



THE

**LAW SOCIETY**  
OF HONG KONG

香港律師會

ANNUAL REPORT  
2020



**We Unite**  
We Strive



# CONTENTS

02

The Council 2020

04

Report of the  
Council

06

Key Metrics in  
2020

08

President's and Secretary  
General's Reports

17

Law Society  
Secretariat

19

Safeguarding the  
Rule of Law

21

Improving Practice  
Environment

25

Maintaining the  
Highest Standards

28

Exploring  
New  
Opportunities

36

Providing Relevant  
and Effective  
Support to  
Members

42

Giving Back to  
Community

46

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

83

Law Society  
Representatives on  
Statutory or Official  
Committees

86

Independent  
Auditor's Report

113

Abbreviated Terms  
Used in this Report

# THE COUNCIL 2020

Melissa K. PANG  
President



Amirali B. NASIR  
Vice-President



Brian W. GILCHRIST  
Vice-President



C.M. CHAN  
Vice-President



Stephen W.S. HUNG  
(until May)



Billy W.Y. MA  
(until May)



Cecilia K.W. WONG  
(until May)



Denis BROCK



Warren P. GANESH



Roden M.L. TONG



Robert C. RHODA  
(until May)





Jonathan ROSS

Karen LAM

Mark DALY

Christopher K.K. YU

Michelle W.T. TSOI  
(from May)

Pierre T.H. CHAN

Careen H.Y. WONG

Doreen Y.F. KONG

Kenneth LAM  
(from May)

Davyd WONG  
(from May)

Eric T.M. CHEUNG

Calvin K. CHENG

Janet H.Y. PANG  
(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 2020.

## 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 ACTIVITY

The principal activity of The Law Society is to act as the professional and regulatory body for solicitors in Hong Kong. The principal activity 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 16 and 19 to 45 of the Annual Report.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The surplus of The Law Society for the year ended 31 December 2020 and the state of The Law Society's affairs as at that date are set out in the financial statements on pages 89 to 112.

## MEMBERSHIP

As at 31 December 2020, there were 12,296 (2019: 11,764) members of The Law Society. The total number of Practising Certificates issued was 10,790 (2019: 10,344). There were 942 (2019: 932) 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, CMB 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 subsidiary 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

**Melissa K. Pang**

President

Hong Kong, 16 March 2021

## ATTENDANCE OF COUNCIL MEMBERS AT THE COUNCIL MEETINGS DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR AND UP TO 16 MARCH 2021, THE DATE OF THIS REPORT:

	<b>Regular Meetings</b>	<b>Unscheduled Meetings</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Official Duties</b>
Melissa K. Pang, President (re-elected as President on 9 June 2020)	29	7	36	0
Amirali B. Nasir, Vice President (re-elected as Vice President on 9 June 2020)	28	7	35	0
Brian W. Gilchrist, Vice President (re-elected as Vice President on 9 June 2020)	28	7	35	0
C. M. Chan, Vice President (re-elected as Vice President on 9 June 2020)	29	7	36	0
Stephen W. S. Hung (retired on 28 May 2020)	9	2	11	0
Billy W. Y. Ma (retired on 28 May 2020)	7	2	9	0
Cecilia K. W. Wong (retired on 28 May 2020)	9	1	10	0
Denis G. Brock	25	6	31	0
Warren P. Ganesh (re-elected on 28 May 2020)	29	7	36	0
Roden M. L. Tong	29	7	36	0
Robert C. Rhoda (retired on 28 May 2020)	9	2	11	0
Jonathan Ross	28	7	35	0
Pierre T. H. Chan	28	6	34	0
Eric T. M. Cheung	28	3	31	0
Karen Lam	28	7	35	0
Careen H. Y. Wong	29	6	35	0
Calvin K. Cheng	29	6	35	0
Mark Daly	27	4	31	0
Doreen Y. F. Kong	28	7	35	0
Christopher K. K. Yu	29	7	36	0
Kenneth Lam (elected on 28 May 2020)	20	5	25	0
Janet H. Y. Pang (elected on 28 May 2020)	20	5	25	0
Michelle W. T. Tsoi (elected on 28 May 2020)	18	5	23	0
Davyd Wong (elected on 28 May 2020)	20	5	25	0

# KEY METRICS IN 2020

(As of 31 December 2020)

Members  
(with or without  
Practising Certificate)

**12,296**

Members with  
Practising  
Certificate

**10,790**

(out of whom 7,854 (73%) are  
in private practice)

Registered  
Foreign Lawyers

**1,546**

(from 34 jurisdictions)

Trainee  
Solicitors

**1,091**

Student  
Members

**290**



Hong Kong Law  
Firms

**942**

(47% are sole proprietorships and 42% are firms with 2 to 5 partners, 49 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**

Registered  
Foreign Law  
Firms

**86**

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

Civil  
Celebrants  
of Marriages

**2,266**

Solicitor  
Advocates

**76**

(70 in civil proceedings,  
6 in criminal proceedings)

Reverse  
Mortgage  
Counsellors

**448**

PRESIDENT'S &  
SECRETARY GENERAL'S  
REPORTS



THE  
**LAW SOCIETY**  
OF HONG KONG  
香港律師會

**Heidi CHU**  
Secretary General



**Melissa K. PANG**  
President



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

When COVID-19 broke out in Hong Kong at the beginning of 2020, no one could have predicted the scale of change that would follow.

The legal profession ought to be proud of itself. We quickly adapted local practice environments so the profession could remain safe during the pandemic. Throughout the year, The Law Society has made every effort to assist our members in dealing with pandemic-related challenges including, among others, the following:

- (a) The membership and practising certificate fees for 2021 were reduced, respectively, from HK\$800 to HK\$100 and from HK\$6,500 to HK\$1,950. Members' contributions to the Solicitors' Professional Indemnity Scheme ("PIS") for the indemnity year 2020/21 were reduced by 80%.
- (b) The Law Society also proposed to reduce the first registration fees and renewal of registration fees for foreign lawyers and foreign firms by 50% from 1 July 2021. As of the end of the year, the proposal was still subject to approval of the relevant legislative amendments.
- (c) The Continuing Professional Development ("CPD") course fees were generally waived for 2020, except for some special courses. The CPD and Risk Management Education ("RME") elective obligations for 2019/20 were also waived so that practitioners are only required to complete 15 CPD points (including three RME elective hours) across two practice years 2019/20 and 2020/21, subject to some exceptions.
- (d) The Law Society lobbied for financial relief measures for members and in April, a LAWTECH Fund of up to HK\$35 million was set up by the Government to assist law firms and barristers' chambers with five or less practising lawyers to procure or upgrade their information technology systems and arrange relevant lawtech training for their staff.
- (e) The Law Society provided guidance on practice management issues arising from the outbreak of the pandemic, including the formulation of a disaster recovery plan.
- (f) The Law Society kept close liaison with the Judiciary reflecting views of members on the general adjournment of court proceedings and on the need to have a medium to long-term strategy in place with special measures to deal with the possibility of a prolonged outbreak of COVID-19.
- (g) Surgical masks were distributed to members for free. A total of 718 firms and 2,824 members benefited.

Owing to the pandemic, physical events were mostly cancelled during the year. Fortunately, with the help of technology, we continued our activities virtually and remained connected with our members and friends both locally and internationally. Our annual flagship events including the Belt and Road Conference, the Cross Strait Four Regions Young Lawyers Forum, the Law Week and Teen Talk Joint Opening Ceremony, the Pro Bono and Community Service Award Presentation Ceremony were concluded successfully in an online format.

Further, The Law Society maintained a prominent presence in international conferences through our active online participation in different virtual events including the AIJA Virtual Congress in August, the LAWASIA Conference in September, the UIA Congress in October, and the IBA Annual Conference in November during which The Law Society also co-organised with the Hong Kong Bar Association a session entitled "The Unique Role of Hong Kong as an Arbitration and Mediation Venue for China and the Belt and Road".

## VOICE OF THE PROFESSION

In addition to its efforts to help mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the legal profession, The Law Society continued its role as the voice of the profession in upholding the rule of law and judicial independence.

During 2020, The Law Society issued statements reiterating the importance of judicial independence on three occasions, in response to news reports on abusive graffiti against a named judge (in January), unfair and unfounded attacks on decisions of the Judiciary solely according to political views (in September), and death threats against a judicial officer and his family (in December).

The rule of law underpins Hong Kong's way of life and success. The development of Hong Kong has been well supported by a robust legal system and a fair, transparent and independent judiciary over the years. The Law Society reiterated publicly that the constitutional task of the courts is to adjudicate impartially on the legal and factual issues involved in a particular case according to the law, whatever the nature of the controversy and whoever the parties may be. Where a court has ruled on the legal issues in a particular way at first instance, the proper avenue for a party dissatisfied with the court's judgment is to pursue an appeal. Further, the impartial administration of justice without fear or favour by our judges and judicial officers in strict compliance with their Judicial Oath has brought about high public confidence. The abhorrent attempts to pressure and influence judges and judicial officers in the decision-making process during the year were condemned by The Law Society in its public statements as a deplorable affront to the rule of law.

An important piece of legislation, the National Security Legislation ("NSL"), came into effect on 30 June. Prior to the NSL's promulgation, The Law Society issued two statements dated 11 and 24 June publishing its observations and views on the power to institute a law for maintaining national security and the content of the draft law. On 15 July, The Law Society organised an online Roundtable Discussion on the NSL with eminent speakers sharing their views on the NSL with over 700 participants. Concerns about some provisions in the NSL that required further clarification were identified and a meeting was arranged to communicate those concerns to the Secretary for Justice in December.

For years, The Law Society has advocated for the implementation of a special qualifying examination for Hong Kong lawyers to gain qualification to practise as Mainland lawyers, a mechanism similar to the Overseas Lawyers Qualification Examination ("OLQE") for overseas lawyers to gain admission as a Hong Kong solicitor.

The years of lobbying by The Law Society finally came to fruition. An important breakthrough that took place during the year was the implementation of pilot measures (on a three-year basis) for Hong Kong legal practitioners to obtain Mainland practice qualifications by passing a special qualifying examination. Upon qualification, these Hong Kong legal practitioners will be entitled to practise as Mainland lawyers in the nine municipalities in the Greater Bay Area. This enables Hong Kong solicitors to gain additional qualifications and strengthen their ability to expand their services into the Greater Bay Area, a vast market with huge business potentials.

Application to sit the examination opened in November and over 600 solicitors applied. An online briefing on the examination was organised in December by the Ministry of Justice with The Law Society as a supporting organisation. The examination, initially scheduled to be held in Shenzhen in January 2021, however, was postponed until further notice due to the pandemic.

The Law Society continued its regular exchange with lawyers' associations in the Greater Bay Area under a joint meeting mechanism established since 2018. Two online meetings were conducted during the year to strengthen synergy and collaboration on initiatives to develop business opportunities in the Greater Bay Area for our respective members.

## REGULATOR OF THE PROFESSION

The Law Society is empowered under the Legal Practitioners Ordinance (Cap 159) ("LPO") to exercise statutory functions in the regulation of solicitors, trainee solicitors and registered foreign lawyers. The Council's intervention jurisdiction and powers are provided in the LPO and the purpose of the intervention jurisdiction is to protect clients and the public. The Council is aware of the serious consequences that an intervention will have and it has therefore always considered intervention as the last resort. However, if, after taking into account all relevant circumstances and all other possible options, the Council concludes that there is a real imminent risk that it will fail its duty to protect clients and the public if it does not take action to intervene, the Council will exercise such power granted to it by statute. By making the difficult decision, after careful and due consideration, to exercise its statutory power to take on the task of intervention and to be prepared to expend substantial costs for its completion, the Council is responsibly fulfilling its regulatory role in accordance with the law and expectation of the public. During the year, the Council had to exercise its statutory power to intervene into the practice of two law firms in May and December, respectively. Subject to any court order for any payment of costs, any intervention costs incurred by The Law Society shall be paid by the solicitors whose practice is intervened.

All in all, 2020 was filled with unprecedented challenges. Without the support and dedication of the Council, the Secretariat and all participating members, The Law Society would not have been able to accomplish what it has done. I extend my deepest gratitude to all of them for their effort.

Looking ahead, depending on the progress of the vaccination, it is hoped the pandemic and its effects will soon subside, but life will not be the same as before. Technology has proven its immense value in every way throughout the pandemic. The Law Society will continue to focus on promoting the effective use of technology to enhance the legal practice environment for our members.



The membership fees and solicitors' practising certificate fees form the major source of income for The Law Society. As a relief measure for COVID-19, these fees have been reduced for 2021. In addition, The Law Society has proposed to reduce the first registration fees and renewal of registration fees for foreign lawyers and foreign firms by 50% from 1 July 2021. The 2021 Foreign Lawyers Registration (Fees) (Amendment) Rules were published in the Gazette on 22 January 2021. To prepare for a substantial reduction of income arising from the reduction of these fees in 2021, The Law Society has tightened its budget for the coming year. As it is only financially viable for The Law Society to implement these extraordinary relief measures for one practice year to assist members under the special circumstances, the fee level will be back to the 2020 level for the practice year beginning on or after 1 January 2022 for solicitors and for the registration year beginning on or after 1 July 2022 for foreign lawyers and foreign firms.

2021 will be another challenging year, but I am confident that with the experience gained in 2020 and the impressive resilience everyone demonstrated, Hong Kong will be able to overcome challenges and continue to thrive as an international legal and dispute resolution service hub.



**Melissa K. PANG**  
President





## SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT

Notwithstanding the uncertainties presented by the outbreak of COVID-19, The Law Society, with the team's positivity, fortitude and hard work, continued its operations with minimum disruption during the year, while ensuring that necessary infection control measures were in place to protect staff and members.

The Law Society took immediate steps after the Chinese New Year holiday, including enhancing work place hygiene, increasing the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting the office in accordance with the Centre for Health Protection guidelines and restricting office access to authorised staff and visitors. Further, we were able to implement via teleworking technology split team working arrangements without disrupting normal operations, allowing staff to alternate between working in the office and working remotely from home when feasible.

The Law Society has over 100 committees, some of which have regularly scheduled meetings. As an infection control measure, committee meetings, where appropriate, mostly took place throughout the year via telephone or video conferencing facilities.

Notwithstanding some unavoidable disruptions during the year because of the pandemic, we are pleased to report that we were able to continue providing value for our members in different ways.

The summary below sets out major quantifiable tasks we performed for members throughout the year, under the guidance of the Council and Committees:

- (a) organised over 26 social and networking events for members, including Family Fun Day (virtual), health talks and virtual law fair among many others;
- (b) coordinated 28 community projects, including Law Week, the Legal Pioneer Mentorship Programme, the Helpline to provide free legal advice as well as community and school talks;
- (c) received eight delegations from across the world and organised four virtual meetings with delegations from the Greater China region and other overseas jurisdictions;
- (d) coordinated and organised 15 outbound visits and virtual events, including five physical visits to various jurisdictions; and 10 virtual events for counterparts in the Greater China region and overseas jurisdictions;
- (e) attended 20 virtual events organised by counterparts in the Greater China region and overseas jurisdictions;
- (f) issued over 21 submissions on public consultations and 11 press statements on issues relevant to the legal profession;
- (g) organised 251 training courses, attended by 20,546 participants, under the CPD Scheme and the RME Programme;
- (h) administered the annual OLQE for a total of 202 candidates;
- (i) coordinated over 80 activities of the 14 sports teams and nine recreational teams of The Law Society including classes and training sessions;
- (j) processed applications for (i) the subscription of 12,296 members, 16 associate members, and 290 student members, (ii) the registration of 617 trainee solicitor contracts, (iii) the admission of 729 solicitors, (iv) the issue of 10,790 bilingual practising certificates, (v) the registration of 1,868 foreign lawyers and 86 foreign firms, (vi) the issue of 656 certificates of standing for solicitors/foreign lawyers and 20 for solicitors' firms and foreign law firms, as well as (vii) the issue of 198 letters regarding employment or training visas;
- (k) accredited 3,478 CPD training courses and 124 other CPD activities as well as 258 RME courses and four other RME activities;

- (l) reviewed 3,521 Statements of Compliance with CPD/RME requirements completed by solicitors and conducted CPD audits on 668 practitioners;
- (m) handled 913 complaints on practitioners and employees of law firms; and
- (n) visited 60 law firms on 81 occasions to provide assistance with their accounting procedures and to inspect documents to ensure compliance with the Solicitors' Accounts Rules.

Much of our work, however, is less quantifiable. Thus, detailed explanations about other projects and initiatives we undertook in 2020 are set out in other sections of this Annual Report.

## MEMBERSHIP MOVEMENTS AND BREAKDOWN

Our membership increased by 4.5% from 11,764 in 2019 to 12,296 as of the end of 2020. The growth rate is the same as the average rate of 4.5% for the five-year period from 2015 to 2019. Out of our 12,296 members, 10,790 held a practising certificate, compared to 10,344 in 2019 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 2020.

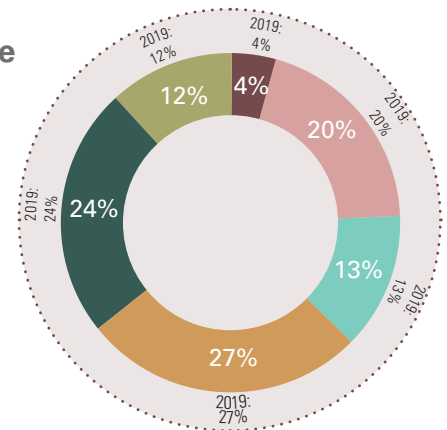
The gap in the numbers of male and female practising certificate holders narrowed with an equal split, compared to a ratio of 51% (male) and 49% (female) in 2019.

During the year, 31 new Hong Kong law firms (33 in 2019) and five new foreign law firms (11 in 2019) commenced practice. On the other hand, 23 Hong Kong law firms (21 in 2019) and 10 foreign law firms (six in 2019) ceased practice. Out of the 10 foreign firms that were closed, five became a Hong Kong law firm (compared to three conversions in 2019).

### Nature of Practice 12,296

Solicitor Members  
in total (2019: 11,764)

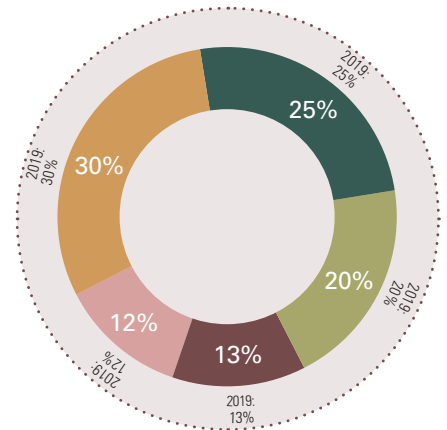
- Sole Proprietors
- Partners
- Consultants
- Assistant Solicitors
- Practising Certificate holders, not in Private Practice
- No Practising Certificate



### Seniority 10,790

Practising Certificate  
Holders  
(2019: 10,344)

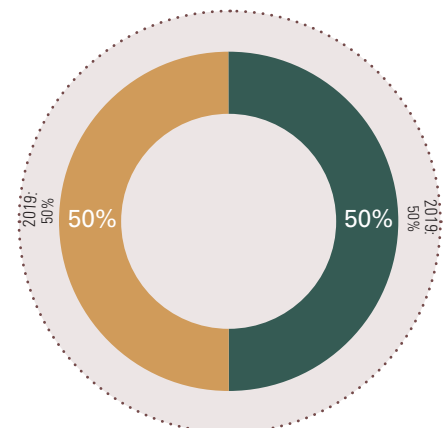
- ≤ 5 years PQE
- > 5-10 years PQE
- > 10-15 years PQE
- > 15-20 years PQE
- > 20 years PQE



### Gender 10,790

Practising Certificate  
Holders  
(2019: 10,344)

- Male
- Female



The number of foreign lawyers decreased by 8.4% from 1,688 (from 33 jurisdictions) in 2019 to 1,546 (from 34 jurisdictions with Uganda removed from, and Israel and the Republic of the Marshall Islands added to, the list) in 2020. The top three jurisdictions where the most foreign lawyers registered as being their home jurisdictions in 2020 were the same as in 2019, namely, the United States (36.9%), England and Wales (18.4%) and Mainland China (17.7%). However, there was an increase of 1% in the share of U.S. firms and 2% for Mainland firms, but a 2% drop in the share of England and Wales firms.

The number of foreign law firms decreased by 5.5% from 91 (from 22 jurisdictions) in 2019 to 86 (also from 22 jurisdictions) in 2020. The top three jurisdictions where the most foreign law firms registered as their home jurisdictions in 2020 were Mainland China (33.7%, compared to 31% in 2019), the United States (12.6%, compared to 12% in 2019) and Cayman Islands and British Virgin Islands (both sharing third place, with each taking up 7.4%). France which shared 6% in third place in 2019 has dropped to fourth place with a 6.3% share in 2020.

With the implementation of the Legal Practitioners (Amendment) Ordinance 2012 introducing limited liability partnerships ("LLPs") for law firms in Hong Kong since 1 March 2016 up to the end of 2020, a total of 72 law firms have taken advantage of the provisions and become LLPs, out of which six were formed during 2020. Of these 72 LLPs, two ceased practice in 2017, one in 2018, one in 2019 and four in 2020. Of the remaining 64 LLPs as of the end of 2020, 14 were foreign firms and 49 were local firms. LLPs afford limited liability protection to innocent partners pursuant to the provisions in the Ordinance. It was anticipated that LLPs might be an attractive choice for those who intended to expand their partnerships.

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 2020, 15,683 unqualified persons were employed by Hong Kong law firms and 612 by foreign law firms, a decrease of 3.1% for Hong Kong law firms and an increase of 1.3% for foreign law firms, compared to 2019.

The travel restrictions resulting from the pandemic have certainly played a role in the contracted growth of foreign firms and foreign lawyers. The growth of new solicitor

members has also slowed down a little at the beginning of the year. This is mainly due to the general adjournment of court operations since 29 January 2020 during which admission proceedings have been suspended, but the subsequent resumption of the admission proceedings have caught up and overall, the growth of solicitor membership for the year was consistent with the average rate for the past five years.

## FINANCIAL POSITION

A surplus after tax of HK\$34.46 million was recorded for the year, compared to the surplus of HK\$19.31 million in 2019.

The 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\$137.56 million, representing an increase of about 4.8% from 2019.

The area most affected by the pandemic was travel and it indirectly impacted income items that carried an element of travel. Compared to 2019, there was a general drop in the foreign lawyer registration fees (decreased by 5.6%) and foreign firm registration fees (decreased by 14.8%), and application fees for no-objection letters on work visa (decreased by 69.7%). The economic situation also affected the income from items like recruitment advertisements in the Yellow Pages of The Law Society Weekly Circulars (decreased by 42.8%). The above drop in income was offset by an increase of reimbursements of expenses incurred by The Law Society in proceedings before the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal under section 25 of the LPO and of the costs of intervention by solicitors whose practices had been intervened.

With respect to expenditure, compared to 2019, it decreased by 9.5% to approximately HK\$101.3 million.

The decrease was mainly due to the suspension of visits and activities, and the conduct of activities in an online mode owing to the pandemic. Compared to 2019, expenses for members' functions dropped by 37.3% and for international relations by 91.5%.

The Law Society is empowered under the LPO to intervene in the practice of a law firm for protection of the interests of the clients of the firm and the public. The Law Society

exercised its statutory power to intervene in the practices of two Hong Kong law firms in 2020, compared to three in 2019. Through its intervention agents, The Law Society took control of the offices 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 is intervened. To ensure that The Law Society had 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 to build up a special reserve for regulatory costs. In 2020, the Council set aside HK\$15 million in the reserve.

Taking into account the surplus after tax of HK\$34.46 million for the year, the accumulated surplus (inclusive of the reserve) was HK\$254.27 million with net current assets at about HK\$142.26 million.

As relief measures for COVID-19, the fees for membership and practising certificates for 2021 have been reduced respectively from HK\$800 to HK\$100 and from HK\$6,500 to HK\$1,950. Compared to 2019, our cash position at the end of the year reduced by 7.5% from about HK\$219.40 million in 2019 to about HK\$202.95 million at the end of 2020, owing to a reduction of the 2021 fees which were received in advance. The Law Society managed its cash reserves prudently and maintained them in fixed deposits spread among seven banks with no more than 22% of the total cash reserves in any one bank.

Liquidity is closely monitored to ensure sufficient resources to meet the operating needs of The Law Society and to maximise interest earnings. As of the end of the year, about 84% 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 pages 109 to 110.

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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

The Law Society publishes a monthly journal, *Hong Kong Lawyer*. Print copies are distributed to solicitor members, registered foreign lawyers, associate members and trainee

solicitors residing in Hong Kong only. Members residing outside Hong Kong and members of the Hong Kong Bar Association are notified of the journal's publication by email every month with the provision of a link to the online version. Further, we have 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.

Further, to facilitate electronic communication with all members, The Law Society has installed a webmail system by which every solicitor, trainee solicitor, registered foreign lawyer, associate member and student member are entitled to register a Law Society email account. The Law Society actively encourages members to take advantage of this facility. Communications from The Law Society to the general membership including surveys are all sent electronically to our members' Law Society email accounts.

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.

Staff are urged to recycle and reuse wherever possible. There is 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 have signed up to the Energy Saving Charter organised by the Environmental Bureau and to the Awards for Environmental Excellence by the Environmental Campaign Committee. We have pledged to maintain average indoor temperature between 24°C to 26°C between June and September and to switch off electrical appliances and systems when not in use and procure energy efficient electrical appliances and systems from June 2020 to May 2021. We have successfully saved consumption of electricity, paper and printing by 1%, 13% and 16.5% respectively during the year, compared to the consumption in 2019.

## 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.

To cope with the heavy workload in the Secretariat, two headcounts were added during 2020 and our total headcount for permanent staff stood at 108 at the end of the year. On personnel movement, the Secretariat had an overall turnover rate of 16.67% in 2020, compared to 26% in 2019. Ms. Elmo Wong joined us as Assistant Director, Communications and External Affairs and Ms. Christine Chong as Assistant Director, Registration. Human capital is the most valuable asset of an organisation and we place heavy importance on the retention of talent. During the year, 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.

Because of COVID-19, physical staff functions, for example, the Spring and Christmas Dinners, had to be cancelled to comply with the social distancing requirements. Nevertheless, as far as practicable, staff activities were continued in an alternative format. Staff webinars on personal health work related topics (i.e., personal data protection) were organised throughout the year. An annual budget was also set aside to sponsor staff training to enhance 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.



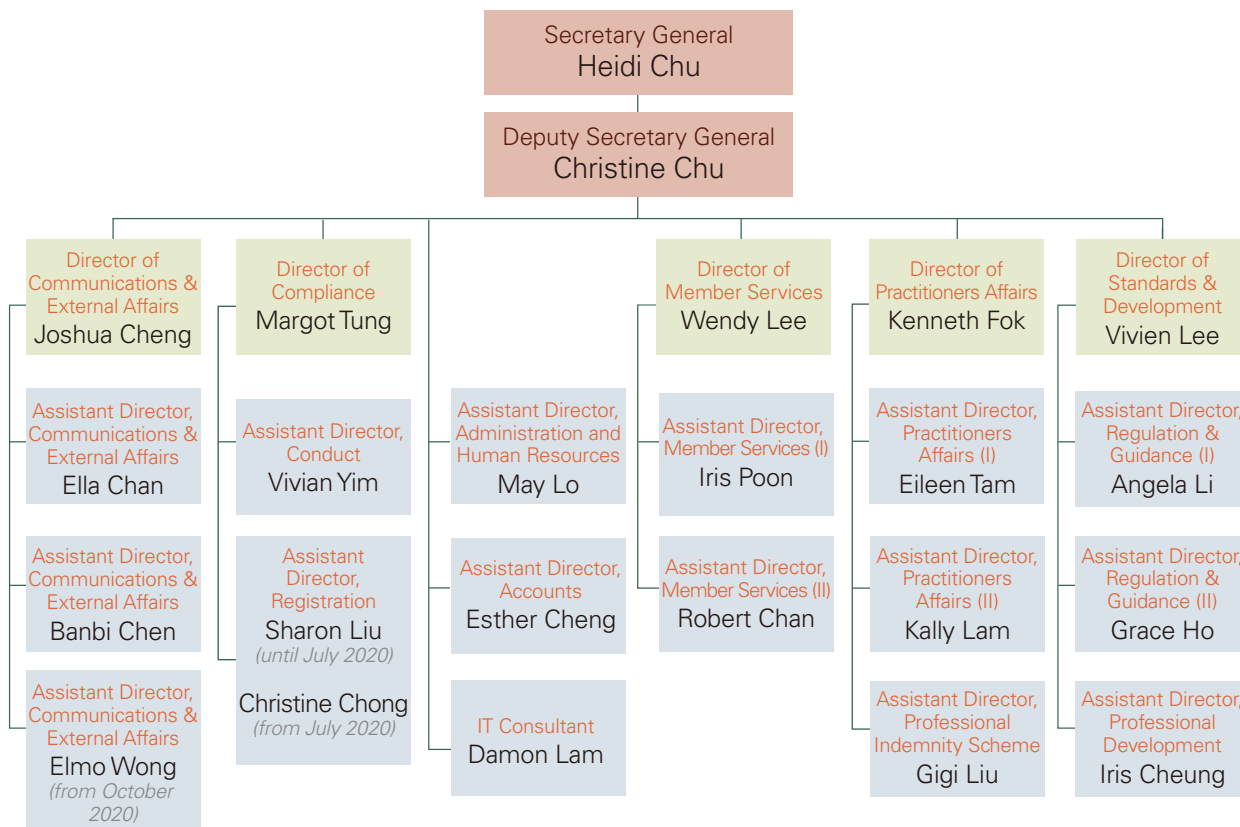
**Heidi CHU**  
Secretary General





The background features a central illustration of a quill pen resting in an inkwell. The quill is a light brown color with fine feather details, and the inkwell is a simple, rounded brown jar. The entire scene is set against a soft, light-colored watercolor wash. Surrounding this central image are several large, overlapping watercolor shapes in muted colors: a teal circle in the top left, a purple and blue shape in the bottom left, a large green shape in the bottom center, and a red shape in the bottom right. The overall aesthetic is artistic and professional.

*Law Society  
Secretariat*





# *Safeguarding the Rule of Law*

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

## JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE

Judicial independence is one fundamental attribute of Hong Kong which is governed by the rule of law. The constitutional role of our judges and judicial officers is to apply only the law. Article 84 of the Hong Kong Basic Law expressly states that judges and judicial officers shall adjudicate cases in accordance with the law. Article 85 states that the courts of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (“HKSAR”) shall exercise judicial power independently, free from any interference. The Judicial Oath taken by all judges and judicial officers requires adherence to the law and safeguarding of the law without fear or favour.

The Law Society has full trust and confidence in the strength of our judiciary in preserving its independence under “One Country,

Two Systems” in accordance with the Basic Law. Our judges discharge their duties in full accordance with the law, honestly and with integrity, safeguard the law and administer justice without fear or favour, self-interest or deceit. Whilst rational and healthy criticisms are welcome, we see it as our duty to defend our judges when they are subject to unfair and unfounded attacks purely according to outcomes and political views.

A proper understanding of the administration of justice and the duties and responsibilities of the judges will help the public understand and appreciate more the meaning and value of the rule of law and the importance of judicial independence. The Law Society has thus issued public statements from time to time to defend judicial integrity, call for respect of the rule of law and remind the public on the proper ways to handle dissatisfaction of the outcome of a judgment.

In January, in response to abusive graffiti against a named judge on the High Court building, The Law Society issued a joint public statement with

the Hong Kong Bar Association highlighting that “any attempt to insult, threaten and bring public pressure on a judge because of decisions made in the course of performing judicial duties is to be deplored as an affront to the rule of law and judicial integrity.”

In September, in view of the public criticisms based on allegations that the courts took into political considerations when adjudicating certain cases, The Law Society issued another public statement reiterating that the task of the courts is to adjudicate impartially on the legal and factual issues involved in a particular case according to the law, whatever the nature of the controversy and whoever the parties may be. We also reiterated that there are established avenues to challenge a court decision if one is dissatisfied with the outcome or the way that it was handled, and to raise complaints against a judge’s conduct. As noted in The Law Society statement, any unfair and unfounded attacks solely according to political views could not be tolerated and we urged that any politicisation of the Judiciary should stop immediately.

In December, noting that a judicial officer and his family members were subject to a death threat, The Law Society issued a third public statement in defence of the judiciary strongly condemning the act of intimidation against a judicial officer and urging the law enforcement authorities to investigate thoroughly and bring the culprit(s) to justice as a matter of priority.

## NATIONAL SECURITY LAW

The Law of the People's Republic of China ("PRC") on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ("NSL") is an important piece of legislation for Hong Kong. It has stimulated mixed reactions and heated discussions both locally and internationally. According to the HKSAR Government, the enactment of the NSL signifies the fulfilment of the constitutional responsibility of the HKSAR for the better institution of "One Country, Two Systems", helps restore stability and prosperity in Hong Kong, and paves the way to a brighter future.

Prior to the passing of the NSL, the public discussions centred on concerns over the uncertainties relating certain provisions. The Law Society issued two public statements dated 11 and 24 June and also sent our observations and comments to the relevant authorities and officials including the Secretary for Justice, the Secretary for Security, the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR ("CPGLO") (for onward transmission to National People's Congress Standing Committee ("NPCSC")), the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Law Society acknowledged that, as the highest state organ and legislative body of the PRC, the National People's Congress ("NPC") under the Constitution of the PRC has the power to decide on and to institute a law for maintaining national security. Nevertheless, The Law Society has always maintained the position that

in invoking its powers under the Constitution, the NPC should exercise restraint to uphold confidence in the "One Country, Two Systems" policy and the rule of law in Hong Kong. Hence, in our two public statements, we highlighted major areas that might have or might be perceived to have an impact on these core values and hence required careful consideration. They included, among others, transparency and consultation in the legislative process, due regard to common law principles and human rights protection, narrow and clear definition of offences, open jury trials, reasonable, necessary and proportionate sentencing, no retrospective offences and proper protection of legal professional privilege.

The NSL was passed by the NPCSC of the NPC and added to the list of national laws in Annex III to the Basic Law pursuant to Article 18 of the Basic Law on 30 June. It took effect in Hong Kong on the same day upon gazettal of the government promulgation. Community wide discussions were held on the new law in order to assess the extent of its impact on the city as a whole. The Law Society organised an online Roundtable Discussion Forum on the NSL on 15 July and jointly with LAWASIA, a webinar entitled "National Security Law for Hong Kong – Balancing Public Order and Civil Liberties" to provide different platforms for an open and focused discussions with eminent speakers on various aspects of the NSL.

While the NSL is part of our laws now and the provisions are being enforced, there remains concerns and queries surrounding the NSL. The Administration was urged to explain clearly the parameters of the law and to advise the public of its plans to address those concerns that have caused the anxiety. The Law Society will continue to liaise with the Administration on those concerns.

## DISQUALIFICATION OF LEGCO MEMBERS

On 11 November, the NPCSC issued a Decision on Issues Relating to

the Qualification of the Members of the Legislative Council of HKSAR (the "Decision"). Following the Decision, the HKSAR Government announced the disqualification of four Legislative Councillors of the sixth term Legislative Council on the same day ("Announcement"). To ensure due process, transparency and accountability in all its actions, the HKSAR Government is duty bound to address clearly the concerns raised in relation to the Decision and the Announcement, in particular the legal basis on which the disqualification was effected, the impact of such disqualification including depriving the legal sector of its representation in LegCo, as well as the legality and propriety of the new protocol that empowers the HKSAR Government to announce the disqualification of any LegCo member who falls within the provisions in the Decision. The Law Society issued a statement on 13 November.

## DISSEMINATING PROPER INFORMATION

In a public survey on the public perceptions towards the rule of Hong Kong, one of the survey questions was on the use of channels for obtaining information about the rule of law. The highest number of respondents cited online media as the main channel used, followed by television and social media. However, to have meaningful and constructive debates, the common starting point is to have accurate information based on which different views can be formed. To help disseminate proper information, The Law Society is working on a legal fact check webpage aiming to make available to the public an easily comprehensible and reliable resource of legally related information.

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

The fiercely competitive legal services market continues to pose many challenges to solicitors in practice. This year, the COVID-19 pandemic presented yet an additional challenge for practitioners. A key role of The Law Society is to ensure the sustainable development of the local practice environment so the legal profession can remain strong, independent and effective and continue to thrive.

## REDUCTION OF OVERHEADS AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Introducing measures to reduce overheads and increase members and law firms' financial strength was a top priority of The Law Society this year.

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 ("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 were reduced by one-third in the indemnity years 2010/11, 2011/12, 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2017/18 and 2018/19 and by 50% in the indemnity year 2016/17 and 2019/20. In 2020, on the basis of the projections and particularly the impact of the pandemic, the Council decided to exercise its power to reduce the contributions for the indemnity year 2020/21 by 80%. The amount of reduction provided to the profession over these 10 indemnity years totaled about HK\$1.79 billion.

In addition to a substantial reduction in PIS contributions, The Law Society also worked hard to see to the implementation of a number of other relief measures to alleviate the financial burden of members and law firms during the difficult times of the pandemic. Rule 3 of the Practising Certificate (Solicitors) Rules was



amended to reduce the fee payable for an application for a practising certificate for the practice year 2021 from HK\$6,500 to HK\$1,950. The Foreign Lawyers Registration (Fees) Rules were amended to reduce the first registration fees and renewal of registration fees of foreign lawyers and foreign firms by 50% commencing on 1 July 2021 for one year. The registration fees for general CPD courses were waived and the waiver was extended to 31 October 2021. Further, to facilitate law firm tenants to get rent concessions, The Law Society directly liaised with the Real Estate Developers Association of Hong Kong and a number of landlords of buildings in areas in Central, Admiralty, Sheung Wan, Wanchai and Taikoo/Quarry Bay and also made available general and specific facilitation letters to law firms to assist in their individual liaison with their landlords.

Besides cost reduction, on the income side, The Law Society liaised with different parties to ensure that member firms could maintain their financial strength to sustain the economic downturn. Various forms of financial assistance and support measures were sourced from the Government and banks for law firms and legal practitioners. Written requests were also made to the Department of Justice and the Legal Aid Department to brief out more cases and to expedite payment of fees to legal practitioners and law firms and various financial support measures were sourced for them from banks.

## IMPROVEMENTS TO PRACTICE ENVIRONMENT

The need for social-distancing necessitated adjustments in the practice of members and law firms. With home office and remote court hearings becoming the norm, technology has become more important than ever as a business continuity tool.

The Working Party on Practice in Service Centres, At Home, In Domestic Premises or by Virtual Offices expanded its terms of reference this year to include in its feasibility study the different work arrangements under the COVID-19 pandemic including the technology used and to make it a priority to review the rules and regulations to facilitate such arrangements.

To help members familiarise themselves quickly with the available technological tools that are useful to their individual needs during the outbreak of the pandemic, The Law Society studied suitable information system products in the market and shared relevant information with members.

### LAWTECH Fund

Members were alerted of available funding under the Government's Technology Vouchers Programme ("TVP") which aims to enhance the competitiveness of local small and medium businesses by helping them equip themselves with technological solutions to transform business

processes and improve productivity. The TVP was enhanced in April to raise the Government's funding ratio in each approved project from two-thirds to three-quarters and the funding ceiling from HK\$400,000 to HK\$600,000.

Additionally, The Law Society also highlighted the difficulties of the profession in these challenging times and actively urged the Government to extend relief measures to the legal profession to assist them to take advantage of technology to enhance productivity and competitiveness. In response to our lobbying, the Government launched a LAWTECH Fund ("LTF") in April to assist law firms and barristers' chambers with five or less practising lawyers to procure or upgrade their information technology systems and arrange relevant lawtech training for their staff. Eligible law firms can apply for a reimbursement amount up to HK\$50,000 from the LTF. The Law Society and the Hong Kong Bar Association established a Joint Committee to process applications under the LTF. The reimbursed amount under the LTF was covered by tax exemptions under the Exemption from Salaries Tax and Profits Tax (Anti-epidemic Fund) Order.

### Electronic Court Processes

Before COVID-19, The Law Society was advocating to the Judiciary to make more use of technology to streamline and increase the court businesses' efficiency. We have set up dedicated committees and working parties to specifically look into these aspects.

This year, The Law Society as a major stakeholder kept close liaison with the Judiciary reflecting members' concerns about the ramifications of a temporary closure of courts during the General Adjournment Period ("GAP") in the first few months of the year because of COVID-19.

In liaising with the Judiciary, we urged the Judiciary to have a medium to long-term strategy in place and to consider special measures to deal with COVID-19, including expediting the introduction of appropriate technology to facilitate the administration of justice (e.g., e-service and e-filing, telephone/video conference hearings, sending judgments by email instead of adjourning the handing down of judgments, etc.), utilizing the time during the GAP to expedite the delivery of outstanding judgments which are long awaited, adopting paper-based hearings more widely, among other things.

The Judiciary Administration has before the pandemic formulated an Information Technology Strategy Plan and worked on the development of an integrated court case management system ("iCMS"). The relevant draft bill, the Court Proceedings (Electronic Technology) Bill (the "Bill"), has also been prepared to provide the necessary legal basis for providing electronic mode for handling court-related documents. The Law Society has reviewed and commented on the legislative proposals and nominated law firms to take part in the pilot runs of the iCMS planned by the Judiciary. However, although the Bill

was introduced to the Legislative Council in January, the Judiciary was unable to take the matter further as a result of the delay in the legislative process at LegCo. To push for an early implementation of the iCMS to enhance access to justice, we have written to the President of LegCo urging him to look into the matter with a view to completing the legislative process of the relevant bill within the current legislative session. The Bill was eventually passed into law in July.

In addition to providing feedback to the Judiciary on the issues that it has to address in relation to the general adjournment of court proceedings, we have also sought clarifications on the operation of various registries. We raised queries and sought clarifications on whether and if so, what special arrangements have been or will be put in place to deal with deadlines, filing and registration matters during the temporary closure of their offices and kept members informed by circulars.

### Online Payment of Costs on Account

To enable law firms to accept costs and disbursements on account and settlement of fees by clients through online payment platforms, The Law Society launched the Pilot Scheme for Online Payment of Costs on Account and Settlement of Fees in June. Circulars were issued to explain to members the operation of the Scheme.

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO LAW REFORMS

The Law Society, through the valuable input of the various specialist committees under the Standing Committee on Practitioners Affairs, has reflected the views of the solicitors' profession in consultations on law reforms.

In our submission to the Government on the Budget 2020–2021, we have highlighted five areas, namely, the continual importance of legal aid (including a review of the criminal legal aid fees), the reform of the insurance law regime, The Law Society's proposed mediation pilot scheme, an overhaul of the mental health regime, as well as suggestions on stamp duty on residential property transactions in Hong Kong.

In 2020, a total of 21 public submissions were made on a wide range of reforms, which are set out below:

- (1) Consultation Paper on Review of Chapter 37 – Debt Issues to Professional Investors Only
- (2) Government Budget 2020–2021
- (3) Consultation Paper on Rules on Contractual Stays on Termination Rights in Financial Contracts for Authorized Institutions under Financial Institutions (Resolution) Ordinance
- (4) Consultation Paper on Corporate WVR Beneficiaries

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| (5) National Security Legislation Preliminary Observations  | (15) Consultation Paper on Draft Insurance (Special Purpose Business) Rules  |
| (6) National Security Legislation Further Observations  | (16) Execution of Hong Kong Law Deeds by Foreign Corporations  |
| (7) Insurance (Amendment) Bill 2020   | (17) Consultation Paper on Proposed Amendments to (1) the Guideline on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Financing of Terrorism (For Licensed Corporations) and (2) the Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Guideline issued by the Securities and Futures Commission for Associated Entities |
| (8) Consultation Paper on Proposed Amendments to the Code on Real Estate Investment Trusts  |  |
| (9) Draft Insurance (Group Capital) Rules   |  |
| (10) The Chief Executive's Policy Address 2020  |  |
| (11) Proposed Introduction Of Offences Of Voyeurism, Intimate Prying, Non-Consensual Photography of Intimate Parts, and Related Offences                                    | (18) Consultation by the Ombudsman on the Public Interpretation Services in Hong Kong  |
| (12) Consultation Paper on Review of Listing Rules Relating to Disciplinary Powers and Sanctions  | (19) Consultation Paper on the Management and Disclosure of Climate-related Risks by Fund Managers   |
| (13) Consultation Paper on Proposals to Introduce a Paperless Listing & Subscription Regime, Online Display of Documents and Reduction of the Types of Documents on Display | (20) Public Consultation on Legislative Proposals to Enhance Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing Regulation in Hong Kong   |
| (14) Consultation Paper on Proposed Application of the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods to the HKSAR                              | (21) Concept Paper – Modernising Hong Kong's IPO Settlement Process  |



# *Maintaining the Highest Standards*

The solicitors' profession is self-regulatory. The Council is obliged to ensure the establishment and promotion of high standards of work within the profession, which includes encouraging legal practitioners to continue to study and acquire 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 CPD Scheme's aim is to provide a convenient framework for legal professionals to acquire new legal knowledge and skills so that the profession as a whole can continue to meet the demands of clients and society, which are ever changing. The RME Programme's aim is to raise awareness of risk issues and promote good risk management practices amongst legal practitioners.

Owing to public health considerations, the majority of the CPD and RME on-site courses were suspended from March onwards and the courses were conducted by webinars. In 2020, The Law Society and Hong Kong Academy of Law Limited ("Academy") conducted a total of 251 CPD courses, out of which 196 were also RME accredited. They attracted an attendance of 20,546 participants. Further, The Law Society accredited 3,478 CPD courses.

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 two postgraduate and other law courses, eight legal journals and books, 104 legal research projects, 10 committees and working parties for CPD purposes.

Apart from the regular core courses offered under the RME Programme, 13 RME electives were conducted in 2020:

- Commercial Drafting: Mergers and Acquisitions
- Conflicts of Interest and Confidentiality
- Conveyancing: Protecting Irregular Interests
- Cybersecurity and the Law Firm
- Data Privacy and the Law Firm
- Fraud Risk and the Modern Law Firm
- Legal Professional Privilege
- Liability and Legal Developments
- Litigation Risk
- Managing Human Capital



Seminar on Integrity and Quality Building Management in December

- Practice Management
- Pro Bono Work: Legal and Risk Perspectives
- Risk Management and Cloud Computing

In addition, ad hoc risk management courses were conducted on the following specific areas:

- Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing Laws and Regulation
- Dispute Resolution Clauses in Cross Border Contracts
- Ethical Walls for Law Firms
- Just Between You and Me: Is This Privileged
- Litigation Mistakes
- The Firm's Risk Management

To broaden members' exposure to legal developments around the world, The Law Society also invited eminent speakers from overseas to participate in seminars and conferences hosted by The Law Society for the benefits of its members. On 26 September, we had speakers from the Mainland and Macau share updates on will drafting and probate practice in their respective jurisdictions, as well as

issues regarding cross-border wealth management. On 23 November, renowned speakers from lawyers associations and business sectors around the world were invited to attend our Belt and Road Webinar "Look beyond Covid-19: Connect and Unite

through Belt and Road and LawTech" to discuss topical issues including the effects of the pandemic on contractual obligations, the growing use of technology in the legal industry, and reforms on corporate rescue laws in countries along the Belt and Road.

## GATEKEEPER OF ADMISSION STANDARDS

The Law Society is empowered under section 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 and 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 2020, The Law Society administered the 26th OLQE since its launch in 1995. 202 candidates sat the OLQE from 15 jurisdictions including Hong Kong (nine were common law jurisdictions and five were non-common law jurisdictions). Two candidates were Hong Kong barristers. The overall pass rate was 52%.

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 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 had been considering proposals on the examinations required, set or approved under rule 7(a) of the Trainee Solicitors Rules.

The Law Society submitted the Position Paper on Common Entrance Examination ("CEE") and the Law Society Examination ("LSE") to the Chief Justice with a copy to the Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training ("SCLET") in May. The Position Paper sets out the powers of The Law Society to introduce the CEE and LSE, the rationale for introducing the CEE and LSE and the framework of the CEE and LSE proposals. The Law Society will continue to liaise with the stakeholders on SCLET and the Judiciary on its proposals to introduce these qualifying examinations.

## 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 1,546 registered foreign lawyers ("RFLs") 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.



The COVID-19 pandemic has not deterred the Investigation Counsel to conduct 16 visits to 13 law firms this year. Two of these visits were made under section 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, two 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. The Monitoring Accountants paid visits to law firms to provide assistance in their accounting procedures/systems and to inspect their books and accounts to ensure compliance with the rules relating to solicitors' accounting. 81 visits were made to 60 solicitors' firms and foreign law firms; some firms required more than one visit.

A Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal is a statutory tribunal established by the LPO. It is independent of The Law Society which is the prosecuting body. Members of the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal Panel are appointed by the Chief Justice. The Chief Justice also appoints the Tribunal Convenor and the Deputy Tribunal Convenors who have the responsibility to appoint a panel of three or four members to sit as a Tribunal to determine applications, and who have the power to dispose of certain classes of complaint on a summary basis.

In 2020, a total of five matters were submitted to the Tribunal Convenor and three disciplinary proceedings were determined by the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal.

The Law Society is empowered under the LPO to intervene in the practice of a law firm to protect the interests of the firm's clients and the public. The



Anti-Money Laundering Seminar for Lawyers



Roundtable Discussion Forum on NSL in July

Law Society exercised its statutory power to intervene in the practices of two Hong Kong law firms in 2020.

## ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING EFFORT

One of the most prominent international bodies focusing on combatting money laundering is the Financial Action Task Force ("FATF"). The FATF conducts peer reviews ("Mutual Evaluation") of each member on an on-going basis to assess how each jurisdiction is performing in preventing criminal abuse of the financial system. The assessment result is considered an important factor in evaluating a jurisdiction's international reputation as a financial centre as it reflects the level of integrity of its financial system.

The Mutual Evaluation of Hong Kong took place in 2018 and the Report was

published on 4 September 2019. Hong Kong has been rated overall compliant by FATF.

Whilst FATF acknowledged The Law Society's efforts in raising the awareness of members in money laundering, it suggested that The Law Society should take a proactive and robust approach in monitoring and enforcing the AML/CTF obligations applicable to solicitors. The Law Society explored various options in light of FATF's suggestion, including employing a full time AML executive to deal with the AML matters exclusively, appointing inspectors to check the law firms' compliance with the AML requirements, requiring the Senior Partner of each firm to sign a Statement of Compliance of the AML requirements on behalf of the firm when the Senior Partner applies to renew his or her practising certificate every year, and conducting a survey on law firms' AML mechanism and risk profiles.



# *Exploring New Opportunities*

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

The Law Society has been actively promoting Hong Kong legal and dispute resolution services to the local and international community at every possible opportunity. Whilst international travel and large gatherings remained restricted due to the COVID-19 pandemic, The Law Society made good use of technology to ensure that our activities to promote the Hong Kong legal profession could continue with minimum disruption. We continued to offer a series of webinars and virtual conferences to the local and international communities in 2020. To attract and benefit a wider audience, many of these virtual events were offered free of charge. Besides organising its own events, the Law Society also maintained a prominent presence in the international legal community through our active online participation in different international events. By doing so, we remain abreast of major developments across different legal markets.

During 2020, The Law Society continued its work in enhancing the role of Hong Kong legal professionals in the Belt and Road Initiative and the Greater Bay Area.

To facilitate connectivity among the Belt and Road jurisdictions, The Law Society has been hosting an annual international Belt and Road Conference since 2017 to serve as a platform for professional exchanges among legal practitioners around the world. In view of the public health crisis this year, on 23 November, The Law Society held its first Belt and Road Webinar themed "Look beyond COVID-19: Connect and Unite through Belt and Road and LawTech", attracting over 730 participants from 29 jurisdictions. Renowned speakers from government bodies, lawyers associations and business sectors both locally and globally discussed topical issues including the effects of the pandemic on contractual obligations, the growing use of technology in the legal industry, and reforms on corporate rescue laws in countries along the Belt and Road in

the Webinar. The Webinar offered an invaluable platform for our members and other participants to exchange views on these topics, which have growing significance to the legal industry.

In addition to the Belt and Road Initiative, the Greater Bay Area was another major focus for the legal services market. According to the joint meeting system established by The Law Society and the lawyers associations in the Greater Bay Area in 2018, The Law Society took part in the fourth and fifth meetings in July and October and chaired the latter joint meeting online to promote exchange and enhance the development of the legal services industry in the Greater Bay Area. The Law Society also took the initiative to hold its first Greater Bay Area online seminar on 26 September, which focused on the laws of succession in the Mainland, Hong Kong and Macau, attracting more than 100 lawyers.

At the IBA virtual conference on 16 November, The Law Society co-organised a session with the Hong Kong Bar Association entitled “The Unique Role of Hong Kong as an Arbitration and Mediation Venue for China and the Belt and Road”; over 140 registrants attended. The session covered various issues including recent developments in Hong Kong’s international dispute resolution framework, third party funding, arbitrability of intellectual property disputes and how Hong Kong-based lawyers and their clients can benefit from the Belt and Road Initiative and Greater Bar Area.

Besides the aforementioned effort, The Law Society also took the opportunity to promote Hong Kong legal and dispute resolution services to the international community on the following occasions:

- (a) LAWASIA Human Rights Webinar Series 2020 in June;
- (b) German Federal Bar’s online Bar Leaders’ Roundtable in June;
- (c) UIA Webinar on “Quality for Legal Services and the Role of Bar Associations and Law Societies” in July;
- (d) Hong Kong-Indonesia Webinar in August;
- (e) 58<sup>th</sup> AIJA Virtual Conference in August;
- (f) Straits Law Forum in August;
- (g) Taiwan Lawyers Gathering cum the Annual Celebration Ceremony for Taiwan Lawyers in September;
- (h) HKTDC’s Webinar on Hong Kong Professional Services in September;
- (i) LAWASIA 2020 Conference in September to October;
- (j) UIA Women Bar Leaders’ Day in September;
- (k) French National Bar Council International Week in October;
- (l) Commonwealth Lawyers Association’s Webinar on “Regulating Lawyers During a Crisis: the Challenges and Opportunities of the Pandemic” in October;
- (m) International Conference of Legal Regulators 2020 Virtual Conference in October;
- (n) UIA 2020 Virtual Congress in October;
- (o) ILLACE Virtual Annual Conference 2020 in November;



Belt and Road Webinar in November



The Fourth Joint Meeting for Lawyers Associations in the Greater Bay Area in July



Joint Session at IBA 2020 Virtually Together Conference in November





Online Seminar for Lawyers in the Greater Bay Area in September



HKTDC 5th Belt and Road Summit in December

- (p) Joint Webinar with LAWASIA on National Security Law in November; and
- (q) HKTDC 5th Belt and Road Summit in late November to early December.

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 PRC under “One Country, Two Systems”. In November, The Law Society co-organised a webinar with LAWASIA entitled “National Security Law for Hong Kong – Balancing Public Order and Civil Liberties” as an international platform to enable people from around the world to understand more about the implementation of this important piece of legislation in Hong Kong. The webinar provided an excellent platform for over 370 delegates from 38 jurisdictions to have fruitful exchanges with eminent speakers on various aspects of the NSL since it came into force in June, including the offences and penalties under the law, the extra-territorial reach of NSL offences, the jurisdiction of the Hong Kong courts, the availability of due process and independence of the judiciary.



LAWASIA Joint Webinar on National Security Law in November

Through networking with law societies and bar associations around the world, The Law Society has established extensive connections with legal professional organisations in different overseas jurisdictions, laying a good foundation for us to collaborate on future activities that could benefit of our members.

As of the end of 2020, The Law Society has signed 52 Memoranda of Understanding (“MOUs”) with lawyers associations or organisations in the Greater China Region and 35 MOUs with overseas lawyers associations.

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

Since as early as 2003, after the signing of the main text of the CEPA, The Law Society has been lobbying for reciprocal recognition of the practice experience of Hong Kong solicitors for the purpose of sitting the State Judicial Examination. With the development of the Greater Bay Area, The Law Society further refined the proposal and suggested a pilot scheme to start in the Greater Bay Area. On 11 August, the NPCSC passed a decision to authorise the State Council on the implementation of pilot measures for Hong Kong legal practitioners to obtain Mainland practice qualifications by passing a special qualifying examination. In November and

December, The Law Society supported and participated in online seminars organised by the Ministry of Justice, and the Qianhai Belt and Road Legal Services Federation respectively in relation to the special qualifying examination.

As a member body of the Hong Kong Coalition of Professional Services, The Law Society was one of the supporting organisations of an online seminar held on 18 November, focusing on the opportunities and challenges for Hong Kong professionals in the Greater Bay Area under the Mainland’s “Dual Circulation” Strategy.

As a legal service and dispute resolution hub, Hong Kong has been and remains one of the most popular seats for international arbitration and mediation. The factors contributing to Hong Kong’s popularity include, among others, the presence in Hong Kong of world-class legal professionals, providing high quality arbitration and mediation services together with a number of well-established international arbitration institutions.

As part of its effort to help open up these practice areas for members. The Law Society has established and continued to maintain its own Panel of Solicitor Arbitrators, Panel of International General Mediators and Panel of International Family Mediators with a view to providing useful central databases of these service providers with experience in arbitrating and mediating international disputes to the local and international community.

The Working Party on Islamic Finance set up to explore this new practice area organised a webinar to explore

opportunities for 5G application in the Islamic finance industry this year. Other new areas included the work of solicitor advocates, civil celebrants of marriages and reverse mortgage counsellors. As of the end of the year, there were 76 solicitor advocates, 2,266 civil celebrants and 448 reverse mortgage counsellors.

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



Presidents’ Roundtable – Resilience through COVID-19



Online Seminar of Hong Kong Coalition of Professional Services in November



# THE LAW SOCIETY'S GLOBAL NETWORK

## Overseas



### (I) MOUs signed with overseas organisations prior to 2020

- 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 – Polish National Bar of Attorneys
- 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. UK (England and Wales) – The Law Society of England and Wales
- BB. Georgia – Georgian Bar Association
- CC. Slovenia – Slovenian Bar Association
- DD. Belgium – International Association of Young Lawyers (AIJA)
- EE. United States (Florida) – The Florida Bar International Law Section
- FF. Republic of Korea – Seoul Bar Association
- GG. Japan – Hyogo Prefecture Bar Association

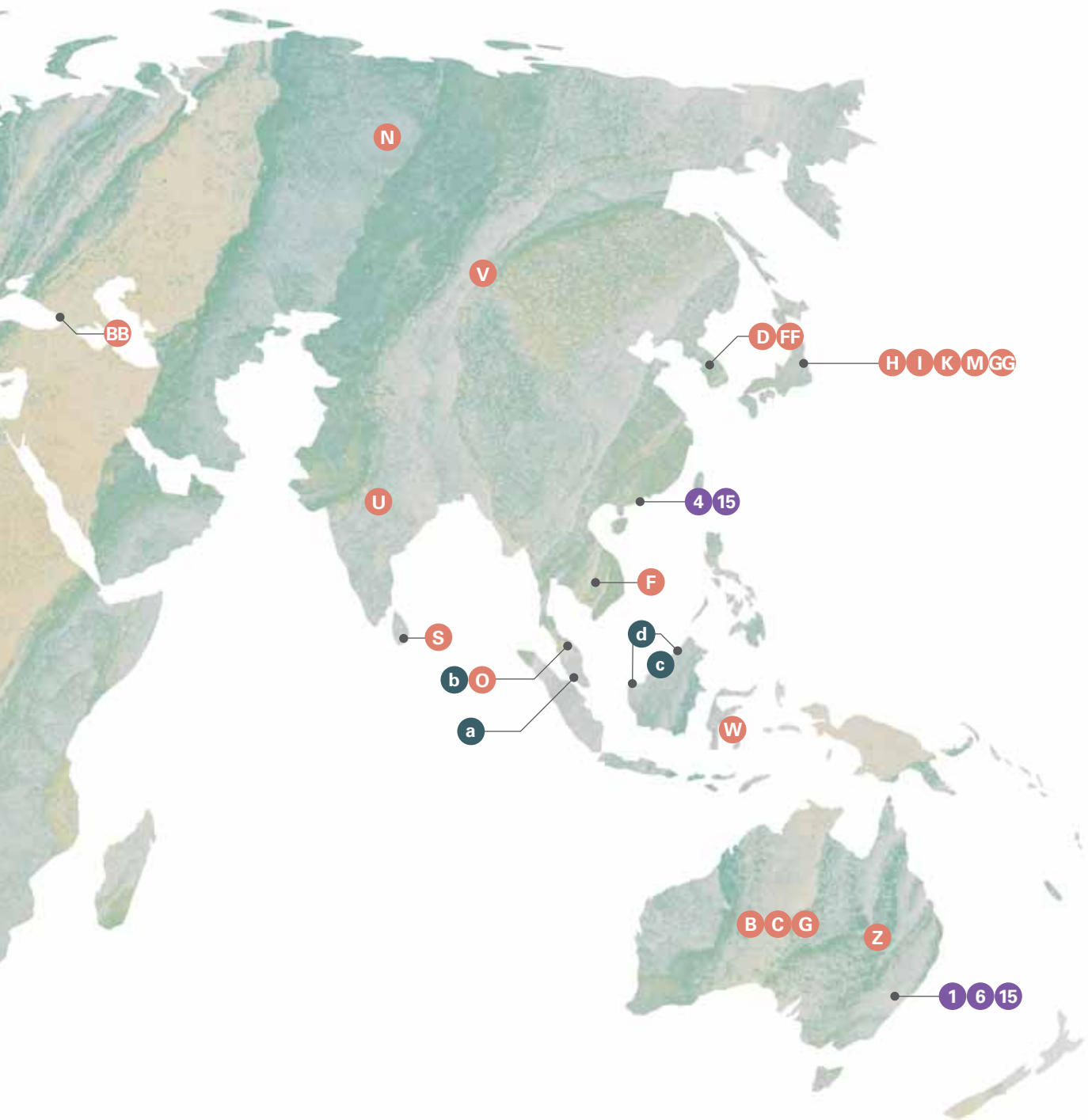
### (II) International conferences and events attended in 2020 physically

- a. Opening of the Legal Year of Singapore (5-6 Jan)
- b. Opening of the Legal Year of Malaysia (9-10 Jan)
- c. Opening of the Legal Year of Brunei (16 Jan)
- d. Opening of the Legal Year of Sabah and Sarawak (16-17 Jan)

### (III) International conferences and events attended in 2020 virtually

- 1. LAWASIA Human Rights Webinar Series 2020, based in Sydney (2, 9, 16 Jun)
- 2. German Federal Bar’s online Bar Leaders’ Roundtable, Berlin (9 Jun)
- 3. UIA Webinar on “Quality for Legal Services and the Role of Bar Associations and Law Societies”, based in Paris (13 Jul)
- 4. Hong Kong-Indonesia Webinar, Hong Kong (18 Aug)
- 5. 58<sup>th</sup> AIJA Virtual Conference, based in Brussels (24–28 Aug)
- 6. LAWASIA 2020 Conference Online, based in Sydney (10 Sep–8 Oct)
- 7. UIA Women Bar Leaders’ Day, based in Paris (16 Sep)
- 8. Online Roundtable Discussion of the French National Bar Council International Week, Paris (21 Sep)
- 9. Opening of the Legal Year of England and Wales (30 Sep & 2 Oct)
- 10. CLA Webinar on “Regulating Lawyers During a Crisis: the Challenges and Opportunities of the Pandemic”, based in Bristol (8 Oct)
- 11. International Conference of Legal Regulators 2020 Virtual Conference (26–30 Oct)\*
- 12. UIA 2020 Virtual Congress, based in Paris (28–30 Oct)
- 13. IBA 2020 Virtually Together Conference, based in London (2–27 Nov)
- 14. ILLACE Virtual Annual Conference 2020, based in Ottawa (20–21 Nov)
- 15. Joint Webinar with LAWASIA on National Security Law, based in Hong Kong and Sydney (26 Nov)

\* Note: Host location/headquarters cannot be identified.



## 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. Dongguan Lawyers Association
8. Foshan Lawyers Association
9. Fujian Lawyers Association
10. Guangdong Lawyers Association
11. Guangxi Lawyers Association
12. Guangzhou Lawyers Association
13. Hainan Lawyers Association
14. Hangzhou Lawyers Association
15. Hebei Lawyers Association
16. Henan Lawyers Association
17. Hubei Lawyers Association
18. Huizhou Lawyers Association
19. Hunan Lawyers Association
20. Jiangmen Lawyers Association
21. Jiangsu Lawyers Association
22. Jiangxi Lawyers Association
23. Jilin Lawyers Association
24. Kaohsiung Bar Association
25. Liaoning Lawyers Association
26. Macau Lawyers Association
27. Nanjing Lawyers Association
28. Nantou Bar Association
29. Ningbo Lawyers Association
30. Qingdao Lawyers Association
31. Shaanxi Lawyers Association
32. Shandong Lawyers Association
33. Shanghai Bar Association
34. Shanxi Lawyers Association
35. Shenzhen Lawyers Association

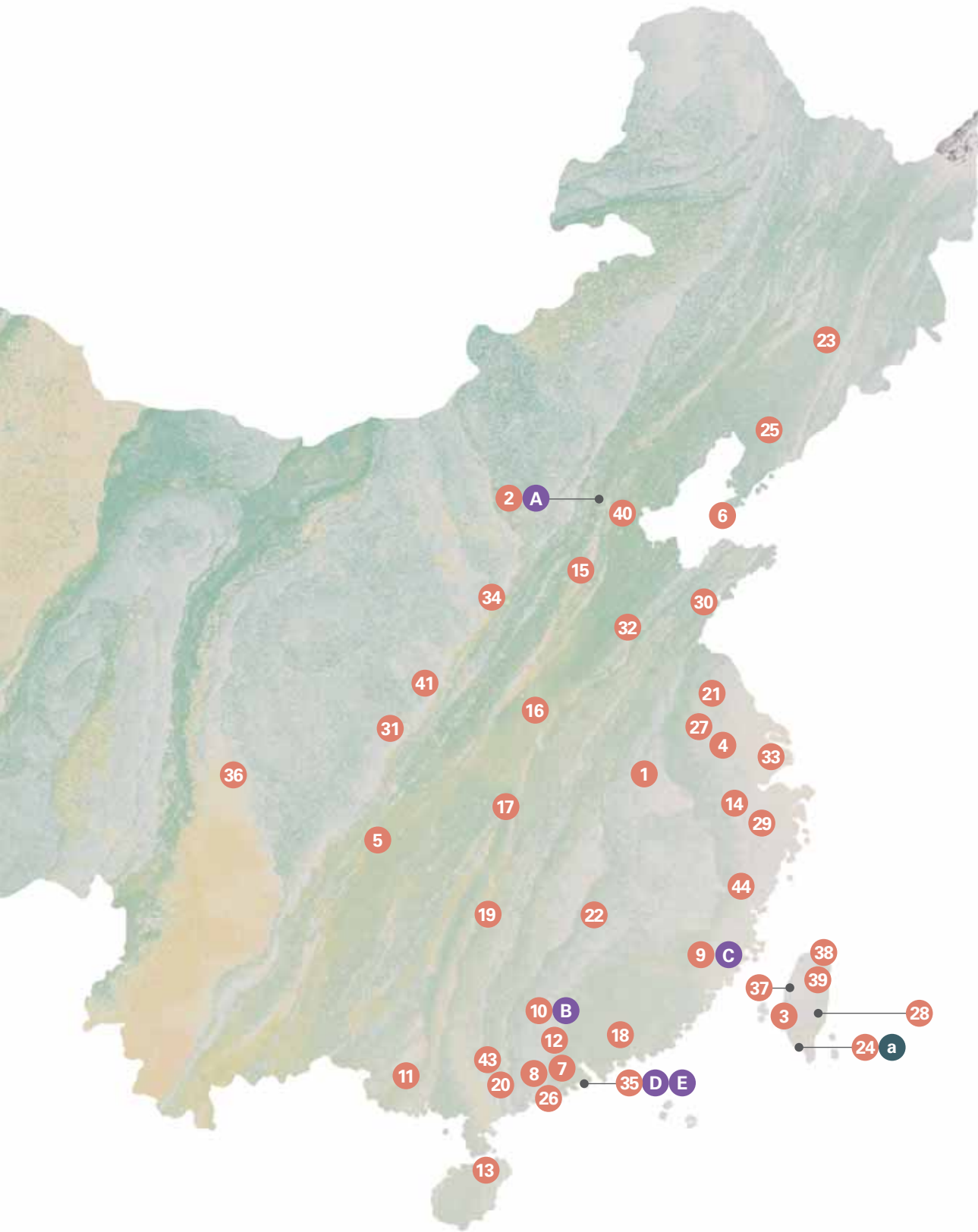
36. Sichuan Lawyers Association
37. Taichung Bar Association
38. Taipei Bar Association
39. Taiwan Bar Association
40. Tianjin Lawyers Association
41. Xi'an Lawyers Association
42. Xinjiang Lawyers Association
43. Zhaoqing Lawyers Association
44. Zhejiang Lawyers Association

● **Conferences and events attended in 2020 physically**

- a. Taiwan Lawyers Gathering cum the Annual Celebration Ceremony for Taiwan Lawyers, Tainan (5-6 Sep)

● **Conferences and events attended in 2020 virtually**

- A. Online Lectures for Peking University Law School, based in Beijing (23, 30 & 31 May, 6 June)
- B. The Fourth Joint Meeting for Lawyers Associations in the Greater Bay Area, based in Guangdong (11 Jul)
- C. Straits Law Forum, Fuzhou (18 Aug)
- D. The Ministry of Justice's Online Briefing on Legal Professional Examination to practise Mainland law in the Greater Bay Area, Shenzhen (19 Nov)
- E. The Qianhai Belt and Road Legal Services Federation's Online Seminar on Greater Bay Area Legal Professional Examination, based in Shenzhen (7 Dec)







# *Providing Relevant and Effective Support to Members*

The Law Society is dedicated to providing relevant and effective support to our members, which includes professional development and sector-specific initiatives, as well as programmes and activities designed to ensure the well-being of individual members' needs.

## MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

To gain a better understanding of the occupational profile of Hong Kong solicitors, The Law Society conducted a Membership Survey in 2019. The Survey aimed to gather information on different aspects of the profession including career development, work patterns, demographics and experiences relating to equality and discrimination issues within the legal profession. The survey results were released this year and made available on The Law Society's website.

## COVID-19 SPECIAL MEASURES

This year, in light of the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in January, The Law Society has acted promptly to work on and introduce a wide range of relief measures to assist members to sail through challenging times.

An internal special work arrangement was immediately implemented by the Secretariat to split the team into working in office and working remotely as an infection control measure, but ensuring minimum disruption to The Law Society's normal operation and provision of services to members.

The Law Society provided general advice to members on practice management issues arising from the outbreak of the pandemic, including

guidance on the formulation of a disaster recovery plan.

Measures introduced to relieve the financial burden of members include reducing the membership fee (by 87.5%) and the practising certificate fee (by 70%) for 2021, reducing contribution to the PIS (by 80%) for 2020/21, waiving CPD course fees for 2020 and CPD/RME obligations for 2019/20, and distributing free surgical masks and mask keepers to members. Externally, The Law Society lobbied the Government for allocation of funding from the Anti-epidemic Fund to law firms, the Department of Justice and the Legal Aid Department for speedy settlement of legal fees to practitioners, landlords for reduced office rentals and banks for preferential

financial facilities applicable to law firms.

Further, The Law Society maintained close liaison with the Judiciary reflecting the views of members and offering suggestions on how to address issues arising from the general adjournment of court operations during the pandemic.

The Law Society was also instrumental in the establishment of the Government's LAWTECH Fund to assist practitioners to equip themselves with technological tools that enable them to continue practice, notwithstanding the public health condition. The Fund has been jointly administered by The Law Society and The Bar Association. Two webinars were held in May and July to address members' queries on the Fund.

To better understand members' needs in these difficult times, a survey was conducted to gauge further views on the difficulties that members have and how The Law Society could assist them. A dedicated Facebook page was also launched to keep members

abreast of measures to combat the adverse impact of COVID-19.

## PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

### Law

The Law Society and the Academy of Law regularly organise seminars to update members on imminent changes to the law and their practices. In 2020, we organised 251 CPD and RME courses on a diverse range of topics.

### 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. "Members' Online Enquiry Services" platform featuring five areas of commonly asked questions is available to assist members. Members can simply log in to the Members' Zone to access the platform. All necessary personal information of

the member making the enquiry is embedded in the enquiry form and the member only needs to write the query and click "Send". All enquiries will automatically be forwarded to the responsible Secretariat staff for timely handling. The more complicated enquiries are referred to The Law Society's Guidance Committee for consideration.

During the year, the Guidance Committee considered nine enquiries on professional conduct issues that were raised by members or referred from other Law Society committees.

### Practice management

The following initiatives were implemented this year to assist members in enhancing their practice management skills:

- (a) A webinar on "Legal Business Models – The New Normal?" was organised in November;
- (b) the following articles were published in The Law Society's official journal, *Hong Kong Lawyer*:



Establishment of Government's LAWTECH Fund



Webinar on LAWTECH Fund

## Providing Relevant and Effective Support to Members

- “Growth Strategies for Small and Medium Sized Law Firms” (January issue)
  - “Using Legal Technology to Deliver More to Clients” (February issue)
  - “Managing the Risks of Working from Home and Flexible Working Hours” (October issue)
  - “The New Law Firm Model” (November issue)
- (c) a Working Party on Client Engagement Letters was formed with the primary aims of identifying practice areas where a signed client engagement letter would be considered an essential tool for managing the risks of a law firm, and developing proforma client engagement letters and explanatory and/or guidance notes for the use of the same; and
- (d) the PIS serves to provide indemnity against loss arising from claims in respect of any civil liability incurred by a solicitor in connection with his/her practice. This is an important aspect in

the administration of a legal practice and practitioners should be familiar with it. The PIS website which is accessible via the Members’ Zone of The Law Society website provides useful information to practitioners. Claims statistics including the following were made available on the PIS website for members’ information:

- Number of claims/notifications received in different categories (e.g., litigation, conveyancing, commercial, etc.) in the current indemnity year;
- Number of claims/notifications received in the past 10 indemnity years;
- Comparison of number of conveyancing, litigation and commercial claims/notifications received in the past 10 years.

## 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 Solicitors’ Accounts Rules (Cap. 159, sub leg). In 2020, they conducted a total of 51 visits to 48 Hong Kong and foreign law firms.

## Technology

To raise awareness of the effective application of technology and to assist members in keeping abreast with tools, platforms and other technology that are relevant to their practices, The Law Society actively engaged members in the following ways during the year:

- (a) The Law Society has partnered with the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Global Acceleration Academy in 2019 to launch a 12-month pilot initiative named “Future of Law” Project designed to identify technology solutions, or co-create new solutions with innovation start-ups that best fit members’ needs and expectations. Two online Discovery Sessions were conducted on 3 and 17 September under the Project, whereby



Webinar on Remote Hearing – Actual Testing Session with the Judiciary



Discovery Sessions for the Future of Law Project





10th Members and Family Fun Day

members were introduced with knowledge on system integration and corporate innovation, as well as new technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), Open API (Application Programming Interface) and Robotics, and how they could be adopted in the legal profession;

- (b) 31 courses and workshops on Legal Tech were organised;
- (c) with expanded practice for remote hearings by the use of video-conferencing facilities as a result of the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, members were invited to join the Pilot Runs of the Judiciary IT system. Tested systems compatible with the court video conferencing facilities for remote hearings were published for members' reference; and
- (d) the following articles were published under the InnoTech section of the monthly journal of The Law Society, *Hong Kong Lawyer*:
  - “Artificial Intelligence – Have we Really Arrived or are we Deluding Ourselves?” (February issue); and

- “Why, Then the World’s my Oyster’, Shakespeare” (July issue).

Further, enhancements were made to extend the E-Registration and Payment System, which only covered online registration and payment of member services events previously, to also cover applications and payment for the Situations Vacant Service by both law firms and non-law firms for advertising in our Yellow Pages. The System is accessible via The Law Society’s website and The Law Society App (as of the end of the year, there were 8,627 users of The Law Society App since its launch in 2013).

### Legal development updates via monthly journals

The Law Society publishes a monthly journal, *Hong Kong Lawyer*, which contains analysis of recent law and legal practice-specific advice, with priority given to matters affecting legal practitioners in Hong Kong. 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 printed 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 busy work schedules.

In 2020, The Law Society continued to administer 14 sports teams and nine recreational groups, who held practice sessions for members throughout the year.

Whilst many activities had to be cancelled this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic, a variety of members’ functions were organised, including:

- (a) the first virtual Members and Family Fun Day engaging members and their families under the theme “We Care, We Share”. Over 100 members and their children submitted videos of themselves completing different fitness challenges and talent performances, as well as their drawings for the Drawing Competition;
- (b) Chinese art workshops in celebration of Chinese New Year; and
- (c) two online health talks.

To ensure full compliance with the relevant laws and social distancing measures, The Law Society introduced guidelines to govern the proceedings of activities held during the year.



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 continued to be made available and 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 and mask keepers.

## SUPPORT FOR SECTOR-SPECIFIC NEEDS

### In-house lawyers

An increasing number of our members work as in-house lawyers (“IHLs”). At the end of 2020, around 27% of our members holding a practising certificate were not in private practice.

The Law Society set up the In-House Lawyers Committee (“IHLC”) in February 2011 to provide a platform for IHLs to share their experiences and resources, exchange views and ideas, as well as strengthen communication between IHLs and private legal practitioners. The IHLC organised and also co-organised with other

organisations or law firms a variety of webinars on topics relevant to in-house solicitors throughout the year, including:

- (a) “Legal Issues in the Healthcare Industry for In-House Lawyers: Diagnosis and Management Using MAD (Mediation, Apologies & Disciplinary proceedings)” on 4 November;
- (b) an overview of the profession of notaries public on 26 November (in collaboration with the Hong Kong Society of Notaries);
- (c) in collaboration with law firms under the “In-House Lawyers Training Programme”:
  - “Cybersecurity/Data Privacy Issues Arising from Work From Home Arrangement: Managing confidential information, electronic signatures and more” on 14 October;
  - “Opportunities of Legal Outsourcing” on 23 October;
  - “Practical Competition Law” on 9 December; and

- “COVID-19: The Biggest Industry Disruptor and its Legal Ramifications on Employment Law in 2020” on 10 December.

Further, a new Working Party for IHLs has been formed, with its key initiative being to study and formulate the long-term strategies aimed at enhancing the connection among in-house practitioners, The Law Society and private practitioners.

### Small to medium law firms

As of 31 December, about 89% of law firms in Hong Kong are sole proprietorships and firms with up to five partners. The Law Society has set up a dedicated working party to consider issues relevant to small to medium law firms (“SME firms”). To help SME firms tide over the challenging economic environment, The Law Society conducted two seminars on Funding Schemes for SME firms during the year with representatives from various Government departments sharing updates on the CEPA, major funding schemes for SME Firms, loan schemes and their respective application requirements.



Chinese Art Workshop



Webinar on Funding Schemes for SME Firms

## Senior members

We treasure the invaluable experiences of very senior and significant members of The Law Society. The Working Party on Historical Archive launched the Oral History Project this year to invite senior members to be interviewed with the aim of establishing an archive that documents the lives and rich stories and insights of notable figures of our local profession.

## Young solicitors, trainee solicitors and student members

About 23% of our members were admitted on or after 1 January 2016 (i.e., with five years or less post-admission experience) as of 31 December. The Law Society's Young Solicitors' Group was set up to support the needs of this segment of our members. In addition to organising activities to encourage young members to network with other solicitors and events to reach out to law students and trainee solicitors, The Law Society also helps promote the culture of sharing in the profession. In 2020, the CONNECTED Programme continued for the 10<sup>th</sup> year notwithstanding the COVID-19 pandemic. The purpose of the Programme was to provide trainee solicitors with opportunities to interact with both younger members (their "buddy") and senior members (their "mentor") of The Law Society

in hopes of facilitating a better mutual understanding among members with different backgrounds. Given the public health situation, mentors, buddies and mentees were encouraged to connect with each other safely by electronic means.

The Law Society also collaborated with the Korean Bar Association in conjunction with the Ministry of Justice of Korea to organise an internship programme for a young lawyer in Hong Kong to intern in a law firm in Korea.

Further, The Law Society regularly co-organises training sessions for young lawyers with the Department of Justice and the Bar Association. The training is open to, among others, solicitors with less than five years of post-qualification experience in private practice, who have acquired some advocacy or criminal law experience. Upon completing the training programme, which comprises lectures and mock trial exercises, and upon satisfaction of the presiding mock court judge, who is a directorate counsel of the Prosecutions Division, that the participant's trial preparation and legal knowledge is up to an acceptable prosecutorial standard, subsequent work arrangement at the magistrates' court are made for the participants. A training session was organised for young solicitors in July.

The Law Society has been lobbying the Department of Justice to offer more opportunities to junior practitioners. The Department of Justice has put in place an enhanced Understudy Programme this year in both its Prosecutions and Civil Divisions for participation by young lawyers of less than five years' post-qualification experience.

## Student members

As of the end of December, there were 290 Student Members.

On 16 September, The Law Society participated in a virtual Hong Kong Law Fair to help answer enquiries of law students on the legal profession and explain the Law Society's role and functions. It also promoted the benefits of Student Membership among the over 1,600 participants including students and graduates who were considering pursuing a legal career in Hong Kong.

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



Mask Distribution to Members



Distribution of mask keepers



# *Giving Back to Community*

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 for structured opportunities. During the year, The Law Society organised a series of community projects, including:

- “Law Week 2020”, with solicitors featuring in 33 legal tips videos and five episodes of scenario-based legal videos to introduce

everyday life legal issues to the public. A two-day Free Legal Advice programme was held in Times Square with a team of 30 volunteer solicitors giving professional advice to 213 citizens, and five free community legal talks were organised to introduce daily legal topics, attracting the participation of over 800 citizens;

- the “Teen Talk 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary”, with various activities organised under the theme “Law &

Enforcement” to promote the significance of law and discipline as well as social respect among youngsters. The eight-day online legal challenge, the joint opening ceremony with Law Week and Basic Law Talk, attracted over 2,000 local student participants. A series of guided tours to seven disciplinary forces will be organised in 2021;

- our Free Legal Helpline handled over 9,000 requests for legal assistance through the helplines





Law Week 2020 – Free Legal Advice Programme



Teen Talk 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Law Week Opening Ceremony

in the areas of personal injury, matrimonial law, criminal law and mediation manned by over 120 solicitor volunteers;

- the “Legal Pioneer Mentorship Programme” enlisted over 53 mentors for 18 school teams comprising 138 student mentees to participate in a comprehensive online programme comprising five legal videos, two animated online quizzes and a webinar about cyber libel;

- members shared their legal knowledge through 12 virtual school talks as well as through online media and newspaper columns (e.g., contributing articles in the “Legal Mailbox” weekly columns in SingTao Daily) throughout the year; and
- members reached out to the community and donated 35,000 masks to NGOs, including The Hong Kong Association of

Myasthenia Gravis (香港肌無力協會), HSKKH Lady MacLehose Centre (香港聖公會麥理浩夫人中心) and Regeneration Society (再生會).





Mask Donation to The Hong Kong Association of Myasthenia Gravis



Social Enterprise Seminar with HKCSS



Song Production 《疫境同行》 to Support Medical Profession and Community

The Law Society collaborated with various organisations on different voluntary projects benefiting different sectors of the community. These included:

- the “NGOs Governance Platform Project” with the Hong Kong Council of Social Service to promote best practice and experience sharing among board members of their NGO members;
- the “Social Enterprise Legal Seminar Series” with Hong Kong Council of Social Service has been held for the ninth year to help social enterprises better understand the legal aspects of their operations. A seminar on “How to Select or Change for a Suitable Legal Form for Your Social Enterprise” was held in October;
- the “Free Legal Advice Service on Building Management” with the Home Affairs Department, where The Law Society assisted owners corporation and building owners and facilitated the processing of 140 cases; and
- the “Three-Year Pilot Free Outreach Legal Advice Service on Building Management”, with the Home Affairs Department to enhance legal support to Owners’ Corporations in conducting general meetings. 11 cases have been processed in 2020 with five other cases in progress.



2020 Pro Bono and Community Service Award – Judging Panel

Further, The Law Society also organises an annual Pro Bono and Community Work Recognition Programme (“Programme”) to honour our members who have selflessly contributed their time and expertise for the benefit of the community. In 2020, in addition to 11 Distinguished Awards, 43 law firms and 227 members received awards under the Programme. Given the public health situation, an online award ceremony was conducted for the 2020 Programme.



Community Relations Committee Speakers’ Gathering

# MEMBERSHIP OF STANDING COMMITTEES, COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS, WORKING PARTIES AND ORGANISING COMMITTEES

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## Committees and Working Parties Reporting Directly to the Council

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### Honours Committee

Huen WONG	(Chair)
Warren P. GANESH	(joined in February)
Anson K.C. KAN	
Michael J. LINTERN-SMITH	(retired in January)
Amy Y.K. LIU	
Amirali B. NASIR	
Melissa K. PANG	(joined in February)
Paul C.Y. TAN	
Roden M.L. TONG	(joined in February)
Herbert H.K. TSOI	
Secretary:	Secretary General

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### LegCo Liaison Group

Melissa K. PANG	(Chair)
C.M. CHAN	
Heidi K.P. CHU	
Brian W. GILCHRIST	
Amirali B. NASIR	
Secretary:	Director of Practitioners Affairs

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### Hong Kong Solicitors Indemnity Fund Ltd

Amirali B. NASIR	(Chair)
Colin B. COHEN	
Brian W. GILCHRIST	
Christopher G. HOWSE	
Richard KEADY	
Alexander H.Y. LEUNG	
Peter C.L. LO	
Patrick R. MOSS	
Andrew W.Y. NG	
Kevin C.K. SHUM	(resigned in July)
David G. SMYTH	
Norris H.C. YANG	
Secretary:	Essar Insurance Services Ltd.

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### PIS Claims Committee

Brian W. GILCHRIST	(Chair)
Colin B. COHEN	(Vice-Chair)
Simon P. CLARKE	
Johnny C.M. FEE	
George D. LAMPLOUGH	
Jeffrey H. LANE	
Gary A. SEIB	
Gareth H. THOMAS	
Ronald W.T. TONG	
Careen H.Y. WONG	
Cleresa P.Y. WONG	(resigned in March)
Felix K.Y. YAU	
Secretary:	Essar Insurance Services Ltd.

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### **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

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### **PIS Panel Solicitors Selection Board**

Amirali B. NASIR (Chair from March)  
Huen WONG (Chair until March,  
resigned in March)

Brian W. GILCHRIST (joined in March)  
Stephen W.S. HUNG  
Rodan M.L. TONG

Secretary: Assistant Director,  
Professional Indemnity Scheme

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### **Professional Indemnity Advisory Committee**

David G. SMYTH (Chair)  
Kevin R. BOWERS  
Ming L.M. CHUNG  
Richard KEADY  
Susan P.S.K. LIANG  
Amirali B. NASIR  
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

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### **Working Party on PIS Gross Fee Income Reports and Contributors**

Andrew W.Y. NG (Chair from March)  
IP Shing Hing (Chair until March,  
resigned in March)

Amirali B. NASIR  
Thomas S.T. SO (joined in July)  
Huen WONG

Secretary: Assistant Director,  
Professional Indemnity Scheme

---

### **Belt and Road Committee**

Thomas S.T. SO (Chair)  
Nick CHAN (Vice-Chair)  
Bonita B.Y. CHAN  
C.M. CHAN  
Julianne P. DOE  
Brian W. GILCHRIST  
Stephen W.S. HUNG  
Clarice M.T. KAN  
Frederick K.C. KAN  
Amirali B. NASIR  
Melissa K. PANG  
Robert C. RHODA  
Careen H.Y. WONG  
Huen WONG

Secretary: Director of Communications and External Affairs



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**Belt and Road Conference 2020 Organising Committee**

Frederick K.C. KAN (Chair)  
C.M. CHAN  
Nick CHAN  
Rico W.K. CHAN (resigned in February)  
Sherman K.N. CHAN  
Neville C.H. CHENG  
Heidi H.Y. CHUI  
Julianne P. DOE  
Brian P.C. HO  
Stephen W.S. HUNG  
Olivia H.Y. KUNG  
Nadine LAI  
Ambrose S.K. LAM  
Karen LAM  
William C.W. LAM  
Alan Y.K. LAU  
Jonathan T.W. LEE  
Ricardo K.M. LEE  
Alexandra D.W. LO  
Daphne F.Y. LO  
Catherine L.M. MUN  
Amirali B. NASIR  
Melissa K. PANG  
Robert C. RHODA  
Hin Han SHUM  
Thomas S.T. SO  
Ronald K.N. SUM  
Wai Sun SZETO  
Henry Y.H. WAI  
Careen H.Y. WONG  
James K.T. WONG  
Louise K.F. WONG  
Philip W.C. WONG  
Ann M.S. YEUNG

Secretary: Director of Communications and  
External Affairs

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**Working Party on 2020 Annual General Meeting**

Melissa K. PANG (Chair)  
Pierre T.H. CHAN  
Karen LAM  
Amirali B. NASIR  
Roden M.L. TONG  
Careen H.Y. WONG  
Secretary: Deputy Secretary General

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**Working Party on Dreamvar's Case**

Amirali B. NASIR (Chair)  
C.M. CHAN  
Debbie F. CHEUNG  
Doreen Y.F. KONG  
Simon S.C. LAI  
Billy W.Y. MA  
Fiona J. STEWART  
Roden M.L. TONG  
Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (I)

---

**Working Party on Review of Standing Orders**

C.M. CHAN (Chair)  
Heidi K.P. CHU  
Mark DALY  
Doreen Y.K. KONG  
Kenneth LAM  
Janet H.Y. PANG  
Melissa K. PANG  
Jonathan ROSS  
Michelle W.T. TSOI  
Careen H.Y. WONG  
Christopher K.K. YU  
Secretary: Deputy Secretary General

---

**New Working Group on Pro Bono Insurance**

Melissa K. PANG (Chair)  
Heidi K.P. CHU  
Junius K.Y. HO  
Amirali B. NASIR  
Secretary: Director of Member Services

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**Working Party on Membership Survey 2019**

Melissa K. PANG (Chair)  
Denis G. BROCK  
Calvin K. CHENG  
Heidi K.P. CHU  
Doreen Y.F. KONG  
Karen LAM  
Amirali B. NASIR  
Rodan M.L. TONG  
Careen H.Y. WONG  
Secretary: Director of Member Services

---

**Working Group on the Common Entrance Examination Position Paper**

Stephen W.S. HUNG (Chair)  
Nick CHAN  
Heidi K.P. CHU  
Brian W. GILCHRIST  
Simon S.C. LAI  
Melissa K. PANG  
Thomas S.T. SO  
Dieter YIH  
Secretary: Director of Standards and Development

## Standing Committee on Compliance

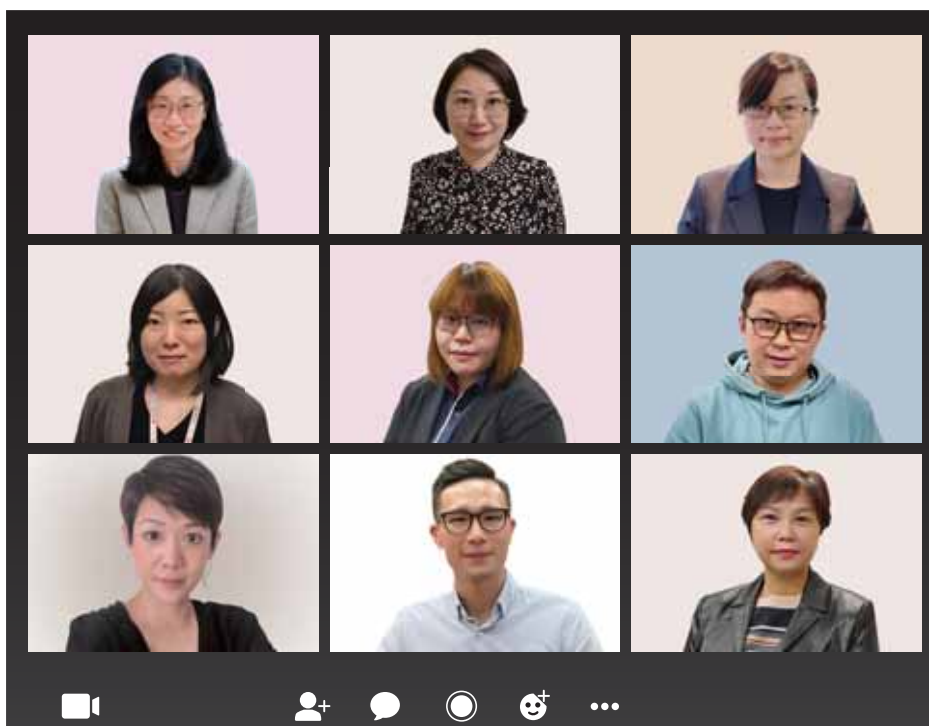
Pierre T.H. CHAN	(Chair)	(11/11)
Christopher K.K. YU	(Vice-Chair)	(11/11)
Denis G. BROCK	(retired in June)	(2/5)
Nick CHAN		(5/11)
C.M. CHAN		(7/11)
Serina K.S. CHAN		(10/11)
Paul K.Y. CHOW		(7/11)
Warren P. GANESH		(11/11)
Brian W. GILCHRIST		(10/11)
Dennis H.F. HIE	(retired in April)	(1/2)
Patricia D.Y. HO	(retired in August)	(1/6)
Arthur K.H. HONG		(8/11)
Stephen W.S. HUNG		(11/11)
Henson LAM		(6/11)
Stephanie W.Y. LAU		(6/11)
Andrew Y.B. LEE		(11/11)
Billy W.Y. MA	(retired in June)	(1/4)
Amirali B. NASIR		(9/11)
Robert C. RHODA		(9/11)
Jonathan ROSS		(10/11)
Michelle W.T. TSOI	(joined in June)	(5/6)
Annie P.Y. WONG		(8/11)
Davyd WONG	(joined in June)	(6/6)

Secretary: Director of Compliance

## Consents Committee

Amirali B. NASIR	(Chair from August)
Melissa K. PANG	(Chair until August)
Nick CHAN	(retired in October)
Vincent CHIN	(joined in October)
IP Shing Hing	
Raymond M.S. KWOK	
Henry H.W. LAI	
Billy Y.C. LAM	
Henson LAM	
Karen LAM	(joined in October)
William C.W. LAM	
Jonathan T.W. LEE	
NG Kin Wah	(joined in October)
Paul K.Y. NG	(retired in October)
Roden M.L. TONG	
Annie P.Y. WONG	
WONG Li Chien	(joined in October)
Ann M.S. YEUNG	

Secretary: Director of Compliance



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### 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.

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### Working Party to Review the Status of Compliance Letters and Delegation of Powers

Nick CHAN (Chair)

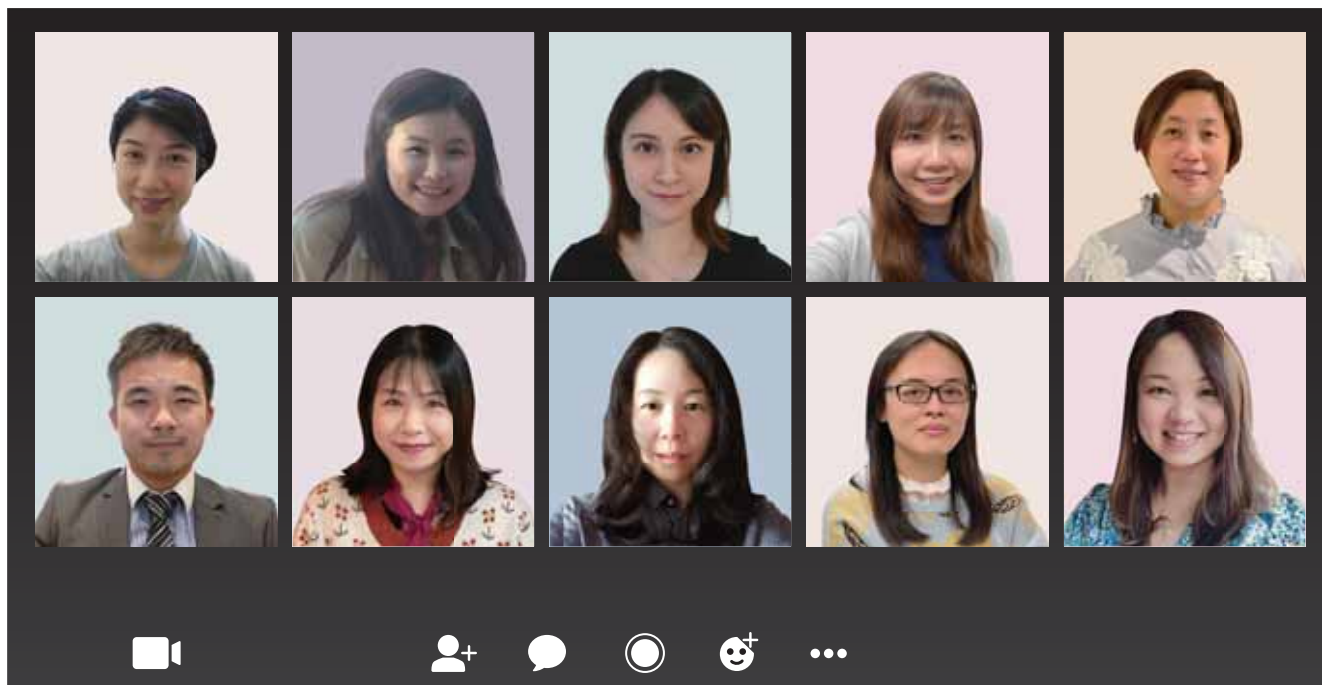
Pierre T.H. CHAN

Warren P. GANESH

Amirali B. NASIR

Robert C. RHODA

Secretary: Director of Compliance





### Standing Committee on External Affairs

Denis G. BROCK	(Chair from June)	(5/6)
Robert C. RHODA	(Chair until June)	(7/9)
Doreen Y.F. KONG	(Vice-Chair)	(9/9)
C.M. CHAN		(9/9)
Pierre T.H. CHAN		(7/9)
Mark DALY		(7/9)
Stephen W.S. HUNG		(7/9)
Frederick K.C. KAN		(6/9)
Olivia H.Y. KUNG		(8/9)
Nadine LAI	(retired in March)	(0/0)
Simon S.C. LAI		(2/9)
Daphne F.Y. LO	(retired in March)	(0/0)
Amirali B. NASIR		(9/9)
Janet H.Y. PANG	(joined in June)	(6/6)
Melissa K. PANG		(8/9)
Jonathan ROSS	(joined in June)	(5/6)
Hin Han SHUM		(9/9)
Thomas S.T. SO		(4/9)
Michelle W.T. TSOI		(5/9)
Maggie Y.T. TSUI		(6/9)
James K.T. WONG		(8/9)
Louise K.F. WONG		(8/9)
Nathan S.K. WONG	(joined in October)	(2/2)
Philip W.C. WONG	(retired in October)	(6/7)
Ann M.S. YEUNG	(retired in October)	(6/7)

Secretary: Director of Communications and External Affairs

### Law Week 2020 Organising Committee

Nadine LAI	(Chair)
Nathan S.K. WONG	(Vice-Chair)
DoDo CHAN	
George K.H. CHAN	
Rico W.H. CHAN	
Sally Y. CHEN	
Raphael Y. HUI	
Geoffrey F. KAM	
William C.Y. KONG	
Arthur Y.Y. LAW	
Rachel K.C. LYN	
Daphne F.Y. LO	
SAUW Yim	
Sharon S.Y. TAM	
William W.L. TONG	
Michelle W.T. TSOI	
Catherine K.Y. WONG	
Cecilia Grace L.A. WONG	
James K.T. WONG	
Louise K.F. WONG	
Natalie S.W. WONG	
Patricia WONG	
Florence X.F. YAN	
Ann M.S. YEUNG	
Jackie N.M. YEUNG	
Sherman S.M. YEUNG	

Secretary: Assistant Director, Communications and External Affairs

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**Teen Talk 2020 Organising Committee**

Roden M.L. TONG (Chair)  
Sharon S.Y. TAM (Vice-Chair)  
Andy Y.C. CHAN  
Bella K.Y. CHAN  
Fiona H.T. CHAN  
Nick CHAN  
Pierre T.H. CHAN  
Simon S.M. CHAN  
Henry C.L. CHENG  
Neville C.H. CHENG  
Zoe S.Y. CHUNG  
Charmaine C.P. NG  
May NG  
Matthew W.L. NG  
Hin Han SHUM  
Robert T.Y. SIT  
Richard K.C. TSUN  
Euphemia M.S. WONG  
William W.K. WONG  
Winnie W.L. WONG  
Daniel C.L. WAI  
Simon C.M. WONG  
Sherman S.M. YEUNG  
Vanessa Y.Y. YOUNG

Secretary: Assistant Director, Communications and External Affairs

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**Legal “Fact Check” Working Group**

C.M. CHAN (Chair)  
Philip W.C. WONG (Vice-Chair)  
Nick CHAN  
CHAN Tze Chin  
Wendy CHAN  
Mark DALY  
Olivia H.Y. KUNG  
Melissa K. PANG  
Robert C. RHODA  
Roden M.L. TONG  
Michelle W.T. TSOI  
James K.T. WONG  
Eric H.Y. WOO  
Ann M.S. YEUNG

Secretary: Director of Communications and External Affairs

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### Community Relations Committee

Philip W.C. WONG	(Chair)
Ann M.S. YEUNG	(Vice-Chair)
George K.H. CHAN	
Nick CHAN	(retired in October)
Joyce C. CHENG	
Neville C.H. CHENG	(joined in October)
Stanley W.L. CHAN	(resigned in June)
Ian P.N. CHU	(resigned in October)
Raphael Y. HUI	(joined in October)
Nadine LAI	
Arthur Y.Y. LAW	
Leonard Y.L. LAW	(joined in October)
Anita P.F. LEUNG	(joined in October)
William W.S. LING	(joined in October)
Carmen S.M. NG	(joined in October)
SAUW Yim	(retired in October)
Sharon S.Y. TAM	
Sander L.S. TING	(resigned in June)
William W.L. TONG	
Winnie TSE	(joined in October)
Michelle W.T. TSOI	
Maggie Y.T. TSUI	(resigned in August)
Patricia WIJAYA	
James K.T. WONG	
Nathan S.K. WONG	
Cassandra K.C. WU	
Jackie N.M. YEUNG	(joined in October)
Secretary: Assistant Director, Communications and External Affairs	

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### Sub-Committee on Abide by the Law Education

*(formerly Working Group on Abide by the Law Education)*

Joyce C. CHENG	(Chair)
William W.L. TONG	(Vice-Chair)
Nadine LAI	
Sharon S.Y. TAM	
James K.T. WONG	
Jackie N.M. YEUNG	
Francis M.B. AU YEUNG	
Isabella W.H. CHAN	
SAUW Yim	
Hin Han SHUM	
Secretary: Communications and External Affairs Officer	

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### Sub-Committee on Law and New Generation Programme and School Talks

*(formerly Working Group on Law and New Generation Programme and School Talks)*

Patricia WIJAYA	(Chair)
Joyce C. CHENG	(Vice-Chair)
George K.H. CHAN	
Nick CHAN	
Ian P.N. CHU	(resigned in August)
Raphael Y. HUI	(joined in November)
Hilda LAM	
William W.S. LING	
Winnie W.S. LO	(resigned in August)
Carmen S.M. NG	(joined in November)
Hin Han SHUM	
Sander L.S. TING	(resigned in October)
William W.L. TONG	
Winnie TSE	(joined in November)
James K.T. WONG	
Cassandra K.C. WU	(resigned in October)
Secretary: Communications and External Affairs Officer	

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**Sub-Committee on “Sing Tao Legal Mailbox”**

*(formerly Working Group on “Sing Tao Legal Mailbox”)*

Nadine LAI (Chair)  
Nathan S.K. WONG (Vice-Chair)  
Francis M.B. AU YEUNG  
Isabella W.H. CHAN  
Stanley W.L. CHAN (resigned in December)  
MAK Hon Ming  
SAUW Yim  
Hin Han SHUM  
Albert M.K. SO  
Sharon S.Y. TAM  
Sander L.S. TING  
Michelle W.T. TSOI  
William W.L. TONG

Secretary: Communications and External Affairs Officer

---

**Sub-Committee on Community Talks and Services**

*(formerly Working Group on Community Talks and Services)*

Michelle W.T. TSOI (Chair)  
Cassandra K.C. WU (Vice-Chair)  
George K.H. CHAN  
Neville C.H. CHENG (joined in November)  
Ian P.N. CHU (resigned in August)  
Raphael Y. HUI (joined in November)  
Nadine LAI  
Stephanie W.Y. LAU  
William W.S. LING  
SAUW Yim  
Hin Han SHUM  
William W.L. TONG  
Maggie Y.T. TSUI  
Patricia WIJAYA  
James K.T. WONG  
Weijing WU  
Jackie N.M. YEUNG  
Cerin N.T. YIP (resigned in April)

Secretary: Communications and External Affairs Officer

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**Sub-Committee on “Legal Pioneer”**

**Mentorship Programme**

*(formerly Working Group on “Legal Pioneer” Mentorship Programme)*

Arthur Y.Y. LAW (Chair)  
Ian P.N. CHU (Vice-Chair until August, resigned in August)  
William W.L. TONG (Vice-Chair from August)  
Rachel C.W. CHAN  
Ronald Y.H. KAN  
Nadine LAI  
Leonard Y.L. LAW  
Anita P.F. LEUNG  
SAUW Yim  
Hin Han SHUM  
Sharon S.Y. TAM  
Nathan S.K. WONG  
Judy W.C. YAM

Secretary: Communications and External Affairs Officer



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**Greater China Legal Affairs Committee**

C.M. CHAN (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  
Brian P.C. HO  
Stephen W.S. HUNG  
Frederick K.C. KAN  
Ronald Y.H. KAN  
Ambrose S.K. LAM  
Karen LAM  
William C.W. LAM (retired in October)  
Alan Y.K. LAU  
Jonathan T.W. LEE  
Daniel N.C. LEUNG (joined in October)  
William W.S. LING (joined in October)  
Alexandra D.W. LO (retired in October)  
Eric C.H. LUI  
Melissa K. PANG  
Patrick K.W. MAK  
Catherine L.M. MUN  
Thomas S.T. SO  
David TIANG (joined in October)  
Wilfred K.P. TSUI (retired in September)  
Careen H.Y. WONG  
Lawrence S.H. YEUNG  
Gary S.K. YIN

Secretary: Assistant Director, Communications and  
External Affairs

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**Cross Strait Four Regions Young Lawyers Forum  
2020 Organising Committee**

Careen H.Y. WONG (Chair)  
Patrick K.W. MAK (Vice-Chair)  
C.M. CHAN (Advisor)  
Brian P.C. HO (Advisor)  
James K.T. WONG (Advisor)  
Gary S.K. YIN (Advisor)  
George K.H. CHAN  
Rico W.H. CHAN  
Stanley W.L. CHAN  
Neville C.H. CHENG  
Ian P.N. CHU (resigned in August)  
Heidi H.Y. CHUI  
Conrad H.S. HO  
Raphael Y. HUI  
Olivia H.Y. KUNG  
Kenneth L.K. LEE  
Daniel N.C. LEUNG  
Eviana B.Y. LEUNG  
William W.S. LING  
Anny C.L. LO  
Daphne F.Y. LO  
Hin Han SHUM  
Sharon S.Y. TAM  
William W.L. TONG  
Louise K.F. WONG  
Matthew Y.S. WONG  
Catherine K.Y. WONG  
Jackie N.M. YEUNG  
Henry P.H. YU

Secretary: Assistant Director, Communications and  
External Affairs

---

### The Greater Bay Area Sub-Committee

(formerly Working Group on the Greater Bar Area)

Thomas S.T. SO (Chair)

C.M. CHAN

Rico W.K. CHAN

Neville C.H. CHENG

Natalia K.Y. CHEUNG

Brian P.C. HO

Stephen W.S. HUNG

Frederick K.C. KAN

Ronald Y.H. KAN

Ambrose S.K. LAM

Karen LAM

William C.W. LAM

Alan Y.K. LAU

Jonathan T.W. LEE

Alexandra D.W. LO

Eric C.H. LUI

Melissa K. PANG

Patrick K.W. MAK

Catherine L.M. MUN

Wilfred K.P. TSUI

Henry Y.H. WAI

Careen H.Y. WONG

James K.T. WONG

Lawrence S.H. YEUNG

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

Neville C.H. CHENG (joined in October)

Heidi H.Y. CHUI

Deborah S.W. FONG

Munenori KAKU

Frederick K.C. KAN

Olivia H.Y. KUNG

Karen LAM

David Y.C. LUK

Melissa K. PANG (retired in October)

Robert C. RHODA (retired in October)

Alison K.W. TSOI (joined in October)

Louise K.F. WONG

Maggie M.Y. YIM

Secretary: Assistant Director, Communications and  
External Affairs

---

**Public Policy Committee**

*(Disbanded in September)*

- 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



## STANDING COMMITTEE ON MEMBER SERVICES

Roden M.L. TONG	(Chair)	(10/10)
Karen LAM	(Vice-Chair)	(10/10)
Bonita B.Y. CHAN		(7/10)
Grand H.L. CHAN	(retired in October)	(8/10)
Nick CHAN		(6/10)
Eliza L.S. CHANG		(9/10)
Calvin K. CHENG		(10/10)
Eric T.M. CHEUNG		(8/10)
IP Shing Hing		(9/10)
Nancy B.Y. LEUNG		(4/10)
Elaine Y.M. LO		(10/10)
Melissa K. PANG		(10/10)
Adamas K.S. WONG	(joined in November)	(0/0)
Careen H.Y. WONG		(10/10)
Cecilia K.W. WONG		(10/10)
Davyd WONG	(joined in June)	(4/5)
Secretary: Director of Member Services		

## In-House Lawyers Committee

Adamas K.S. WONG	(Vice-Chair until September; Chair from October)
Maggie Y.T. TSUI	(Chair until September; retired in October)
Cerin N.Y. YIP	(Vice-Chair from October)
Alexander AU	(joined in October)
CHAN Chak Ming	
Agnes H.C. CHAN	(joined in October)
Grand H.L. CHAN	
Ricky M.T. CHAN	(retired in October)
CHAN Wing Kit	
Joyce C. CHENG	
Vivian S.M. CHIU	
Amy Y.Y. CHU	(joined in October)
Diana W.L. HUI	
Geoffrey W.C. MO	
Rendy K.M. NG	
Jonathan ROSS	
Irene W.K. SIU	
Roden M.L. TONG	
Alison K.W. TSOI	(joined in October)
Karen H.L. WONG	
Nancy N. YANG	
Secretary: Assistant Director, Member Services (II)	



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### InnoTech Committee

Amirali B. NASIR (Chair)  
Nick CHAN (Vice-Chair)  
Alan C.W. CHIU  
Joyce W.Y. CHOW  
Heidi H.Y. CHUI (joined in October)  
Grace C.M. HO  
Sebastian Y.F. KO  
Philip Z.F. KWOK  
Victoria K.M. LAM (joined in October)  
William W.S. LAM (retired in September)  
Andrew S.K. LAW (retired in September)  
Arthur Y.Y. LAW (joined in October)  
Amy L.E. LEE  
Monique M.H. LEE  
Steven K. LEE  
Melody H.Y. MA (joined in October)  
PANG Kam Wing  
Thomas S.T. SO (joined in October)  
Charles H.W. TO (retired in September)  
Alice F.M. TSUI  
Henry P.H. YU  
Secretary: Director of Member Services

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### Working Group on the Law Society's App

*(Disbanded in October)*

Nick CHAN (Chair)  
Grand H.L. CHAN  
Pierre T.H. CHAN  
Simon S.M. CHAN  
CHAN Tze Chin  
IP Shing Hing  
KWAN Chiu Yin  
Jacky Y.T. MIU  
Billy Y.K. NG  
Secretary: Assistant Director, Member Services (I)

---

### Working Group on InnoTech Law Hub

*(Disbanded in October)*

Sebastian Y.F. KO (Chair)  
Nick CHAN  
Alan C.W. CHIU  
Joyce W.Y. CHOW  
Grace C.M. HO  
Philip Z.F. KWOK  
Amy L.E. LEE  
Monique M.H. LEE  
Amirali B. NASIR  
Charles H.W. TO  
Alice F.M. TSUI  
Secretary: Member Services Officer (II)

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### LawTech Fund Committee

Amirali B. NASIR (Chair)  
Eliza L.S. CHANG  
Nick CHAN  
Grand H.L. CHAN  
Joseph W.K. CHAN  
Calvin K. CHENG  
Alan C.W. CHIU  
IP Shing Hing  
Karen LAM  
William W.S. LAM  
Elaine Y.M. LO  
Charles H.W. TO  
Rodan M.L. TONG  
Victor C.K. YAU  
Henry P.H. YU  
Secretary: Assistant Director, Member Services (I)

---

**Member Benefit Committee**

CHAN Tze Chin	(Chair)
Nadine LAI	(Vice-Chair)
Bonita B.Y. CHAN	
Agnes H.C. CHAN	(joined in October)
Simon S.M. CHAN	
Heidi H.Y. CHUI	
Raphael Y. HUI	(joined in October)
Geoffrey F. KAM	
Daphne F.Y. LO	(retired in September)
Sammy W.N. NG	
SAUW Yim	
Sharon S.Y. TAM	
Adamas K.S. WONG	(retired in September)
Secretary:	Member Services Officer (I)

---

**Practice Management Committee**

Elaine Y.M. LO	(Chair)
Ambrose S.K. LAM	(Vice-Chair)
Eliza L.S. CHANG	
Alan C.W. CHIU	(joined in October)
Junius K.Y. HO	
HOU An Che	(retired in September)
IP Shing Hing	
Amirali B. NASIR	
NG Ching Wo	(retired in September)
Ludwig S.W. NG	
Melissa K. PANG	
Careen H.Y. WONG	
Philip W.C. WONG	(joined in October)
Victor C.K. YAU	
Henry P.H. YU	(joined in October)
Secretary:	Director of Member Services

---

**Islamic Finance Working Party**

Amirali B. NASIR	(Chair)
Balbir S. BINDRA	
John S. GALE	
Daphne F.Y. LO	
Kingsley T.W. ONG	
William W.L. TONG	
Edmond M.Y. YEUNG	
Secretary:	Assistant Director, Member Services (II)

---

**Working Party for SME Firms**

IP Shing Hing	(Chair)
Careen H.Y. WONG	(Vice-Chair)
Joseph W.K. CHAN	
Ian P. N. CHU	(resigned in December)
Junius K.Y. HO	
Angela M.K. HO	
William W.S. LING	(joined in October)
Jacky C.W. LIU	(joined in October)
Kenneth H.W. SIT	
Victor C.K. YAU	
Ann M.S. YEUNG	(joined in October)
Secretary:	Assistant Director, Member Services (I)

---

**Working Party on Client Engagement Letters**

Elaine Y.M. LO	(Chair)
Eliza L.S. CHANG	
Alan C.W. CHIU	
Ludwig S.W. NG	
Careen H.Y. WONG	
Philip W.C. WONG	
Victor C.K. YAU	
Secretary:	Director of Member Services

---

**Pro Bono Committee**

Alan G. SCHIFFMAN (Chair)  
Candy H.K. AU (joined in October)  
Arthur C.Y. CHAN  
Philip K.S. CHAN (retired in September)  
Sherman K.N. CHAN (retired in September)  
Eric T.M. CHEUNG  
Michelle Y.W. CHOW  
E. John DAVISON  
Maryellen N.Y. KO  
Anthony W.M. KWAN  
Alexander H.S. LEUNG (retired in September)  
Bharati S. MANEK  
Melissa K. PANG  
Jonathan ROSS  
Thomas S.T. SO (joined in November)  
William W. L. TONG  
Careen H.Y. WONG  
Catherine K.Y. WONG (joined in October)  
Davyd WONG  
Cassandra K.C. WU  
Secretary: Assistant Director, Member Services (I)

---

**Working Group on Insurance for Pro Bono Work**

*(Disbanded in October)*

Eric T.M. CHEUNG (Chair)  
Sherman K.N. CHAN  
Bharati S. MANEK  
Jonathan ROSS  
Davyd WONG  
Secretary: Assistant Director, Member Services (I)

---

**Working Group on Pro Bono Project on Building Management Work**

*(Disbanded in October)*

Alexander H.S. LEUNG (Chair)  
Anthony W.M. KWAN  
Melissa K. PANG  
William W.L. TONG  
Secretary: Assistant Director, Member Services (I)

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**Working Group on Pro Bono Webpage**

*(Disbanded in October)*

Davyd WONG (Chair)  
Maryellen N.Y. KO  
May M.Y. LUN  
William W.L. TONG  
Secretary: Assistant Director, Member Services (I)

---

**Working Group on Seminars for Social Enterprises**

*(Disbanded in October)*

E. John DAVISON (Chair)  
CHI Kee Ming  
Michelle Y.W. CHOW  
Teresa C.W. CHU  
May M.Y. LUN  
Kirindi Y.T. TANG  
William W.L. TONG  
Stephen M. VINE  
Secretary: Assistant Director, Member Services (I)

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**Pro Bono and Community Work  
Recognition Committee**

Melissa K. PANG	(Chair)
Sherman K.N. CHAN	
C.M. CHAN	
Ian P. N. CHU	(resigned in December)
IP Shing Hing	
Daphne F.Y. LO	
Sharon S.Y. TAM	
William W.L. TONG	
Catherine K.Y. WONG	(joined in October)
Christopher K.Y. WONG	
Philip W.C. WONG	
Ann M.S. YEUNG	(joined in October)
Secretary: Assistant Director, Member Services (I)	

---

**Recreation and Sports Committee**

Roden M.L. TONG	(Chair)
Agnes H.C. CHAN	
Nick CHAN	(retired in September)
Simon S.M. CHAN	
CHAN Tze Chin	
Eliza L.S. CHANG	(retired in September)
Calvin K. CHENG	
Ian P.N. CHU	(resigned in October)
Karen LAM	
Robert T.Y. SIT	(joined in October)
William W.L. TONG	
Careen H.Y. WONG	
Jackie N.M. YEUNG	
Winston S.Q. YU	
Ryan FONG	(student representative; joined in May)
Jason Y.S. LI	(student representative)
LI Ching Pang	(student representative)
Thomas W.H. TSE	(student representative; resigned in May)
Secretary: Assistant Director, Member Services (II)	

---

**Young Solicitors' Group**

Calvin K. CHENG	(Vice-Chair until September; Chair from October)
George K.H. CHAN	(Chair until September; retired in September)
Kenneth L.K. LEE	(Vice-Chair until September; retired in September)
Fiona H.T. CHAN	(joined in October)
Irina Y.L. CHAN	
Katie T.W. CHAN	
Janice CHANG	(retired in September)
Desmond C.T. CHEUNG	(retired in September)
Alex K.P. CHU	(joined in October)
Zoe S.Y. CHUNG	(joined in October)
Anson J. DOUGLAS	(retired in September)
Danny L.Y. EU	
Brian C.T. KWOK	
Hilda LAM	(retired in September)
Arthur Y.Y. LAW	(joined in October)
Jacky C.W. LIU	(joined in October)
Marcus T.C. NG	
Melissa K. PANG	
SHUM Hin Han	
Thomas S.T. SO	
Gary W.C. TAM	(joined in December)
Joanna P.S. TONG	
Salvador H.F. TSANG	
Catherine K.Y. WONG	(resigned in September)
Louise K.F. WONG	(retired in September)
Sherman S.M. YEUNG	(joined in October)
Secretary: Assistant Director, Member Services (II)	



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**Interest Group on Mergers and Acquisitions**

*(Disbanded in October)*

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

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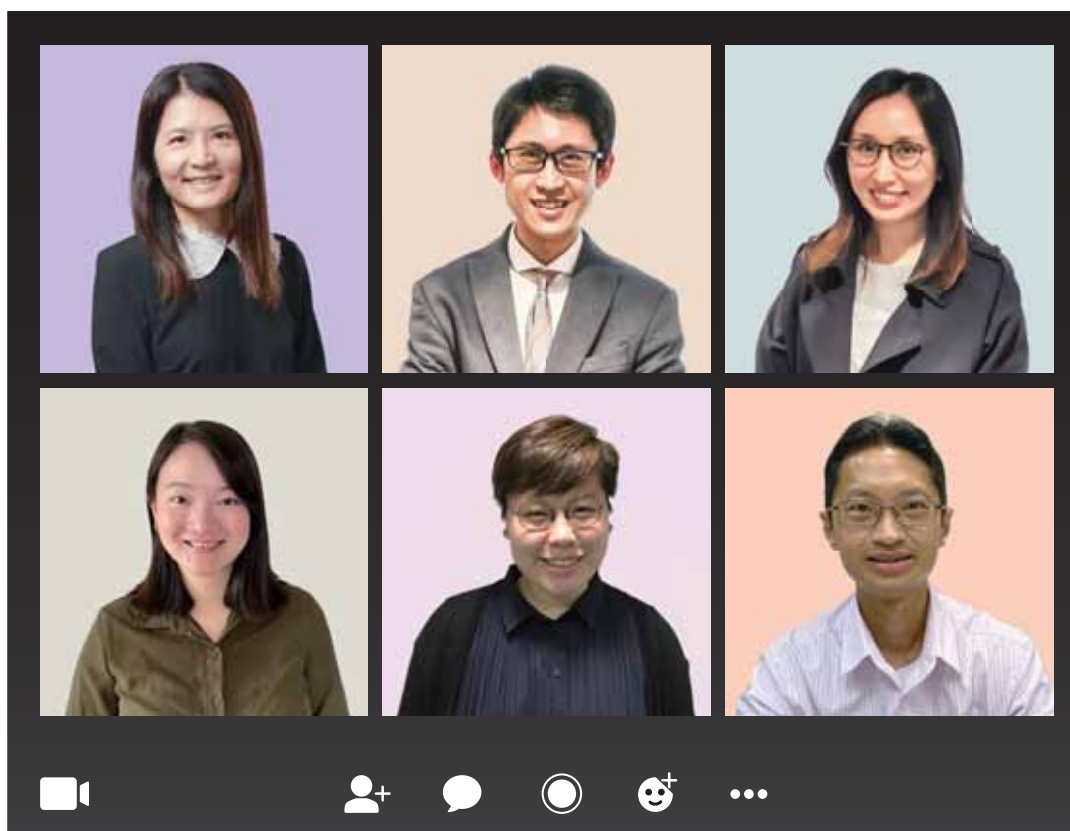
**Working Party for In-House Lawyers**

Roden M.L. TONG (Chair)  
Arthur C.W. CHEUNG  
Maggie K.K. CHEUNG  
Melissa E.L. CHIM  
Albert T. DA ROSA Jr.  
Mohan DATWANI  
Bernardina J. KWOH  
Alice A.S. KWOK  
Johnathan C.Y. LAI  
Elaine Y.M. LO  
Philip M.H. NG  
Rendy K.M. NG  
Thomas S.T. SO  
Adamas K.S. WONG  
Nancy N. YANG  
Vanessa Y.S. ZIEA  
Dr. James DING (Observer)  
Secretary: Director of Member Services

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### Working Party on Historical Archive

Frederick K.C. KAN (Chair)  
Jenkin S.F. CHAN  
Stanley W.L. CHAN  
Ian P.N. CHU (retired in December)  
William W.S. LING  
Patrick R. MOSS  
Amirali B. NASIR  
Melissa K. PANG  
Secretary: Assistant Director, Member Services (II)



### Standing Committee on Policy and Resources

Melissa K. PANG	(Chair)	(10/10)
Amirali B. NASIR	(Vice-Chair)	(9/10)
Denis G. BROCK		(7/10)
C.M. CHAN		(10/10)
Heidi K.P. CHU		(8/10)
Warren P. GANESH		(10/10)
Brian W. GILCHRIST		(10/10)
Stephen W.S. HUNG	(resigned in May)	(4/4)
Roden M.L. TONG		(10/10)
Cecilia K.W. WONG	(resigned in May)	(4/4)
Robert C. RHODA	(resigned in May)	(3/4)
Pierre T. H. CHAN		(9/10)
Careen H. Y. WONG	(joined in June)	(5/5)
Secretary: Assistant Director, Administration and Human Resources		

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Michelle M.L. CHENG	
Heidi K.P. CHU	
Julianne P. DOE	
Elliot FUNG	
Steven Brian GALLAGHER	(retired in September)
Warren P. GANESH	
Julienne JEN	
Karen LAM	
Tin Yan LEE	(joined in December)
Byron T.W. LEUNG	(resigned in December)
Stella S.Y. LEUNG	
SAUW Yim	(joined in October)
Adamas K.S. WONG	
Tony Y.H. YEN	
Secretary: Assistant Director, Member Services (I)	

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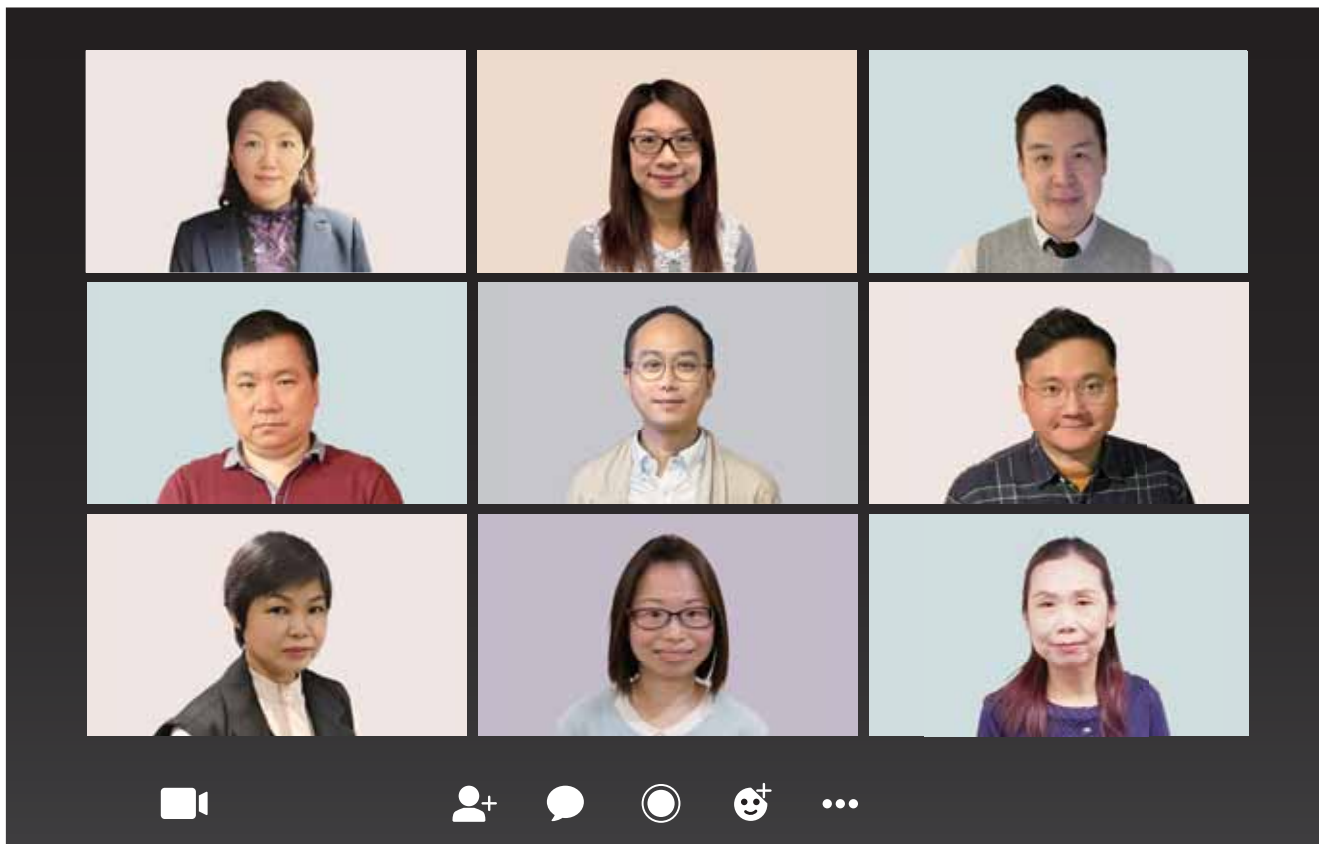
### Working Party on the Law Society IT Systems

Nick CHAN (Chair)  
Pierre T.H. CHAN  
Kenneth Y. CHOY (resigned in October)  
Sebastian Y.F. KO  
Karen LAM  
William W.S. LAM (retired in October)  
Steven K. LEE  
Amirali B. NASIR  
Charles H.W. TO  
Rodan M.L. TONG  
Secretary: IT Consultant

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

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Julia F. CHARLTON  
Paul K.Y. CHOW  
Simon S.C. LAI  
Thomas S.T. SO  
Secretary: Deputy Secretary General





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### Standing Committee on Practitioners Affairs

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Doreen Y. F. KONG	(Vice-Chair from June)	(10/10)
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Eric T.M. CHEUNG		(7/10)
Mark D. DALY		(3/10)
E. John DAVISON		(8/10)
Rebecca V.I. HO		(9/10)
IP Shing Hing		(9/10)
Richard KEADY		(7/10)
Karen LAM		(10/10)
Kenneth LAM	(joined in June)	(4/6)
Jonathan C.Y. MOK		(7/10)
Amirali B. NASIR		(8/10)
Roden M.L. TONG		(6/10)
Simon W.L. WONG		(5/10)
Eric H.Y. WOO		(6/10)

Secretary: Director of Practitioners Affairs

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### Arbitration Committee

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Denis G. BROCK	
Rachel C.W. CHAN	
Stephen H.N. CHAN	
Ian C.M. CHENG	(joined in October)
Mason Y.K. CHING	
H.Y. CHUI	
P.S. HAU	
Dominic Y.K. LAI	
Lily Y.Y. LAI	
Lorraine L.Y. LEE	
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Catherine L.M. MUN	
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H.H. SHUM	
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Y.S. TEOH	
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Janie L.Y. WONG	
Kenneth W.Y. WONG	
Eric H.Y. WOO	
Yifan XIAN	
Steven W.Y. YIP	

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### Arbitrators Admission Sub-committee

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Gavin Z. DENTON	
Glenn R.A. HALEY	
James P. KWAN	
Dominic Y.K. LAI	
Simon D. POWELL	
Steven W.Y. YIP	

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### Civil Litigation Committee

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 Melissa E.L. CHIM (joined in October)  
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 D. Nigel FRANCIS  
 Warren P. GANESH  
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 Sally P.L. HO  
 Patrick M.K. HUI  
 Nicholas D. HUNSWORTH  
 Richard KEADY  
 Joseph S.M. KWAN  
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 Mark LIN  
 Simon D. POWELL  
 Nathan S.K. WONG  
 Sherman C.N. YAN  
 Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (II)

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### Company Law Committee

Simon S.C. LAI (Chair)  
 Grace K.W. CHAN  
 Julia F. CHARLTON  
 Jacqueline S.T. CHIU  
 Paul K.Y. CHOW  
 Lisa M.C. CHUNG  
 Danny K.H. KAN  
 Bernardine S.Y. LAM  
 Daphne F.Y. LO  
 John Martin MAGUIRE  
 Alexander QUE  
 Psyche C.S. TAI  
 Patrick C.K. WONG  
 Christopher K.K. YU  
 Frank K.F. YUEN  
 Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (I)

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### Competition Law Committee

Stephen R. CROSSWELL (Chair)  
 Nick CHAN  
 Sebastien J. EVRARD  
 Amita K. HAYLOCK  
 Adelaide M.W.Z. LUKE  
 Philip F. MONAGHAN  
 Marcus P. POLLARD  
 Simon D. POWELL  
 Dominic S.C. WAI  
 WANG Yi Kat (joined in October)  
 Henry J.H. WHEARE  
 James H. WILKINSON (resigned in March)  
 David P.H. WONG  
 YAM Kin Fung  
 Natalie YEUNG  
 Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (II)

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### Constitutional Affairs and Human Rights Committee

Amirali B. NASIR (Chair)  
 Nick CHAN  
 Mark H.Y. CHIU  
 John J. CLANCEY  
 Mark D. DALY  
 Dr. James D. FRY  
 Junius K.Y. HO  
 IP Shing Hing  
 Doreen Y. F. KONG (joined in October)  
 Elsie O.S. LEUNG  
 Melissa K. PANG  
 Thomas S.T. SO  
 Dr. Stephen THOMSON  
 Michelle W. T. TSOI (joined in October)  
 Christopher K.K. YU  
 Secretary: Director of Practitioners Affairs

---

**Criminal Law and Procedure Committee**

Kenneth H. S. NG (Chair)  
Geoffrey N. BOOTH  
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  
Eric TANG  
Michelle W. T. TSOI (joined in November)  
Michael J. VIDLER  
Ben K. K. WONG  
Secretary: Director of Practitioners Affairs

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**Employment Law Committee**

Walter Y.W. LEE (Chair)  
Duncan A.W. ABATE  
Kim BOREHAM  
Lily S.M. CHANG  
Fiona B.L. CHOW  
Paul R. HASWELL  
Lily Y.Y. LAI  
Adrian W.H. LAU  
Fiona M. LOUGHREY  
Melissa K. PANG  
Eric A. SZWEDA  
Charles H.W. TO  
Jennifer A. VAN DALE  
Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (II)

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**Sub-Committee on Liaison with the CSD**

Kenneth H.S. NG (Chair)  
Johnny C. H. HO  
Eric TANG  
Michael J. VIDLER  
Ben K. K. WONG  
Secretary: Director of Practitioners Affairs

---

**Family Law Committee**

Dennis C.K. HO (Chair)  
Anthony J. HUNG (Vice-Chair)  
Winnie W.Y. CHOW  
Barbara A. HUNG  
Jennifer W.C. IP  
KU Ming Wai  
Lily Y.Y. LAI  
Karen S.Y. LAM  
LAM Tze Yan  
LEUNG Shek Lim  
Ben C.K. LI (joined in April)  
Dr. Athena N.C. LIU (retired in October)  
Jonathan C.Y. MOK  
Catherine K.G. POR  
Cecilia K.W. WONG  
Lisa W.Y. WONG (joined in October)  
Steve Y.F. WONG (resigned in March)  
Kenneth K.S. YUNG  
Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (II)

---

**Sub-Committee on Liaison with the Police**

Kenneth H.S. NG (Chair)  
Johnny C. H. HO  
Eric TANG  
Michael J. VIDLER  
Ben K. K. WONG  
Secretary: Director of Practitioners Affairs

---

### 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  
 Kevin K. W. NG (joined in October)  
 Simon D. POWELL  
 Secretary: Director of Practitioners Affairs

---

### Insolvency Law Committee

Keith M.K. HO (Chair)  
 CHIU Koon Shou (Vice-Chair until October, retired in October)  
 Ian R. DE WITT  
 Junius K.Y. HO  
 Camille JOJO  
 LEE Hung Sang (joined in October)  
 Ludwig S.W. NG  
 Simon D. POWELL  
 Harley G.M. SCHUMANN (joined in October)  
 Alexander H.L. TANG  
 King K.L. WONG (retired in October)  
 Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (II)

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### Insurance Law Committee

Martin C.v.M. LISTER (Chair)  
 David G. ADAMS  
 Denis G. BROCK  
 Jan Buschmann (joined in November)  
 Anthony L.C. CHIU  
 Christine M. KOO  
 MAK Hon Ming  
 Gary MEGGITT  
 Hideo NAKAMURA  
 Mark F. REEVES  
 Antony R. SASSI  
 Rupert C. SKRINE  
 Roden M.L. TONG  
 TSUI Kwok Sum  
 Stuart J. VALENTINE  
 Shane F. WEIR  
 Angela S.Y. YIM  
 Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (II)

---

### Intellectual Property Committee

Kenny K.S. WONG (Chair)  
 David A. ALLISON (joined in October)  
 Steven J. BIRT  
 Simon C.C. CHAN (retired in October)  
 Nick CHAN (retired in October)  
 Ella S.K. CHEONG  
 A. Clinton D. EVANS  
 Amita K. HAYLOCK (joined in October)  
 Chloe Y.F. LEE  
 Anita P.F. LEUNG  
 Rebecca M.C. LO  
 Annie TSOI (joined in October)  
 Annie S.T. TSOI  
 Lawrence S.H. YEUNG (joined in October)  
 Adelaide H.M. YU  
 Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (I)

---

**Investment Products and  
Financial Services Committee**

Simon H. BERRY (Chair)  
Jason C.H. CHAN  
Augustine K.C. CHAN  
Cherry M.S. CHOW  
Eliof S. W. FONG  
Peter M. LAKE  
Jason C.Y. LEE  
Alan H. LINNING  
Amirali B. NASIR  
Sara S.M. OR  
Charlotte J. G. ROBINS (retired in October)  
Padraig L. WALSH  
Adamas K.S. WONG  
William W.K. WONG (joined in October)  
Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (I)

---

**Land Use Planning and  
Environmental Law Committee**

E. John DAVISON (Chair)  
IP Shing Hing  
Andrew W.Y. NG  
Christopher TUNG  
Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (I)

---

**Legal Aid Committee**

Dennis C.K. HO (Chair)  
Patrick M. BURKE  
Sherlynn G. CHAN  
Junius K.Y. HO  
Rebecca V.I. HO  
J.C. Nicholas MILLAR  
Melissa K. PANG  
TANG Chi Keung  
Michael J. VIDLER  
Dr. WAN Charn Wing  
Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (II)

---

**Mediation Committee**

Cecilia K.W. WONG (Chair)  
Geoffrey N. BOOTH  
Bernard M. FLEMING (retired in October)  
Daphne F.Y. LO  
Karen LAM (joined in October)  
LAM Tze Yan  
G.T. LUNG (resigned in April)  
Maureen E. MUELLER  
Melissa K. PANG  
Catherine K.G. POR  
H.H. SHUM  
Jody K.Y. SIN  
Sylvia W.Y. SIU  
Ronald K.N. SUM (joined in October)  
Secretary: Director of Practitioners Affairs

---

**Mental Health Law Committee**

Sherlynn G. CHAN (Chair)  
E. John DAVISON (Vice-Chair)  
Joanna S. CAEN  
Daisy T.M. CHEUNG  
Dr. Gabriel B.K. HUNG  
Doreen Y.F. KONG  
Walter Y.W. LEE  
Olivia S.M. LEUNG  
Ben C.K. LI  
Claudia Christian W.S. LING  
Szwina S.K. PANG  
Kevin K.Y. SO  
Herbert H.K. TSOI  
Cecilia K.W. WONG  
Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (II)



---

**Personal Injuries Committee**

Mark F. REEVES (Chair)  
 Patrick M. BURKE  
 Bronco M. T. BUT (joined in October)  
 Eliza L.S. CHANG  
 CHIU Koon G (joined in October)  
 Anthony L.C. CHIU  
 Christina W.C. HUNG  
 Dennis K. K. LEUNG (joined in October)  
 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**

Herbert H.K. TSOI (Chair)  
 AU Miu Po  
 Viola HUNG  
 Angelina LUK (resigned in May)  
 Billy W.Y. MA  
 NG Kin Yuen  
 TAM Sau Hing  
 TSANG Kam Chuen  
 WONG Tak Shing  
 Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (I)

---

**Joint Standing Committee on Probate Practice**

Herbert H.K. TSOI (Chair)  
 AU Miu Po  
 Viola HUNG  
 Angelina LUK (resigned in May)  
 Billy W.Y. MA  
 NG Kin Yuen  
 TAM Sau Hing  
 TSANG Kam Chuen  
 WONG Tak Shing  
 Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (I)

---

**Property Committee**

Lilian S.F. CHIANG (Chair)  
 Dora W.Y. CHAN  
 Debbie F. CHEUNG  
 Maggie K.K. CHEUNG (joined in October)  
 Keith P.K. CHEUNG  
 Tommy K.K. CHUNG  
 Doreen Y.F. KONG  
 Emily Y.M. LAM  
 Dennis W.C. LI (retired in October)  
 Amanda L.Y. LIU  
 Lilian P.Y. MAK  
 WONG Man Wa  
 Cleresa P.Y. WONG  
 David P.H. WONG (retired in October)  
 Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (I)

---

**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

---

### Retirement Schemes Committee

Sophia W.Y. MAN (Chair)  
David G. ADAMS  
BUT Mau Sum (joined in October)  
Camella W.M. CHEUNG (joined in October)  
Cynthia W.S. CHUNG  
Christine M. KOO  
Martin C.v.M. LISTER  
Joe W.C. NG (joined in October)  
TAM Chi Wai  
WEI Chung Yin  
Judy YANG  
Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (I)

---

### Transportation and Logistics Committee

Steven J. WISE (Chair)  
Victor S.H. CHAN  
Matthew H.Y. LAM  
LEUNG Wai Lim  
LI Lianjun  
Gillian E. MELLER  
Robert C. RHODA  
TSUI Kwok Sum  
Jason H. WEBBER  
WONG Yiu Chung (retired in October)  
Eric H.Y. WOO  
Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (II)

---

### Revenue Law Committee

Steven R. SIEKER (Chair)  
C.M. CHAN  
Sally S.W. IP  
Vincent P.C. KWAN  
Angela Y.L. LAU  
Simon J.G. RAE  
Jacqueline Y.M. SHEK  
Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (II)

---

### Working Party on Charities and Trust

E. John DAVISON (Chair)  
C.M. CHAN  
Brian W. GILCHRIST  
Lester G. HUANG  
Jacqueline Y.M. SHEK  
Stephen M. VINE  
Careen H.Y. WONG  
WONG Tak Shing  
Ian H.C. YEUNG (joined in October)  
Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (II)

---

### Reverse Mortgage Committee

Emily Y.M. LAM (Chair from July)  
Billy W.Y. MA (Chair until July)  
Heidi K. P. CHU  
Junius K.Y. HO  
Steven M.W. SHUM  
Sharon S.Y. TAM  
Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (I)

---

### Working Party on Enduring Powers of Attorney

Billy W.Y. MA (Chair)  
E. John DAVISON  
Angelina LUK  
Herbert H.K. TSOI  
Cecilia K.W. WONG  
Natalie S.W. WONG (joined in October)  
Ian H.C. YEUNG (joined in October)  
Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (I)

---

### 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)

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### Working Party on Interpreters

Michael J. VIDLER (Chair)  
Patrick M. BURKE  
Karen MCCLELLAN  
Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (II)

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### Working Party on Judiciary's Information Technology Plan

*(Disbanded in October)*

Amirali B. NASIR (Chair)  
Nick CHAN  
Dominic A. GEISER  
Johnny C.H. HO  
Richard KEADY  
Sebastian Y.F. KO  
Philip Z.F. Kwok  
Kane K.F. MAK  
SIM Sze Kuan  
Secretary: Director of Practitioners Affairs

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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  
Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (I)

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### Working Party on Revised DMC Guidelines

Doreen Y.F. KONG (Chair)  
Maggie K.K. CHEUNG  
Diana P.Y. HO  
LEUNG Siu Hon (retired in October)  
MA Ho Fai  
WAN Shiu Man  
Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (I)

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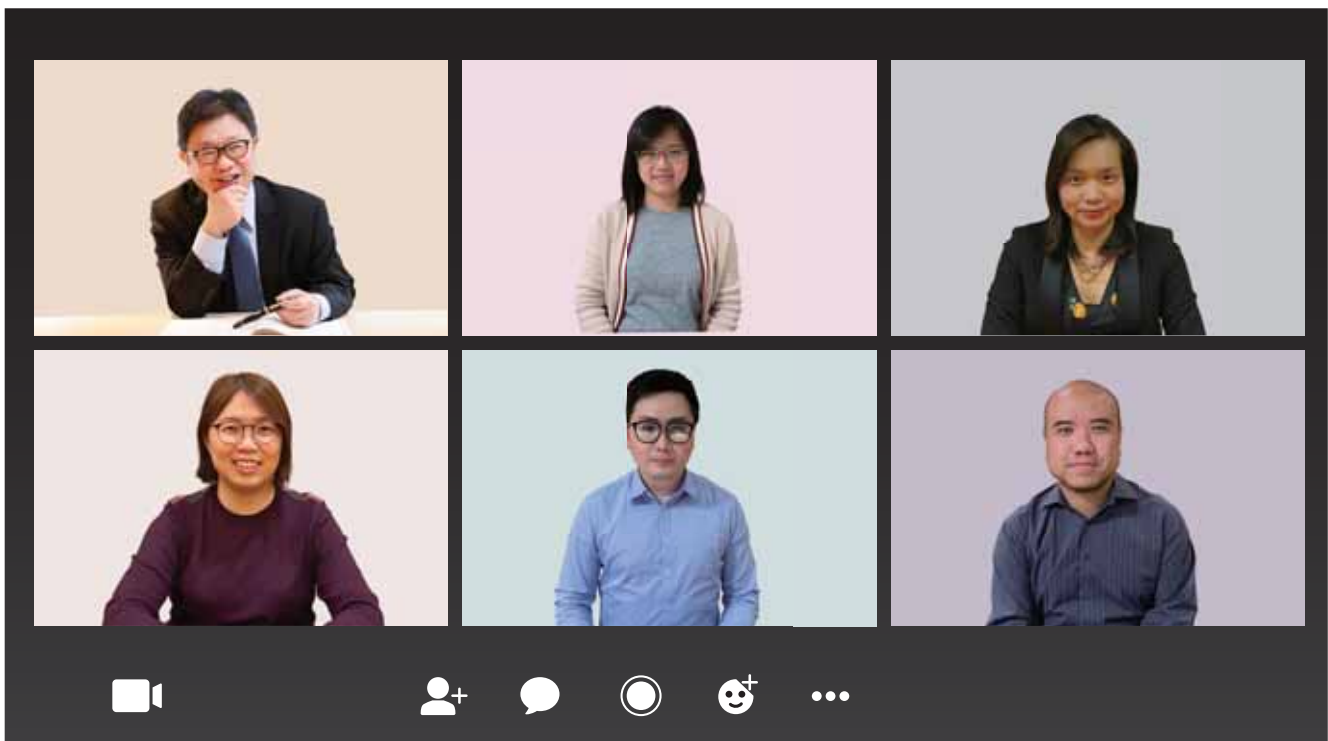
**Working Party on Taxation in Civil Proceedings**

Amirali B. NASIR (Chair)  
Patrick M. BURKE  
CHIU Koon Shou  
Ian R. DE WITT  
Nicholas D. HUNSWORTH  
Lily Y.Y. LAI  
Mark F. REEVES  
Kenneth W.Y. WONG  
Secretary: Director of Practitioners Affairs

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**Working Party on Data Privacy and Records Management**

Simon BERRY (Chair)  
Mark CHIU  
Paul HASWELL  
Philip KWOK  
Chloe LEE  
Mark LIN  
Rebecca LO  
Eric TANG  
Kenneth YUNG  
Secretary: Director of Practitioners Affairs



---

### Standing Committee on Standards and Development

Careen H.Y. WONG	(Chair from June)	(9/11)
Denis G. BROCK	(Chair until June)	(9/11)
Calvin K. CHENG	(Vice-Chair from June)	(10/11)
Bonita B.Y. CHAN		(5/11)
Serina K.S. CHAN		(9/11)
Heidi H.Y. CHUI		(10/11)
Albert T. DA ROSA JR.		(10/11)
Mark DALY	(resigned in December)	(0/10)
Brian W. GILCHRIST		(11/11)
HAU Pak Sun		(10/11)
Stephen W.S. HUNG		(10/11)
IP Shing Hing		(7/11)
Simon S.C. LAI		(6/11)
Kenneth LAM	(joined in June)	(6/6)
Catherine L.M. MUN		(6/11)
Janet H.Y. PANG	(joined in June)	(6/6)
Jonathan ROSS	(resigned in June)	(3/5)
Peter K.P. SIT		(10/11)
Thomas S.T. SO		(6/11)
Simon S.P. TANG		(9/11)
Adamas K.S. WONG		(11/11)
Christopher K.K. YU		(11/11)
Secretary: Director of Standards and Development		

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### Anti-Money Laundering Committee

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Jason D. CARMICHAEL	
C.M. CHAN	
Anthony L.C. CHIU	
Simon R. DEANE	
Serge G. FAFALAN	(retired in October)
Danny C.M. LEUNG	
Alan H. LINNING	
Amirali B. NASIR	
SHUM Hin Han	
Kareena P.G. TEH	
Violante Y.K. YEUNG	
Secretary: Assistant Director, Regulation and Guidance (I)	

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### Continuing Professional Development Committee

Adamas K.S. WONG	(Chair)
Professor Douglas ARNER	
Ram D. BIALA	
Serina K.S. CHAN	
Janice K.C. CHANG	
Iris CHEUNG	
Johnny C.M. FEE	
Stephanie W.Y. LAU	
Alexandra D.W. LO	
Michael A. OLESNICKY	
Stuart VALENTINE	
Secretary: Director of Standards and Development	



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### CPD Accreditation Sub-committee

Sandy H.Y. WONG (Chair)  
Professor Douglas ARNER  
Michael BECKETT (resigned in August)  
Ram D. BIALA  
Simon M.Y. CHAN  
Francis K.W. CHEN  
Heidi H.Y. CHUI  
Johnny C.M. FEE  
Bernard M. FLEMING (resigned in June)  
John D.S. HO  
Gerald H.C. LAM  
Stephen W.K. LAU  
Albert K.M. LEUNG  
Maureen MUELLER  
Jody K.Y. SIN  
Christopher H.W. SO  
WAN Charn Wing  
Sarah S.N. WONG  
Secretary: Assistant Director, Professional Development

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### OLQE Eligibility and Exemption Committee

Denis G. BROCK (Chair)  
John C.K. CHAN  
Raymond CHAN (retired in October)  
Alexander G. FACEY  
Carmel A. GREEN  
Olivia H.Y. KUNG  
LI Huanting (retired in October)  
SIN Ping Kwan  
Robert T.Y. SIT (joined in June)  
Rupert C. SKRINE  
Maëva L. SLOTINE  
Secretary: Assistant Director, Regulation and Guidance (II)

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### Guidance Committee

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Serina K.S. CHAN  
CHIU Koon Shou (resigned in June)  
Donny S.K. CHIU  
Gladys K.M. LO  
Patrick R. MOSS  
Amirali B. NASIR  
Frank C.F. NG  
Gregory D. PAYNE  
Johnson M.H. TSANG  
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### Guidance Sub-committee to Review Rule 5AA of the Solicitors' Practice Rules

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Stephen W.K. LAU  
Billy W.Y. MA (resigned in November)  
Careen H.Y. WONG  
Secretary: Assistant Director, Regulation and Guidance (I)

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### Legal Education Committee

Stephen W.S. HUNG (Chair)  
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 (resigned in January)  
Felix K.Y. YAU  
Dieter YIH  
Christopher K.K. YU (joined in July)  
Secretary: Director of Standards and Development

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**Mediator and Parenting Coordinator Admission Committee**

Cecilia K.W. WONG (Chair)  
 CHAN Bing Woon (Vice-Chair)  
 Michael H. BECKETT (resigned in August)  
 Maureen E. MUELLER  
 Catherine L.M. MUN  
 Jody K.Y. SIN  
 Secretary: Director of Standards and Development

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**Overseas Lawyers Qualification Examination Committee**

Donna L. WACKER (Chair)  
 Denis G. BROCK  
 Bonita B.Y. CHAN  
 Nick CHAN  
 Darcy Lynn DAVISON-ROBERTS  
 Eviana B.Y. LEUNG  
 Mark LIN  
 Secretary: Director of Standards and Development

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**Overseas Lawyers Examination Panel Convenors**

Malcolm MERRY (Co-Chief Examiner)  
 WOO Kwok-hing (Co-Chief Examiner from January)

**HEAD I: Conveyancing**

Myrette J. FOK (Convenor)  
 George C.C. CHEUNG  
 Wilson W.S. CHOW  
 Alisa W.C. KWAN-STEPHENSON  
 Alexander H.S. LEUNG  
 Professor Michael LOWER (resigned in February)  
 George S.K. NGAI  
 Simon J. REID-KAY

**HEAD II: Civil and Criminal Procedure**

William S. CLARKE (Convenor from November)  
 James E. JAMISON (Convenor until November)  
 Amanda WHITFORT (Convenor)  
 Melville T.C. BOASE (joined in April)  
 Simon D. L. CHENG  
 William M. P. CHUA  
 Louis K.L. FUNG  
 Julienne JEN  
 Nancy B.Y. LEUNG  
 Simon D. POWELL  
 John R. READING, S.C.  
 Martin D. ROGERS  
 Bernard K.F. SIU

### HEAD III: Commercial and Company Law

Mark J. STEVENS (Convenor)  
Mary W.Y. AU-YUENG  
Dr. Felix W.H. CHAN  
Dr. Peter C.H. CHAN  
Nicholas C.A. COOK (joined in June)  
Shirley S.L. CHUA  
Professor Dennis H.F. HIE  
Vicci Y.J. LAU (joined in April)  
Michelle P.Y. LIU  
Alexandra D.W. LO  
Daphne F.Y. LO  
NGAN Chun Yat (joined in April)  
Adrian K.M. WONG (resigned in January)

### HEAD IV: Accounts and Professional Conduct

Colin B. COHEN (Convenor)  
Gary MEGGITT (Convenor)  
Adrian J. HALKES  
Vicci Y.J. LAU (resigned in March)  
Peter K.P. SIT

### HEAD V: Principles of Common Law

Julianne P. DOE (Convenor from April)  
Professor Peter F. RHODES (Convenor)  
Adrian K.M. WONG (Convenor until January)  
Melville T.C. BOASE (joined in April)  
Professor Kevin CHENG (joined in April)  
Shirley S.L. CHUA  
William M. P. CHUA  
Colin B. COHEN  
Louis K.L. FUNG  
James E. JAMISON (resigned in September)  
Anthony F. NEOH, S.C.  
Andrew J. RAFFELL  
John R. READING, S.C.  
Symon Y. W. WONG

### HEAD VI: Hong Kong Constitutional Law

Danny GITTINGS (Convenor)  
William S. CLARKE  
Professor Luke MARSH  
Professor Michael RAMSDEN  
Dr. Stephen THOMSON  
Professor ZHU Guobin

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### Risk Management Education Committee

Cecilia K.W. WONG (Chair)  
Warren P. GANESH (Vice-Chair)  
Gloria W.F. CHEUNG  
Stephen W.S. HUNG  
Hilda LAM  
Vicky W.K. MAN  
Thomas S.T. SO  
Secretary: Director of Standards and Development

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### RME Accreditation Sub-committee

Thomas S.T. SO (Chair)  
Serina K.S. CHAN  
Gloria W.F. CHEUNG  
Heidi H.Y. CHUI  
Professor Dennis H.F. HIE  
Christopher KNIGHT  
Alan M.B. LAM  
Catherine L.M. MUN  
John Y.C. LEE  
Secretary: Director of Standards and Development

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### Trainee Solicitors Committee

Serina K.S. CHAN (Chair)  
John T. HARTLEY  
Professor Dennis H.F. HIE  
Gerald H.C. LAM (joined in May)  
Karen S.K. LAM  
Daphne F.Y. LO  
David Y.C. LUK  
Ivan C.K. NG (resigned in October)  
Charmaine C.P. NG (joined in October)  
Secretary: Director of Standards and Development

---

**Solicitors' Accounts Rules Committee**

Amirali B. NASIR (Chair)  
 Connie CARMICHAEL  
 Serina K.S. CHAN  
 Colin B. COHEN  
 Brian W. GILCHRIST  
 Thomas S.T. SO  
 Careen H.Y. WONG  
 Anny T.C. WU  
 Secretary: Assistant Director, Regulation and Guidance (I)

---

**Guide Working Party**

Amirali B. NASIR (Chair)  
 Melissa E.L. CHIM (joined in March)  
 Anthony L.C. CHIU  
 HUI Ka Wai (joined in March)  
 LEE Yuen Chuen  
 Patrick R. MOSS  
 SHUM Hin Han (joined in March)  
 Peter K.P. SIT  
 Sharon S.Y. TAM (joined in March)  
 Secretary: Assistant Director, Regulation and Guidance (II)

---

**Working Party on the Practising Certificate (Special Conditions) Rules**

Simon S.P. TANG (Chair)  
 Warren P. GANESH  
 Stephen W.S. HUNG  
 IP Shing Hing  
 Henson LAM  
 Thomas S.T. SO  
 Margot TUNG  
 Secretary: Assistant Director, Regulation and Guidance (I)

---

**Working Party on Solicitor Corporation Rules**

Junius K.Y. HO (Chair)  
 Warren P. GANESH  
 IP Shing Hing  
 Christopher E.M. LAMBERT  
 Daphne F.Y. LO (joined in March)  
 Amirali B. NASIR  
 Ivan C.K. NG (resigned in October)  
 Melissa K. PANG  
 Peter K.P. SIT  
 Cecilia K.W. WONG  
 William C.F. WOO (joined in October)  
 Secretary: Director of Standards and Development

---

**Working Party on Solicitors' Practice Rules**

Amirali B. NASIR (Chair)  
 Annette S.J. BEASHEL (joined in October)  
 Ian C.M. CHENG (joined in October)  
 Colin B. COHEN  
 IP Shing Hing  
 Patrick R. MOSS  
 NG Ching Wo  
 Ivan C.K. NG (resigned in October)  
 Careen H.Y. WONG  
 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  
Sebastian Y.F. KO  
Vivien LEE  
Rendy K.M. NG  
SZETO Wai Sun  
TONG Wai Lun  
Margot TUNG  
Edmond M.Y. YEUNG  
YU Pui Hang  
YUEN Tat Tong  
Secretary: Assistant Director, Regulation and Guidance (II)

---

**Sub-committee on Proactive Management Based Regulation**

Thomas S.T. SO (Chair)  
Ian P.N. CHU  
Rossana C.M. CHU  
Antony M. DAPIRAN  
Rosetta Y.S. KWOK  
Stephanie W.Y. LAU  
Eviana B.Y. LEUNG  
Careen H.Y. WONG  
YU Pui Hang  
Secretary: Assistant Director, Regulation and Guidance (II)





# LAW SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES ON STATUTORY OR OFFICIAL COMMITTEES

---

## **Advisory Committee on Pilot Scheme for Provision of Publicly-funded Legal Assistance for Non-refoulement Claimants**

Amirali B. NASIR

---

## **Advisory Group on Modernisation of Corporate Insolvency Law**

Keith M.K. HO

---

## **Business of Intellectual Property Asia Steering Committee**

Kenny K.S. WONG

---

## **City University of Hong Kong – Law School Board**

Melissa K. PANG

---

## **City University of Hong Kong – PCLL Academic Board**

Bonita B.Y. CHAN  
Nick CHAN  
Huen WONG  
Felix K.Y. YAU

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## **Companies Registry Customer Liaison Group**

Jane M.S. NG

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## **Costs Committee**

Denis G. BROCK  
Amirali B. NASIR  
Melissa K. PANG  
Robert C. RHODA

---

## **Court of Final Appeal Rules Committee**

Denis G. BROCK  
Brian W. GILCHRIST

---

## **Criminal Procedure Rules Committee**

Eric T.M. CHEUNG

---

## **Working Group on The Review of Criminal Legal Aid Fees System**

Stephen W.S. HUNG  
Kenneth H.S. NG

---

## **Commonwealth Lawyers Association – Council**

Melissa K. PANG

---

## **District Court Rules Committee**

Amirali B. NASIR

---

## **Duty Lawyer Service Council**

Bonita B.Y. CHAN  
Stephen W.S. HUNG  
Kenneth H.S. NG  
Cecilia K.W. WONG

---

## **eBRAM International Online Dispute Resolution Ltd**

Amirali B. NASIR  
Robert C. RHODA

---

## **Election Committee of the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of Advice Management Committee of Hong Kong Teacher's Centre**

Karen LAM

---

## **High Court Rules Committee**

Denis G. BROCK  
Amirali B. NASIR

---

## **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 (until February)  
Eric T.M. CHEUNG (from February)

---

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

Doreen Y.F. KONG

---

## **Hong Kong Building Rehabilitation Facilitation Services Limited – Promotion Committee**

Doreen Y.F. KONG

---

## **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

---

## **Hong Kong Council of Volunteering**

Melissa K. PANG

---

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

C.M. CHAN

---

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

Amirali B. NASIR

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

Melissa K. PANG

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**Hong Kong Legislation Database User Liaison Group**

Stephen W.S. HUNG

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**Hong Kong Mediation Accreditation Association Limited**

Melissa K. PANG

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**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**

Melissa K. PANG

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**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 – Executive Committee**

Louise K.F. WONG

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**International Bar Association – Bar Issues Commission**

Heidi K.P. CHU  
Amirali B. NASIR  
Melissa K. PANG

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**International Bar Association – Council**

Amirali B. NASIR  
Melissa K. PANG

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**International Institute of Law Association Chief Executives – Executive Committee**

Heidi K.P. CHU

---

**Joint Liaison Committee on Taxation**

Simon J.G. REA  
Steven R. SIEKER

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**Joint Mediation Helpline Office**

Melissa K. PANG  
Cecilia K.W. WONG

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**Judicial Officers Recommendation Commission**

Thomas S.T. SO

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**Judiciary – Civil Justice Reform Monitoring Committee**

Brian W. GILCHRIST

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

Dennis C. K. HO

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**Land Registry Customer Liaison Group (Private Sector)**

AU Kin Man  
AU Man Chun  
Alson CHAI  
Doreen Y.F. KONG  
LAM Man Yee  
LEONG Chi Wai

---

**Land Registry Joint Standing Committee**

Debbie F. CHEUNG (from February)  
Emily Y.M. LAM  
Billy W.Y. MA (until February)  
Terry P.L. YEUNG  
Sylvia W.Y. SIU

---

**Land Survey Ordinance (Ch.473) Disciplinary Board Panel**

Serina K.S. CHAN

---

**Land Titles Ordinance Review Committee**

Peter P. AHERNE  
Doreen Y.F. KONG  
WONG Man Wa  
Debbie F. CHEUNG

---

**Land Titles Ordinance Steering Committee**

Lilian S.F. CHIANG

---

**Land Title Ordinance – Title Registration Education Committee**

Lilian S.F. CHIANG  
Doreen Y.F. KONG  
LUI Yiu Fai  
WONG Man Wa

---

**LAWASIA – Council**

C. M. CHAN  
Melissa K. PANG

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**LAWASIA – Executive Committee**

C. M. CHAN  
Melissa K. PANG

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**MPFA Guidelines Committee**

Sophia W.Y. MAN

---

**Mr. Justice Pickering Memorial Fund**

Billy W.Y. MA

---

**Official Receiver’s Office Services Advisory Committee**

Ian R. DE WITT  
Ludwig S.W. NG

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**Organising Committee of the 2019/2021 Family-Friendly Employers Award Scheme**

Cecilia K.W. WONG

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**Social Workers Registration Board – Assessment Panel**

C.M. CHAN

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**Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training**

Brian W. GILCHRIST  
Dieter YIH

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

**(i) Admission Subcommittee**

Serina K.S. CHAN

**(ii) Curriculum Subcommittee**

Nick CHAN

**(iii) Human Resources Subcommittee**

Michelle W.T. TSOI

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

Stephen W.S. HUNG  
Huen WONG

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

Melissa K. PANG

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

Amirali B. NASIR

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

Amirali B. NASIR

---

**The Joint Professional Centre Limited**

Heidi K.P. CHU  
Billy W.Y. MA (until March)  
Careen H.Y. WONG (from March)

---

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

Bonita B.Y. CHAN  
Serina K.S. CHAN  
Nick CHAN  
Michelle W.T. TSOI

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

Melissa K. PANG

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**Union Internationale des Avocats – Governing Board**

Amirali B. NASIR

---

**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 89 to 112, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2020, 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 2020 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the applicable Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards ("HKFRSs") issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("HKICPA") that are relevant to these financial statements 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 applicable HKFRSs issued by the HKICPA that are relevant to these financial statements 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 HKSA's 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 HKSA's, 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.



## AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

- 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*

8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Prince's Building  
10 Chater Road  
Central, Hong Kong

16 March 2021

# STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the year ended 31 December 2020 (Expressed in Hong Kong dollars)

	Note	2020	2019
Income	3	<b>\$ 137,563,263</b>	\$ 131,271,112
Staff costs	4(a)	<b>(58,791,876)</b>	(63,913,246)
Office expenses	4(b)	<b>(5,828,654)</b>	(5,684,628)
Depreciation	7	<b>(3,991,688)</b>	(4,199,757)
Members' expenses	4(c)	<b>(5,832,159)</b>	(7,291,976)
Other operating expenses	4(d)	<b>(26,812,827)</b>	(30,848,933)
Surplus before taxation	4	<b>\$ 36,306,059</b>	\$ 19,332,572
Income tax	6(a)	<b>(1,847,740)</b>	(19,125)
Surplus and total comprehensive income for the year		<b>\$ 34,458,319</b>	\$ 19,313,447

The notes on pages 93 to 112 form part of these financial statements.

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

At 31 December 2020 (Expressed in Hong Kong dollars)

	Note	2020	2019
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	7	\$ 110,234,765	\$ 112,234,342
Investments in subsidiary	8	20	20
Deposits	9	2,002,175	–
Deferred tax assets	13(b)	–	291,255
		<b>\$ 112,236,960</b>	<b>\$ 112,525,617</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Deposits, prepayments and other receivables	9	\$ 4,341,388	\$ 5,904,916
Amount due from a related company	10	507,740	540,818
Cash and deposits with banks	11(a)	202,954,190	219,400,922
		<b>\$ 207,803,318</b>	<b>\$ 225,846,656</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Membership, practising certificate and other fees received in advance	12(a)	\$ 30,968,376	\$ 84,333,044
Creditors and accrued charges	12	33,248,723	34,230,854
Current tax payable	13(a)	1,321,690	–
		<b>\$ 65,538,789</b>	<b>\$ 118,563,898</b>
<b>Net current assets</b>		<b>\$ 142,264,529</b>	<b>\$ 107,282,758</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<b>254,501,489</b>	<b>219,808,375</b>
<b>Non-current liability</b>			
Deferred tax liabilities	13(b)	\$ 234,795	\$ –
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>\$ 254,266,694</b>	<b>\$ 219,808,375</b>
Representing:			
<b>Accumulated surpluses and reserves</b>		<b>\$ 254,266,694</b>	<b>\$ 219,808,375</b>

Approved and authorised for issue by the Council on 16 March 2021.

## Council Members

Melissa K. Pang

Amirali B. Nasir

## Secretary General

Heidi K. P. Chu

The notes on pages 93 to 112 form part of these financial statements.

# STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

For the year ended 31 December 2020 (Expressed in Hong Kong dollars)

	Accumulated Surplus	Reserve for regulatory costs (Note)	Total
<b>Balance at 1 January 2019</b>	\$ 175,494,928	\$ 25,000,000	\$ 200,494,928
<b>Changes in equity for 2019:</b>			
Surplus and total comprehensive income	19,313,447	–	19,313,447
Transfer from accumulated surplus to reserve for regulatory costs	(10,000,000)	10,000,000	–
<b>Balance at 31 December 2019 and 1 January 2020</b>	\$ 184,808,375	\$ 35,000,000	\$ 219,808,375
<b>Changes in equity for 2020:</b>			
Surplus and total comprehensive income	<b>34,458,319</b>	–	<b>34,458,319</b>
Transfer from accumulated surplus to reserve for regulatory costs	<b>(15,000,000)</b>	<b>15,000,000</b>	–
<b>Balance at 31 December 2020</b>	<b>\$ 204,266,694</b>	<b>\$ 50,000,000</b>	<b>\$ 254,266,694</b>

Note: To build up a reserve for The Law Society to fulfil its statutory regulatory functions, the Council resolved on 8 December 2020 (2019: 3 December 2019) that a sum of HK\$15 million (2019: HK\$10 million) be transferred from The Law Society's accumulated surplus to a special reserve for regulatory costs.

The notes on pages 93 to 112 form part of these financial statements.

# CASH FLOW STATEMENT

For the year ended 31 December 2020 (Expressed in Hong Kong dollars)

	Note	2020	2019
<b>Operating activities</b>			
Cash (used in)/generated from operations	11(b)	\$ (15,180,848)	\$ 21,032,355
<b>Net cash (used in)/generated from operating activities</b>		<b>\$ (15,180,848)</b>	<b>\$ 21,032,355</b>
<b>Investing activities</b>			
Decrease in deposits with banks with maturity of more than three months at acquisition		\$ 36,124,879	\$ 19,129,948
Interest received		2,728,402	3,487,968
Payment for the purchase of property, plant and equipment and related deposits		(3,994,286)	(1,066,819)
<b>Net cash generated from investing activities</b>		<b>\$ 34,858,995</b>	<b>\$ 21,551,097</b>
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>\$ 19,678,147</b>	<b>\$ 42,583,452</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January</b>		<b>151,488,519</b>	<b>108,905,067</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December</b>	11(a)	<b>\$ 171,166,666</b>	<b>\$ 151,488,519</b>

The notes on pages 93 to 112 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 2020, The Law Society had 12,296 (2019: 11,764) members.

## 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 one subsidiary. However, The Law Society regards this subsidiary as immaterial and therefore, in accordance with section 381(3) of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance (Cap. 622), is not required to prepare consolidated financial statements.

Given the above, these financial statements are not prepared for the purposes of compliance with HKFRS 10, *Consolidated financial statements*, so far as the preparation of consolidated financial statements of a holding company is concerned. As a consequence, the financial statements do not give all the information required by HKFRS 10 about the economic activities of the group of which The Law Society is the parent. Furthermore, as these financial statements are prepared in respect of The Law Society only, disclosures required by HKFRS 12, *Disclosures of interests in other entities*, does not apply to the financial statements.

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

The HKICPA has issued certain amendments to 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 accounting period reflected in these financial statements.



## 2 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

### (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.

### (c) Changes in accounting policies

The HKICPA has issued a number of amendments to HKFRSs that are first effective for the current accounting period of The Law Society.

None of these developments have had a material effect on how The Law Society's results and financial position for the current or prior periods have been prepared or presented. The Law Society has not applied any new standard or interpretation that is not yet effective for the current accounting period.

### (d) Subsidiaries

Subsidiaries are entities controlled by The Law Society. The Law Society controls an entity when it is exposed or has rights to variable returns from its involvement with the entity and has the ability to affect those returns through its power over the entity. When assessing whether The Law Society has power, only substantive rights (held by The Law Society and other parties) are considered.

In The Law Society's statement of financial position, an investment in a subsidiary is stated at cost less impairment losses (see note 2(g)).

### (e) Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment, including right-of-use assets arising from leases of underlying property, plant and equipment (see note 2(f)) are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses (see note 2(g)).

## 2 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

### (e) Property, plant and equipment (continued)

Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost of items of property, plant and equipment, less their estimated residual value, if any, using the straight line method over their estimated useful lives as follows:

- Leasehold land is depreciated over the unexpired terms of lease;
- Buildings situated on leasehold land are depreciated over the shorter of their estimated useful lives, being 25 years from the date of purchase, and the unexpired terms of lease;
- Furniture, fixtures and equipment                      3–5 years
- Leasehold improvements                                      5 years

Both the useful life of an asset and its residual value, if any, are reviewed annually.

Gains or losses arising from the retirement or disposal of an item of property, plant and equipment are determined as the difference between the net disposal proceeds and the carrying amount of the item and are recognised in profit or loss on the date of retirement or disposal.

### (f) Leased assets

At inception of a contract, The Law Society assesses whether the contract is, or contains, a lease. A contract is, or contains, a lease if the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration. Control is conveyed where the customer has both the right to direct the use of the identified asset and to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from that use.

At the lease commencement date, The Law Society recognises a right-of-use asset and a lease liability, except for short-term leases that have a lease term of 12 months or less and leases of low-value assets. When The Law Society enters into a lease in respect of a low-value asset, The Law Society decides whether to capitalise the lease on a lease-by-lease basis. The lease payments associated with those leases which are not capitalised are recognised as an expense on a systematic basis over the lease term.

Where the lease is capitalised, the lease liability is initially recognised at the present value of the lease payments payable over the lease term, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease or, if that rate cannot be readily determined, using a relevant incremental borrowing rate. After initial recognition, the lease liability is measured at amortised cost and interest expense is calculated using the effective interest method. Variable lease payments that do not depend on an index or rate are not included in the measurement of the lease liability and hence are charged to profit or loss in the accounting period in which they are incurred.

## 2 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

### (f) Leased assets (continued)

The right-of-use asset recognised when a lease is capitalised is initially measured at cost, which comprises the initial amount of the lease liability plus any lease payments made at or before the commencement date, and any initial direct costs incurred. Where applicable, the cost of the right-of-use assets also includes an estimate of costs to dismantle and remove the underlying asset or to restore the underlying asset or the site on which it is located, discounted to their present value, less any lease incentives received. The right-of-use asset is subsequently stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses (see note 2(g)).

The lease liability is remeasured when there is a change in future lease payments arising from a change in an index or rate, or there is a change in The Law Society's estimate of the amount expected to be payable under a residual value guarantee, or there is a change arising from the reassessment of whether The Law Society will be reasonably certain to exercise a purchase, extension or termination option. When the lease liability is remeasured in this way, a corresponding adjustment is made to the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset, or is recorded in profit or loss if the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset has been reduced to zero.

In the statement of financial position, The Law Society presents right-of-use assets within the same line item as similar underlying assets and presents lease liabilities separately.

### (g) Impairment of non-current 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 including right-of-use assets (other than property carried at revalued amounts); 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 non-current assets

#### (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 (if measurable) 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

A receivable is recognised when The Law Society has an unconditional right to receive consideration. A right to receive consideration is unconditional if only the passage of time is required before payment of that consideration is due. If revenue has been recognised before The Law Society has an unconditional right to receive consideration, the amount is presented as a contract asset.

Receivables are stated at amortised cost using the effective interest method less allowance for credit losses as determined below:

The loss allowance is measured at an amount equal to lifetime expected credit losses (ECLs), which are those losses that are expected to occur over the expected life of the trade receivables. The loss allowance is estimated using a provision matrix based on The Law Society's historical credit loss experience, adjusted for factors that are specific to the debtors and an assessment of both the current and forecast general economic conditions at the reporting date.

## 2 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

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

ECLs are remeasured at each reporting date with any changes recognised as an impairment gain or loss in profit or loss. The Law Society recognises an impairment gain or loss with a corresponding adjustment to the carrying amount of trade and other receivables through a loss allowance account.

The gross carrying amount of a trade debtor or other receivable is written off (either partially or in full) to the extent that there is no realistic prospect of recovery. This is generally the case when The Law Society determines that the debtor does not have assets or sources of income that could generate sufficient cash flows to repay the amounts subject to the write-off.

### (j) Creditors and accrued charges

#### **Membership, practising certificate and other fees received in advance**

Creditors and accrued charges and membership, practising certificate and other fees received in advance 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.

A contract liability is recognised when the customer pays non-refundable consideration before The Law Society recognises the related revenue (see note 2(o)). A contract liability would also be recognised if The Law Society has an unconditional right to receive non-refundable consideration before The Law Society recognises the related revenue. In such cases, a corresponding receivable would also be recognised.

### (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. Cash and cash equivalents are assessed for ECL in accordance with the policy set out in note 2(i).

### (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.

## 2 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

### **(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.

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 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**

Income is classified by The Law Society as revenue when it arises from the sale of goods or the provision of services in the ordinary course of Law Society's business.

Revenue is recognised when control over a product or service is transferred to the customer, at the amount of promised consideration to which The Law Society is expected to be entitled, excluding those amounts collected on behalf of third parties. Revenue excludes value added tax or other sales taxes and is after deduction of any trade discounts.



## 2 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

### (o) Revenue recognition (continued)

Further details of The Law Society's revenue recognition policies are 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.

### (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	2020	2019
<b>Income from contracts with customers within the scope of HKFRS 15</b>			
Annual membership fees		\$ 9,602,400	\$ 9,192,800
Practising certificate fees		69,611,750	66,719,250
Foreign lawyer registration fees		17,271,000	18,301,500
Foreign law firm registration fees		1,331,000	1,563,000
Other fees	3(a)	14,830,300	18,454,694
Continuing professional development		2,736,932	3,616,048
Miscellaneous income	3(b)	4,203,375	5,054,390
		<b>\$ 119,586,757</b>	<b>\$ 122,901,682</b>
<b>Income from other sources</b>			
Disciplinary proceedings and ancillary costs reimbursed	2(h)	15,248,104	4,881,462
Bank interest income	11(b)	2,728,402	3,487,968
		<b>\$ 17,976,506</b>	<b>\$ 8,369,430</b>
		<b>\$ 137,563,263</b>	<b>\$ 131,271,112</b>

- (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.

## 4 SURPLUS BEFORE TAXATION

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

	Note	2020	2019
<b>(a) Staff costs</b>			
Salaries and allowances <sup>#</sup>		\$ 52,417,444	\$ 56,563,292
Contributions to defined contribution retirement plan		6,837,765	6,586,834
Provident fund contribution forfeitures		(667,503)	(510,196)
Recruitment and training		204,170	1,273,316
		<b>\$ 58,791,876</b>	<b>\$ 63,913,246</b>
<b>(b) Office expenses</b>			
Rates and service charges		\$ 1,511,517	\$ 1,529,857
Electricity and telephone		372,453	456,846
Postage		283,462	276,672
Printing and stationery		2,191,240	2,345,359
Repairs and maintenance		866,912	518,476
Office cleaning and others		603,070	557,418
		<b>\$ 5,828,654</b>	<b>\$ 5,684,628</b>
<b>(c) Members' expenses</b>			
Issue of membership cards		\$ 115,540	\$ 93,800
Functions		2,577,457	4,107,804
Meetings		1,789,767	1,796,593
Facilities		1,349,395	1,293,779
		<b>\$ 5,832,159</b>	<b>\$ 7,291,976</b>
<b>(d) Other operating expenses</b>			
Disciplinary proceedings and ancillary costs <sup>*</sup>	2(h)	\$ 14,076,599	\$ 12,578,598
Professional education		–	249,572
Professional and consultancy fees		1,150,903	2,280,744
Professional development		3,621,666	7,849,120
Auditor's remuneration		156,000	148,500
Insurance and medical		4,017,864	4,271,519
Sundry		3,789,795	3,470,880
		<b>\$ 26,812,827</b>	<b>\$ 30,848,933</b>

<sup>#</sup> Salaries and allowances includes \$5,718,156 (2019: \$Nil) related to Employment Support Scheme under the Anti-epidemic Fund of the Government of Hong Kong SAR.

<sup>\*</sup> \$7,124,839 (2019: \$9,312,187) was incurred in respect of interventions within solicitors' practices, and \$144,205 (2019: \$59,349) 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:

	2020	2019
Council Members' fees	\$ –	\$ –
Salaries, allowances and benefits in kind	–	–
Discretionary bonuses	–	–
Retirement scheme contributions	–	–
	<b>\$ –</b>	<b>\$ –</b>

## 6 INCOME TAX IN THE STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

### (a) Taxation charged to profit or loss:

	2020	2019
<b>Current tax – Hong Kong Profits Tax</b>		
Provision for the year	<b>\$ 1,321,690</b>	\$ –
	<b>\$ 1,321,690</b>	\$ –
<b>Deferred tax</b>		
Origination and reversal of temporary differences	<b>526,050</b>	19,125
	<b>\$ 1,847,740</b>	\$ 19,125

In March 2018, the Hong Kong Government introduced a two-tiered profits tax rate regime by enacting the Inland Revenue (Amendment) (No. 3) Ordinance 2018 (the "Ordinance"). Under the two-tiered profits tax rate regime, the first \$2 million of assessable profits of qualifying corporations is taxed at 8.25% and the remaining assessable profits are taxed at 16.5%.

The provision of Hong Kong Profits Tax for 2020 is taken into account a reduction granted by the Hong Kong SAR Government of 100% of the tax payable for the year of assessment 2020/21. The Law Society is eligible for the maximum reduction of \$10,000 (2019: a maximum reduction of \$20,000 was granted for the year of assessment 2019/20).

## 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 surplus at the applicable tax rate:

	2020	2019
Surplus before taxation	\$ 36,306,059	\$ 19,332,572
Notional tax on surplus before taxation (Note)	\$ 5,825,499	\$ 3,189,875
Tax effect of non-deductible expenses	198,087	198,087
Tax effect of non-taxable income	(1,098,132)	(575,515)
Tax effect of unrecognised tax losses	(3,067,714)	(2,793,323)
Statutory tax concession	(10,000)	–
Others	–	1
Actual tax expense charged to profit or loss	\$ 1,847,740	\$ 19,125

Note: For the year ended 31 December 2020, the notional tax is calculated in accordance with the two-tiered profits rate regime under which tax on the first \$2 million of profits is calculated at 8.25% and tax on the remaining profits is calculated at 16.5%. For the year ended 31 December 2019, a single tax rate of 16.5% was applied.

## 7 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	Interest in leasehold land held for own use	Building held for own use	Leasehold improvements	Furniture, fixtures and equipment	Total
<b>Cost:</b>					
At 1 January 2020	\$ 105,885,279	\$ 45,062,601	\$ 15,962,488	\$ 8,606,977	\$ 175,517,345
Additions	–	–	60,100	1,932,011	1,992,111
Disposals	–	–	–	(94,822)	(94,822)
At 31 December 2020	\$ 105,885,279	\$ 45,062,601	\$ 16,022,588	\$ 10,444,166	\$ 177,414,634
<b>Accumulated depreciation:</b>					
At 1 January 2020	\$ 6,290,790	\$ 35,079,182	\$ 14,491,089	\$ 7,421,942	\$ 63,283,003
Charge for the year	970,127	1,802,504	440,514	778,543	3,991,688
Written back on disposals	–	–	–	(94,822)	(94,822)
At 31 December 2020	\$ 7,260,917	\$ 36,881,686	\$ 14,931,603	\$ 8,105,663	\$ 67,179,869
<b>Net book value:</b>					
At 31 December 2020	\$ 98,624,362	\$ 8,180,915	\$ 1,090,985	\$ 2,338,503	\$ 110,234,765

## 7 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (CONTINUED)

	Interest in leasehold land held for own use	Building held for own use	Leasehold improvements	Furniture, fixtures and equipment	Total
<b>Cost:</b>					
At 1 January 2019	\$ 105,885,279	\$ 45,062,601	\$ 15,801,866	\$ 7,778,890	\$ 174,528,636
Additions	–	–	160,622	906,197	1,066,819
Disposals	–	–	–	(78,110)	(78,110)
At 31 December 2019	\$ 105,885,279	\$ 45,062,601	\$ 15,962,488	\$ 8,606,977	\$ 175,517,345
<b>Accumulated depreciation:</b>					
At 1 January 2019	\$ 5,320,663	\$ 33,276,678	\$ 13,801,022	\$ 6,762,993	\$ 59,161,356
Charge for the year	970,127	1,802,504	690,067	737,059	4,199,757
Written back on disposals	–	–	–	(78,110)	(78,110)
At 31 December 2019	\$ 6,290,790	\$ 35,079,182	\$ 14,491,089	\$ 7,421,942	\$ 63,283,003
<b>Net book value:</b>					
At 31 December 2019	\$ 99,594,489	\$ 9,983,419	\$ 1,471,399	\$ 1,185,035	\$ 112,234,342

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

### Right-of-use assets

The analysis of the net book value of right-of-use assets by class of underlying asset is as follows:

	Note	31 December 2020	1 January 2020
Interests in leasehold land and buildings held for own use, carried at depreciated cost in Hong Kong, with remaining lease term of:			
– 50 years or more	(i)	\$ 77,784,895	\$ 79,402,944
– between 10 and 50 years		29,020,382	30,174,964
		<b>\$ 106,805,277</b>	\$ 109,577,908

The analysis of expense items in relation to leases recognised in profit or loss is as follows:

	2020	2019
Depreciation charge of right-of-use assets by class of underlying asset:		
Interests in leasehold land and buildings	<b>\$ 2,772,631</b>	\$ 2,772,631



## 7 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (CONTINUED)

### Right-of-use assets (continued)

#### (i) Interests in leasehold land and buildings held for own use

The Law Society holds two building units for its business. The Law Society is the registered owner of these property interests, including part of undivided share in the underlying land. Lump sum payments were made upfront to acquire these property interests from their previous registered owners, and there are no ongoing payments to be made under the terms of the land lease, other than payments based on rateable values set by the relevant government authorities. These payments vary from time to time and are payable to the relevant government authorities.

## 8 INVESTMENTS IN SUBSIDIARY

	2020	2019
Unlisted shares at cost	\$ 20	\$ 22
Disposal of interest	–	(2)
	<b>\$ 20</b>	<b>\$ 20</b>

Details of the subsidiary 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

\* Not audited by KPMG.

## 9 DEPOSITS, PREPAYMENTS AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

	2020	2019
Deposits and prepayments	<b>\$ 5,704,429</b>	\$ 1,865,030
Other receivables	<b>639,134</b>	4,039,886
	<b>\$ 6,343,563</b>	<b>\$ 5,904,916</b>
Current portion	<b>\$ 4,341,388</b>	\$ 5,904,916
Non-current portion	<b>2,002,175</b>	–
	<b>\$ 6,343,563</b>	<b>\$ 5,904,916</b>

The amount of deposits and prepayments expected to be recovered or recognised as property, plant and equipment is \$2,002,175. All of the other deposits, prepayments and other receivables are expected to be recovered or recognised as an expense within one year.

## 10 AMOUNT DUE FROM A RELATED COMPANY

The amount due from a related company is unsecured, interest-free and recoverable on demand.

## 11 CASH AND DEPOSITS WITH BANKS

### (a) Cash and deposits with banks comprise:

	2020	2019
Deposits with banks with maturity within three months at acquisition	<b>\$ 164,795,830</b>	\$ 139,419,291
Cash at bank and on hand	<b>6,370,836</b>	12,069,228
Cash and cash equivalents in the cash flow statement	<b>\$ 171,166,666</b>	\$ 151,488,519
Deposits with banks with maturity of more than three months at acquisition	<b>31,787,524</b>	67,912,403
Cash and deposits with banks in the statement of financial position	<b>\$ 202,954,190</b>	\$ 219,400,922

### (b) Reconciliation of surplus before taxation to cash generated from operations:

	Note	2020	2019
Surplus before taxation		<b>\$ 36,306,059</b>	\$ 19,332,572
Adjustments for:			
Bank interest income	3	<b>(2,728,402)</b>	(3,487,968)
Depreciation	7	<b>3,991,688</b>	4,199,757
Changes in working capital:			
Decrease/(increase) in deposits, prepayments and other receivables		<b>1,563,528</b>	(3,037,561)
Decrease in amount due from a related company		<b>33,078</b>	9,099
(Decrease)/increase in creditors and accrued charges		<b>(982,131)</b>	904,992
(Decrease)/increase in membership, practising certificate and other fees received in advance		<b>(53,364,668)</b>	3,111,464
Cash (used in)/generated from operations		<b>\$ (15,180,848)</b>	\$ 21,032,355

As at 31 December 2020, The Law Society had \$12,856,903 (2019: \$26,188,776) 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. During the year ended 31 December 2020, \$798,210 (2019: \$1,000,000) of the unclaimed client monies has been donated to Hong Kong Academy of Law Limited, a related party to The Law Society, pursuant to the resolution of the Council meeting on 17 December 2019.

## 12 CREDITORS AND ACCRUED CHARGES AND CONTRACT LIABILITIES

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

### (a) Contract liabilities in respect of membership, practising certificate and other fees received in advance

The contract liabilities mainly relate to the fees received in advance from members, foreign lawyers, and foreign law firms which represent the unearned income to be recognised as revenue after the end of the reporting period.

<b>Movements in contract liabilities</b>	<b>2020</b>	2019
Balance at 1 January	<b>\$ 84,333,044</b>	\$ 81,221,580
Decrease in contract liabilities as a result of recognising revenue during the year that was included in the contract liabilities at the beginning of the period	<b>(84,333,044)</b>	(81,221,580)
Increase in contract liabilities as a result of fees received in advance	<b>30,968,376</b>	84,333,044
Balance at 31 December	<b>\$ 30,968,376</b>	\$ 84,333,044

## 13 INCOME TAX IN THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

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

	<b>2020</b>	2019
Provision for Hong Kong Profits Tax for the year	<b>\$ 1,321,690</b>	\$ –
	<b>\$ 1,321,690</b>	\$ –

### (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:

	<b>Depreciation in excess of/ (less than) the related depreciation allowances</b>
<b>Deferred tax arising from:</b>	
At 1 January 2019	\$ 310,380
Charged to profit or loss	(19,125)
At 31 December 2019	\$ 291,255
At 1 January 2020	<b>\$ 291,255</b>
Charged to profit or loss	<b>(526,050)</b>
At 31 December 2020	<b>\$ (234,795)</b>

## 13 INCOME TAX IN THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (CONTINUED)

- (c) The Law Society has not recognised deferred tax assets in respect of cumulative tax losses of approximately \$18,592,204 in 2019. The tax losses have been fully utilised during the year.

## 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 amount due from a related company 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.

## 15 FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT AND FAIR VALUES OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONTINUED)

### (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 1.35% (2019: 1.78%).

At 31 December 2020, it is estimated that a general decrease/increase of 100 basis points (2019: 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 \$2,019,575 and \$2,019,575 (2019: \$1,956,041 and \$1,956,041).

The sensitivity analysis above indicates the annualised impact on The Law Society's interest income 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 2019.

### (d) Fair value measurement

All financial instruments are carried at amounts not materially different from their fair values as at 31 December 2020 and 2019.

## 16 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.

## 17 COMMITMENTS

Capital commitments outstanding at 31 December 2020 not provided for in the financial statements were as follows:

	2020	2019
Contracted for	<b>\$ 6,275,875</b>	\$ –

## 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, litigation proceedings and professional and consultancy fees rendered to The Law Society by the firms of solicitors in which Council Members are interested totalled \$1.1 million (2019: \$0.5 million) for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Amounts due to these firms of solicitors as at 31 December 2020 amounted to \$10,000 (2019: \$0.4 million) which are included in creditors and accrued charges.

<b>(b)</b>	Note	2020	2019
Expenses borne on behalf of a subsidiary		<b>\$ 1,953,275</b>	\$ 1,771,387
Recharge of office expenses to:			
Hong Kong Solicitors Indemnity Fund Limited	(i)	<b>2,646,046</b>	2,459,366

Note:

- (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 2020

Up to the date of issue of these financial statements, the HKICPA has issued a number of amendments and a new standard, HKFRS 17, Insurance contracts, which are not yet effective for the year ended 31 December 2020 and which have not been adopted in these financial statements. These developments include the following which may be relevant to The Law Society.

	<b>Effective for accounting periods beginning on or after</b>
Amendments to HKFRS 9, HKAS 39, HKFRS 7, HKFRS 4 and HKFRS 16, <i>Interest Rate Benchmark Reform – Phase 2</i>	1 January 2021
Amendments to HKFRS 3, <i>Reference to the Conceptual Framework</i>	1 January 2022
Amendments to HKAS 16, <i>Property, Plant and Equipment: Proceeds before Intended Use</i>	1 January 2022
Amendments to HKAS 37, <i>Onerous Contracts – Cost of Fulfilling a Contract</i>	1 January 2022
Annual Improvements to HKFRSs 2018-2020 Cycle	1 January 2022
Amendments to HKAS 1, <i>Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current</i>	1 January 2023


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


<b>Academy of Law</b>	Hong Kong Academy of Law Limited
<b>AIJA</b>	International Association of Young Lawyers
<b>CEE</b>	Common Entrance Examination
<b>CEPA</b>	Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement
<b>CPD</b>	Continuing Professional Development
<b>CPGLO</b>	Liaison Office of the Central People’s Government in the HKSAR
<b>FATF</b>	Financial Action Task Force
<b>GAP</b>	General Adjournment Period
<b>HKSAR</b>	Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
<b>HKTDC</b>	Hong Kong Trade Development Council
<b>IBA</b>	International Bar Association
<b>iCMS</b>	Integrated court case management system
<b>IHLs</b>	In-house lawyers
<b>IILACE</b>	International Institute of Law Association Chief Executives
<b>LLPs</b>	Limited Liability Partnerships
<b>LPO</b>	Legal Practitioners Ordinance
<b>LSE</b>	Law Society Examination
<b>LTF</b>	LAWTECH Fund
<b>MOU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental Organisation
<b>NPC</b>	National People’s Congress
<b>NPCSC</b>	National People’s Congress Standing Committee
<b>OLQE</b>	Overseas Lawyers Qualification Examination
<b>PIS</b>	Professional Indemnity Scheme
<b>PIS Rules</b>	Solicitors (Professional Indemnity) Rules (Cap 159, sub leg)
<b>PRC</b>	People’s Republic of China
<b>RFL</b>	Registered Foreign Lawyers
<b>RME</b>	Risk Management Education
<b>SCLET</b>	Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training
<b>SME firms</b>	Small to medium law firms
<b>The Law Society</b>	The Law Society of Hong Kong
<b>UIA</b>	Union International Des Avocats




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