current tax legislation.

14 Capital management

The Law Society is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The Law Society considers its capital to be the accumulated surplus. The Law Society's primary objectives when managing its accumulated surplus is to safeguard The Law Society's ability to continue as a going concern, so that it can continue to provide support and protect the interest of its members.

Adjustments are made to the capital structure in light of changes in economic conditions affecting The Law Society to the extent that these do not conflict with the Council Members' fiduciary duties towards The Law Society or the requirements of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance.

There has been no change in The Law Society's capital management practices as compared to prior year and The Law Society is not subject to any externally imposed capital requirements in both current and prior years.

15 Financial risk management and fair values of financial instruments

Exposure to credit, liquidity and interest rate risks arises in the normal course of The Law Society's operation. The Law Society's exposure to these risks and the financial risk management policies and practices used by The Law Society to manage these risks are described below.

(a) Credit risk

The Law Society does not have any significant credit risk with respect to amounts due from a related company/subsidiary and other receivables as they relate to a wide range of entities with no recent history of default.

The major exposure to credit risk is represented by deposits with banks. The Law Society's policy is to place its deposits with banks with major financial institutions with good credit rating.

(b) Liquidity risk

The Law Society's policy is to regularly monitor its liquidity requirements to ensure that it maintains sufficient reserves of cash to meet its liquidity requirements in the short and longer term.

(c) Interest rate risk

The Law Society's interest rate risk arises primarily from deposits with bank at fixed rates that expose The Law Society to fair value interest rate risk. The Law Society's bank deposits have an effective interest rate of 0.86% (2016: 0.61%).

At 31 December 2017, it is estimated that a general decrease/increase of 100 basis points (2016: 100 basis points) in interest rates, with all other variables held constant, would have decreased/increased The Law Society's surplus and equity by approximately \$1,259,963 and \$1,460,372 (2016: \$923,778 and \$1,502,665).

The sensitivity analysis above has been determined assuming the change in interest rates had occurred at the end of the reporting period and had been applied to the exposure to interest rate risk for financial instruments in existence at that date. The analysis has been performed on the same basis as for 2016.

(d) Fair value measurement

All financial instruments are carried at amounts not materially different from their fair values as at 31 December 2017 and 2016.

Notes to the financial statements (continued)

(Expressed in Hong Kong dollars)

16 Commitments

- (a) Capital commitments outstanding at 31 December 2017 not provided for in the financial statements were as follows:

	2017 HK\$	2016 HK\$
Contracted for	1,599,128	–
Authorised but not contracted for	–	–
	1,599,128	–

- (b) At 31 December 2017, the total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are payable as follows:

	2017 HK\$	2016 HK\$
Within one year	–	430,947

17 Professional Indemnity Scheme

The Solicitors (Professional Indemnity) Rules (Cap 159, sub leg) provide that The Law Society is authorised to establish and maintain a fund to provide the indemnity mentioned in section 73A of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance (Cap 159). This fund is known as the Hong Kong Solicitors Indemnity Fund (“the Fund”). Pursuant to the Solicitors (Professional Indemnity) Rules, the Fund is held and administered by Hong Kong Solicitors Indemnity Fund Limited which is a company limited by guarantee. The assets and liabilities of the Fund are not those of The Law Society and accordingly, they are not included in these financial statements.

18 Material related party transactions

In addition to the transactions and balances disclosed elsewhere in the financial statements, The Law Society entered into the following material related party transactions.

- (a) Charges for legal services in relation to intervention, disciplinary and litigation proceedings rendered to The Law Society by the firms of solicitors in which Council Members are interested totalled \$50,000 (2016: \$3.7 million) for the year ended 31 December 2017.

Amounts due to these firms of solicitors as at 31 December 2017 amounted to \$0.2 million (2016: \$0.3 million) which are included in creditors and accrued charges.

(b)	Note	2017 HK\$	2016 HK\$
Expenses borne on behalf of subsidiaries		1,673,760	1,884,381
Recharge of office expenses to:			
Hong Kong Solicitors Indemnity Fund Limited	(i)	2,099,040	2,230,821

Notes:

- (i) The entity is a related party to The Law Society as its board are appointed by the Council of The Law Society.

19 Possible impact of amendments, new standards and interpretations issued but not yet effective for the year ended 31 December 2017

Up to the date of issue of these financial statements, the HKICPA has issued a number of amendments and new standards which are not yet effective for the year ended 31 December 2017 and which have not been adopted in these financial statements. These include the following which may be relevant to The Law Society.

	Effective for accounting periods beginning on or after
HKFRS 9, <i>Financial instruments</i>	1 January 2018
HKFRS 15, <i>Revenue from contracts with customers</i>	1 January 2018
HKFRS 16, <i>Leases</i>	1 January 2019
HK(IFRIC) 23, <i>Uncertainty over income tax treatments</i>	1 January 2019


The Law Society is in the process of making an assessment of what the impact of these amendments is expected to be in the period of initial application. So far, it has concluded that the adoption of them is unlikely to have a significant impact on The Law Society's results and financial position.


Abbreviated Terms Used in this Report

Academy	Hong Kong Academy of Law Limited
AIJA	International Association of Young Lawyers
AML	Anti-Money Laundering
AMLO	Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing (Financial Institutions) Ordinance
CDD	Client Due Diligence
CEE	Common Entrance Examination
Conduct Guide	The Hong Kong Solicitors' Guide to Professional Conduct (Volume 1, 2nd edition)
CPD	Continuing Professional Development
DOJ	Department of Justice
eBRAM	eBelt and Road Arbitration and Mediation
GEM	Growth Enterprise Market
HKCSS	Hong Kong Council of Social Service
HKeL	Hong Kong e-Legislation
HKTDC	Hong Kong Trade Development Council
HAB	Home Affairs Bureau
HRA	Higher Rights of Audience
IBA	The International Bar Association
IPBA	The Inter-Pacific Bar Association
IPD	Intellectual Property Department
LAD	Legal Aid Department
LegCo	Legislative Council
LLPs	Limited Liability Partnerships
LPO	Legal Practitioners Ordinance
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NPCSC	Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China
OLQE	Overseas Lawyers Qualification Examination
ODR	Online Dispute Resolution
PCLL	Postgraduate Certificate in Laws
PIS	Professional Indemnity Scheme
PIS Rules	Solicitors (Professional Indemnity) Rules (Cap. 159, sub leg)
POLA	Presidents of Law Associations in Asia
RME	Risk Management Education
SAR	Solicitors' Accounts Rules (Cap. 159, sub leg)
SHRs	Solicitors' Hourly Rates for party and party taxation in civil proceedings
TCSPs	Trust or Company Service Providers
The Express Rail Link	The Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link
The Law Society	The Law Society of Hong Kong
UIA	Union Internationale Des Avocats



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