



THE
LAW SOCIETY
OF HONG KONG
香港律師會

Standing Committee on Member Services

2021

STANDING COMMITTEE ON MEMBER SERVICES



The Standing Committee on Member Services formulates and oversees the implementation of strategies and programmes that enhance members' benefits and interests. It is the Standing Committee's mission to provide the best benefit for our members and to unite them with a common goal of developing the legal communities locally and internationally. The Standing Committee also makes recommendations to other Standing Committees on issues pertaining to members' legal practice. The Standing Committee met 11 times in 2021.

Measures to assist Law Firms and Members during COVID-19

The Standing Committee conducted a survey on the pandemic in February, a follow up on our first survey to members issued on 5 May 2020, to gauge views from members on how Covid-19 had impacted on members' practice, the challenges faced by members during the pandemic, and how The Law Society could assist. A total of 42 responses had been received from members.

Electronic Document Bundling Software

In light of the wider use of video-conferencing facilities ("VCF") in remote hearings and increased demand for software which are capable of generating electronic bundles which comply with General Guidelines for Preparing Electronic Bundles in Portable Document Format issued by the Judiciary, a number of electronic document bundling software solutions have been considered for members' adoption.

Legal Talent Recruitment Scheme (Trainee Solicitors)

Following the success of the Law Tech Fund under the Anti-epidemic Fund in 2020, with further support of the Government, the Legal Talent Recruitment Scheme (Trainee Solicitors) ("the Scheme") was launched in July to facilitate the recruitment of trainee solicitors in order to retain talent within the legal sector, and to ensure that the legal sector has the required manpower resources when the market picks up in due course. Under the Scheme, eligible law firms could receive a government subsidy for the creation of new opening for trainee solicitors. The Scheme was opened for applications from 5 July to 28 January 2022.

Members' Forum

The Standing Committee organised one online Members' Forum themed "Back to Normal or Forward to a New Normal" on 4 March, where we reported to members the measures which The Law Society had taken to assist members to combat the pandemic, and members shared their thoughts and concerns with us on the way forward. An overwhelming response of around 150 registrations had been received.

E-Circular Arrangements

With the launch of the new website of The Law Society, the Standing Committee reviewed the weekly e-Circular arrangements. Several changes to improve members' experience, including change of distribution schedule from Monday to Thursday and mode of distribution were implemented in July.

Tribute to our Senior Members: Oral History Project

The Oral History Project was launched in late 2020 where very senior and significant members of the legal community, including members who have been admitted to The Law Society's Roll of Honour, Past Presidents and those who are among the most senior members of The Law Society (in terms of their respective admission dates), have been invited to be interviewed. 13 interviews have been conducted in 2021.

IN-HOUSE LAWYERS COMMITTEE

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

With social distancing measures still in place, IHLC continued to hold all its events online this year.

The Committee resumed its flagship event, the 2021 Annual Conference of In-House Lawyers, on 15 September following the cancellation of the annual event in 2020 owing to the pandemic. With the theme "Legal Pathways to Sustainability", the conference covered topics ranging from green investments, technological innovations, environmental and social risks, ESG compliance to sustainable continuity planning. At its 10th anniversary, the full-day webinar attracted a record high attendance of over 600 legal professionals, including delegates from the Greater China region, who were invited to join the conference for the first time. Simultaneous interpretation in Putonghua was arranged to cater for guest participants at the event.

Four panel discussions were held under the series entitled "Sweat & Glory" to allow participants to learn from the experience and knowledge of speakers on topics that were pertinent to the daily work and career development of IHLs. The webinars attracted around 200 members in total. Topics covered this year included:

- To Where the Grass is Greener – from Private Practice to In-House and Back Again (7 April)
- The Future of E-Contract and E-Signing: Is COVID putting an end to pen and paper? (28 May)
- The COVID-19 Thematic Series: Immunise your Company Against Potential Risks Arising from Employee Vaccination Policies (20 October)
- Opening the Canal to the Sea of Shipping and Maritime Law (23 November)

IHLC has also been co-organising courses with law firms under the “In-House Lawyers Training Programme (in collaboration with law firms)” on different topics which are relevant to the practice of IHLs. The four webinars held this year covered the following topics and were attended by a total of around 300 participants:

- Personal Liabilities of Directors and Officers of Insolvent Companies (hosted by ONC Lawyers on 3 June)
- Legal and practical aspects of time related claims, COVID-19 and unforeseen risks relevant to the Construction Industry in Hong Kong (hosted by Deacons on 29 June)
- Unveiling and Managing Risks in Multilingual Contracts (hosted by Oldham, Li & Nie on 18 August)
- Does a similar company name infringe? The Hong Kong and Mainland China approaches (hosted by ELLALAN on 10 November)

INNOTECH COMMITTEE

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

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

- (a) Meeting with eBRAM on the development of lawtech products amid the pandemic
- (b) Attended the remote briefing session hosted by the Judiciary on its Information Technology Strategy Plan and had discussion on the Integrated Court Case Management System (e-submission and e-filing)
- (c) Attended Corporate Innovation Summit organised by the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation and shared ideas with on technology and innovation across industries

Use of Technology for Court Hearings

Due to the outbreak of coronavirus pandemic, the Judiciary introduced the use of hardware-based VCF for remote hearings for suitable civil cases of the High Court in April 2020, and subsequently expanded the use of VCF for civil business in the Court of Appeal, the Court of First Instance of the High Court (Judges and Masters), the Competition Tribunal (Judges and Masters), and the District Court (including Family Court).

Further to the introduction of the two VCF solutions, the Judiciary issued on 2 January the Guidance Note for Remote Hearings for Civil Business in the Civil Courts (Phase 3: Wider Video-Conferencing Facilities and Telephone) and the technical specifications of the browser-based VCF. With the objective to enhance members’ understanding on the use of the new VCF solutions and test the compatibility of common VCF, the Committee organised a webinar on 29 January for members to observe an actual testing session conducted by the Judiciary. A list of tested systems which are compatible with the court video conferencing facilities for remote hearings has been published in the dedicated webpage in The Law Society's website.

The Technology Roadmap

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

To ensure that the Roadmap deliverables will suit the needs of members especially small law firms, the Committee conducted a Law Firm Technology Survey on all law firms in September 2018 (“the Survey”). The Committee received a 6.3% response rate. The Survey results assisted the Committee in identifying tools which law firms considered relevant and useful for them to adapt to the changing legal landscape.

The Council expressed support for putting in resources to assist members to take advantage of technology.

During the year, the Committee further developed the Technology Roadmap setting out concrete steps which The Law Society could take to assist the profession to take advantage of the technology, the relevant timeframe and the cost.

Based on the findings of the Survey, the needs of members especially that of smaller law firms had been identified, including solutions on solicitors accounting, electronic document retention and law firm management, digitalisation in legal practice and technology related training seminars for both lawyers and support staff.

The Law Society partnered with Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTP) on its Global Acceleration Academy Programme to source start-ups, locally and/or globally, to develop legal solutions for our members. An inaugural programme named “Future of Law” has been designed to enable The Law Society to find technology solutions, or co-create new solutions with innovation start-ups that best fit members’ needs and expectations. The Committee identified a few technology service providers which may develop customised solicitors’ accounting solutions for members.

In light of the wider use of VCF in remote hearings, the Committee noticed the increasing demand for software which are capable of generating electronic bundles which comply with General Guidelines for Preparing Electronic Bundles in Portable Document Format issued by the Judiciary. Vendors have been invited to submit proposal for developing a customised electronic document bundling software for adoption by Law Society members.

The Law Society will continue its collaboration with relevant stakeholders and develop suitable products for members under the multi-year Roadmap.

Webinars

The Committee organised a series of webinars and workshops with various themes related to the use of lawtech in the past year, and all were well received.

- Webinar on Cloud-Based Practice Management on 14 January
- Webinar on the Hybrid Workplace: Collaborate anytime, anywhere on 9 February
- Webinar on Data Analytics and Python on 4 May
- Webinar on Blockchain and Smart Contract on 13 December

Pursuant to the Government’s announcement on the development of the Hong Kong Legal Cloud, an advanced and user-friendly online facility situated in Hong Kong to provide safe, secure and affordable data storage services for the local legal and dispute resolution communities, the Committee co-organised a webinar with the Department of Justice to help our members better understand the Hong Kong Legal Cloud and how it could be tailor made for the legal industry on 1 April.

Articles

With a view to bring news updates about legal innovation and technology for members and subscribers, a dedicated section on InnoTech was created in the *Hong Kong Lawyer* in 2019.

The Committee contributed an article on “*Why Hong Kong Must Stay Ahead of Changing China Privacy Laws*” in the September issue.

Others

During the year, the Committee has further made recommendations on:

- (a) the 'Scheme for Online Payment of Costs and Disbursements on Account and Settlement of Fees'; and
- (b) the storage and destruction of old files against the backdrop of cloud technology.

The Law Society’s App

Are you one of the active users who have already downloaded The Law Society’s App (“the App”) on your iOS or Android device? Are you one of regular users who together interacted with the App to read *Hong Kong Lawyer*, see the President’s Letter and weekly circulars, search the members database, download event photos, keep track of and sign up for numerous recreation, sports, and members’ benefit events and CPD courses and add to your calendar with a simple click? The Law Society’s App has cumulated 22,838 downloads on iOS and Android devices since its release in 2013. In 2021, the “hit rate” of instances of members clicking within the App has reached 1.9 million.

The Committee has listened to your suggestions and will continue to improve the functionality of the App.

MEMBER BENEFIT COMMITTEE

The Member Benefit Committee ("MBC") works towards improving personal well-being of members through identifying and offering a wide range of services and products, and organising different networking and wellness activities for members as member benefits, thereby enhancing the development of the profession as a whole.

With a view to help members recover from the pandemic, MBC organised three online health talks on the following topics:

- Optimising Lawyer Performance Through Mindfulness (26 January);
- Dealing with a Crisis Situation & Building Coping Skills (29 April); and
- Weight Management Tips from Dietitian (9 July).

A webinar entitled "An introduction to Westlaw Asia's new user interface & Practical Law Hong Kong" was also held on 25 February to support members' legal researches.

MBC continued its effort in sourcing and offering a wide range of services and products for members as year-round benefits, which were classified into the six categories below:

- Culture & Lifestyle
- Dine & Wine
- Education & Learning
- Health & Leisure
- Household & Living
- IT Products & Services

The Committee has also sourced different festive offers for members to celebrate occasions such as Chinese New Year, Tuen Ng Festival and Mid-Autumn Festival.

Free calendar cards and "lai see" packets were distributed to members at the beginning of the year.

2021 also marks the 10th anniversary of the collaboration between The Law Society and American Express in offering The Law Society American Express Platinum Card exclusively for members.

PRACTICE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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

RME Practice Management Course

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

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

The Course has been up and running as an RME elective since February 2019.

In view of the positive feedback from the participants of the Course, the Committee recommended to Council that the Course be made mandatory to solicitors who intend to apply for an unconditional practising certificate.

Helping Members to Manage and Grow their Businesses

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

- “*New Solicitor Business Models*” published in January.
- “*The New Normal for Law Firms*” published in September.
- “*Partner Remuneration: Finding the Balance Between Origination and Execution*” published in October.

To keep members apprised with the global development of the legal industry, the Committee organised three webinars during the period from September to December. In light of the rapid development of the Greater Bay Area (“GBA”), the Committee joined hands with the Greater China Legal Affairs Committee and 廣東省粵港澳合作促進會法律專業委員會 to organise a webinar on “Opportunities for Legal Profession in Greater Bay Area” on 23 September. The speakers discussed the arrangements after the GBA Legal Professional Examination, including, in particular, the practice opportunities in the nine cities. Mr. Tony Williams of a leading UK based international legal management consultancy, was invited by the Committee to present a webinar on “The New Working Model and its Challenges” on 25 November. Representative of Huawei Technologies was also invited to speak on “Cyber Security and Data Protection Risks” under the new working model on 8 December.

ISLAMIC FINANCE WORKING PARTY

The Working Party makes recommendations on the legal development of Islamic financial products and services in Hong Kong and aims to equip members with updated knowledge and insights in the rapidly growing Islamic finance market in the world. It aims to facilitate the development of Islamic finance in Hong Kong and works closely with financial institutions, government, non-governmental organisations, international organisations and universities relating to Islamic finance. The Working Party also meets with lawyers from

local firms and overseas to discuss developments in Islamic finance and identifies and reports on local Islamic product initiatives.

The Working Party held its annual event in the format of a webinar on 9 December attracting over 70 members and distinguished guests from various consulates and financial institutions. With the topic “Explore the Untapped Opportunities: Innovations in Islamic Finance, Halal Food then Halal Tourism”, members of the Working Party and Halal market veteran introduced to the audience the process of Halal certification and how innovative financial technology can be leveraged in the Halal industry, and highlighted the vast potential and the latest developments in the Islamic economy.

WORKING PARTY FOR SME FIRMS

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

To help SME Firms understand the latest technology that can assist law firms in their daily practice, the Working Party co-organized a seminar with eBRAM International Online Dispute Resolution Centre Limited in March. Speakers introduced the technological tools and online dispute resolution platform to members during the webinar.

WORKING PARTY ON CLIENT ENGAGEMENT LETTERS

The Working Party was formed in 2020 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. The Working Party was working on preparation of three template Client Engagement Letters.

PRO BONO COMMITTEE

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

Throughout the year, the Committee reviewed various pro bono schemes which The Law Society has organised and/or coordinated participation by its members, including the Free Legal Helpline, 45 minutes Free Legal Consultation, Free Legal Advice on Building Management, the “Three-Year Pilot Free Outreach Legal Advice Service on Building Management”, and various programmes in collaboration with other organisations.

The Committee also held other activities such as organising webinars and articles writing to achieve its goals.

Free Legal Helpline

The Free Legal Helpline (“the Helpline”) was established in late August 2013 with an aim to offer pro bono legal advice to the public in need on three areas of law, namely Personal Injury, Matrimonial Law and Criminal Law. From May 2021, the Helpline has extended to two more areas of law, namely Wills & Probate and Employment Law.

The Pilot Scheme on Mediation under the Helpline has been extended to provide free telephone sessions on mediation.

To effectively assist the general public seeking legal consultation, the Helpline also maintains the Interactive Voice Response System (a technology that automates interactions with telephone callers) alongside with its in-person call pick-up and case vetting services. The Committee will continue to monitor the services provided under the Helpline.

Up to 31 December 2021, over 9,000 calls had been handled through the Helpline.

Figure 1: Number of cases received in 2021

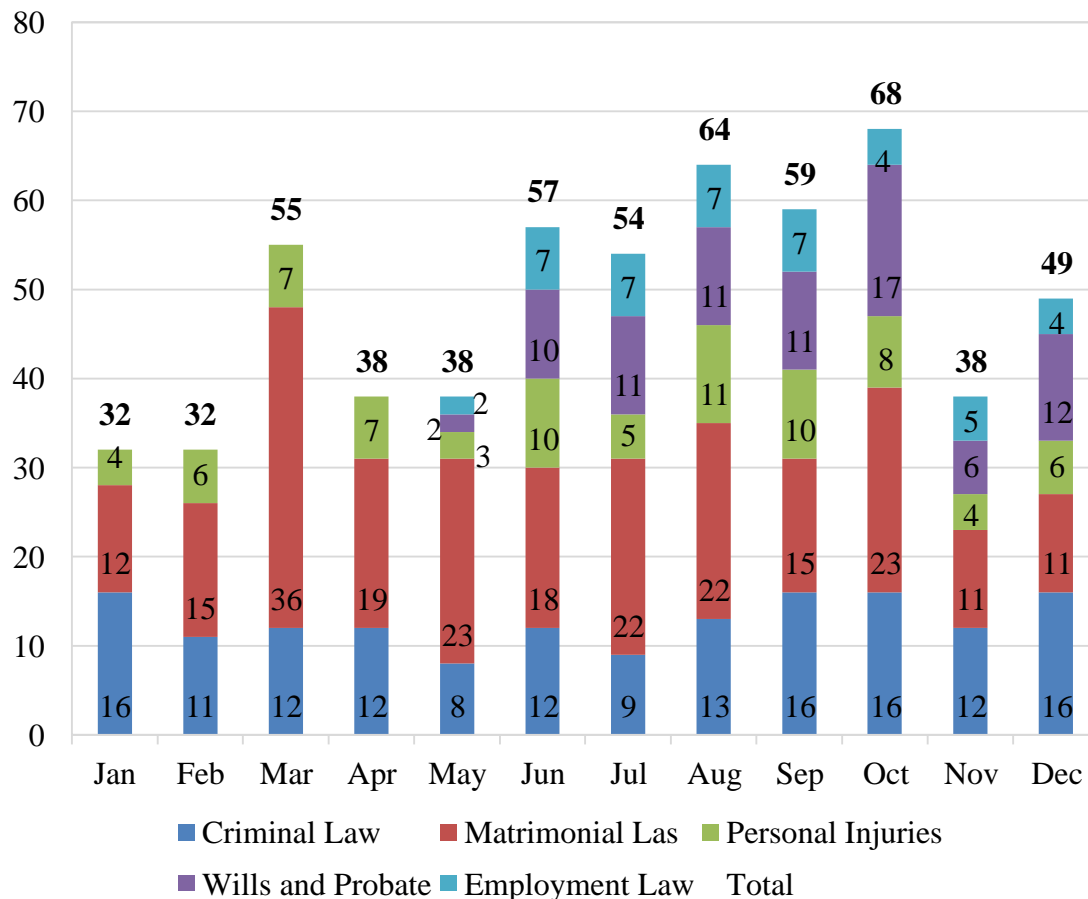
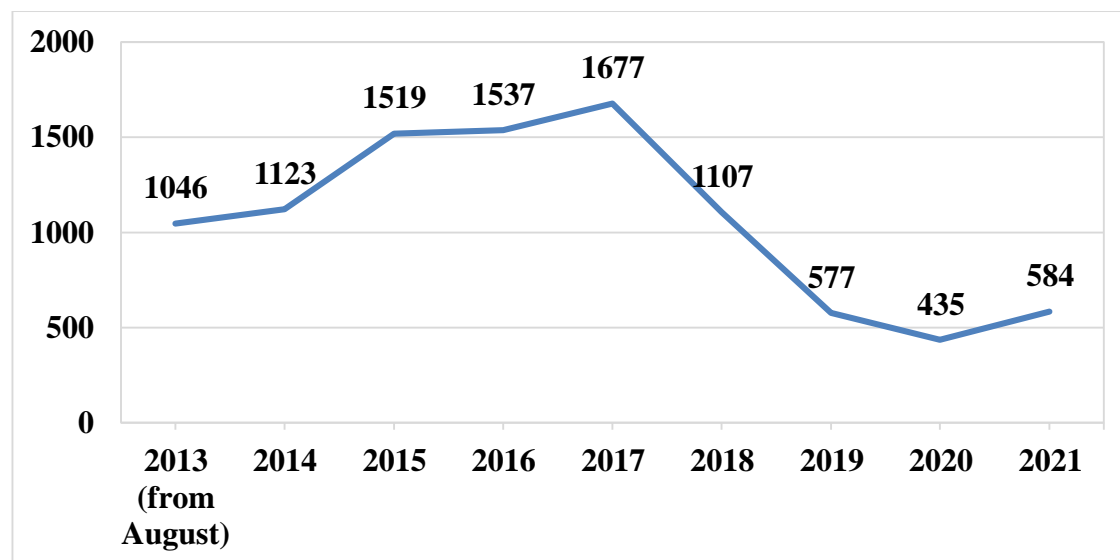


Figure 2 : Number of cases received during 2013 – 2021



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

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

Collaboration with Education Bureau

The Committee continued its collaboration with the Education Bureau in its “Business-School Partnership Programme” (“BSPP”) with the aim of promoting better co-operation and closer alliances between the legal sector and the schools, to lead students out of the classroom to gain a wider perspective of the world and to get them better prepared for life in the society. The programme has been postponed due to social distancing measures and shall resume in 2022.

Insurance for Pro Bono Work

The Committee reviews regularly on the regulatory framework relating to professional indemnity and insurance arrangement and coverage to ensure that members are sufficiently covered when they perform pro bono services.

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

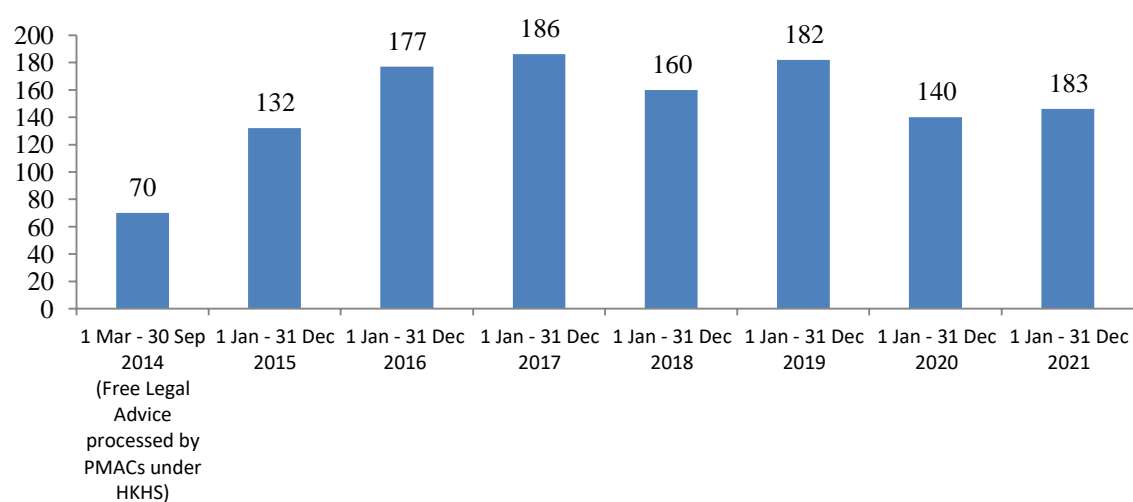
Pro Bono Projects on Building Management Work

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

Free Legal Advice Service on Building Management

Since early 2015, The Law Society has been working with HAD on the Free Legal Advice Service on Building Management. In 2021, 183 cases had been processed.

Figure 3 : Number of cases processed from 1 March 2014 to 31 December 2021



Note:

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

A Refresher Course on Property Management was held online in October to provide existing panel members a better understanding of the relevant topics on property management. 93 members completed the Refresher Course.

Three-Year Pilot Free Outreach Legal Advice Service on Building Management

In collaboration with The Law Society, HAD launched the “Three-Year Pilot Free Outreach Legal Advice Service on Building Management” in 2019 with a view to enhance legal support to Owners’ Corporations in conducting general meetings. 9 case has been processed in 2021 with 3 other cases in progress.

Webinar on “Pro bono opportunities for lawyers in Hong Kong”

The Committee organised a webinar entitled "Pro Bono Opportunities for Lawyers in Hong Kong" on 23 June. The webinar provided an overview of how lawyers in Hong Kong, at different levels, can get involved in pro bono work and use their skills for the benefit of the wider community.

During the webinar, the speakers shared their experience on pro bono in law practices, provided background information on regulatory considerations and examples on how lawyers in Hong Kong can find pro bono opportunities via various channels, including pro bono opportunities provided by The Law Society.

Dedicated column in Hong Kong Lawyer

With an aim to promote pro bono work in Hong Kong and to inspire lawyers to include pro bono in their law practices, members of the Committee made regular contributions to the Pro Bono in Hong Kong column of *Hong Kong Lawyer*. The following articles were published during the year:

- “*The Struggle to Work for Free*” published in June.
- “*The Role of Hong Kong Lawyers in Pro Bono Legal Service in Greater Bay Area*” published in August.

PRO BONO AND COMMUNITY WORK RECOGNITION COMMITTEE

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

Since its inception in 2010, the Pro Bono and Community Work Recognition Programme (“the Programme”) has been highly regarded by The Law Society and has established itself as one of flagship events. In 2021, the Programme continued to gain recognition among the legal profession with 324 applications.

A total of 42 law firms and 236 lawyers received awards. Apart from the Individual and Law Firm awards (Gold, Silver and Bronze), a number of Distinguished Awards and special awards were presented.

To encourage lawyers and law firms to utilise their resources and expertise in serving different service targets, “Special Award for the Year” was newly introduced. This year, the award was presented to a lawyer and a law firm that had outstanding performance in serving “Youth and Children”.

The awardees of the Distinguished Awards were selected by the members of the Judging Panel representing various sectors. Panel members for the Distinguished Pro Bono Awards include Ms. Winnie Chiu, The Ombudsman; Mr. Ricky Chu, Chairperson of Equal Opportunities Commission; Mr. Thomas Kwong, Director of Legal Aid; Ms. Joyce Lai, Assistant Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (Public Affairs and Compliance); Ms. Gilly Wong, Chief Executive of Consumer Council; Mr. C.M. Chan, President and Chairman of Pro Bono and Community Work Recognition Committee of The Law Society; Mr. Junius Ho, Past President of The Law Society; and Mr. Christopher Wong, member of the Pro Bono

and Community Work Recognition Committee of The Law Society. Panel members for the Distinguished Community Service Awards include Mr. Cliff Choi, Business Director of The Hong Kong Council of Social Service; Mr. Andy Ho, Executive Director of The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups; Ms. Camilla Tsang, Vice-Chairperson of Agency for Volunteer Service; Mr. Stephen Yau, Chief Executive of International Social Service Hong Kong Branch; Ms. Melissa Pang, Immediate Past President and member of the Pro Bono and Community Work Recognition Committee of The Law Society; Mr. Alan Schiffman, Chairman of the Pro Bono Committee of The Law Society; Ms. Daphne Lo, member of Pro Bono and Community Work Recognition Committee of The Law Society; and Ms. Patricia Ho, consulting member of The Law Society's Pro Bono and Community Work Recognition Programme.

RECREATION AND SPORTS COMMITTEE

The Recreation and Sports Committee ("RSC") aims at providing a whole range of recreational activities and sports which assists and encourages members to lead a balanced life within demanding work routines and to foster friendship with their fellow members and other professionals. The Committee convened five meetings over the year.

The 14 sports teams and nine recreational groups under the RSC listed below provide year-round activities including training sessions and classes to those members and trainee solicitors who have joined the Recreation and Sports Programme (the "Programme"), which is an annual programme under the RSC.

Sports teams: badminton, basketball, cycling, distance running, dragon boat, football, golf, hiking, snooker, swimming, table tennis, tennis, tenpin bowling, and volleyball

Recreational groups: bridge, Chinese calligraphy, cookery, food and wine appreciation, dancing, live band, martial arts, photography, singing, and yoga

Following the suspension of most of its activities in 2020, as the pandemic situation improves, subject to relevant government regulations and internal guidelines setting out various precautionary measures to ensure the safety of all participants, RSC has gradually resumed its team trainings and practices this year to allow members to stay active and healthy through participation in recreational and sporting activities.

As the risk of virus transmission of organising large scale physical events remained high at the beginning of the year, the Members and Family Fun Day was held online for another year with the theme "Love the Moment and Keep Moving" and attracted over 200 participants. Same as the first virtual Fun Day, members demonstrated their competitive spirit through the videos of them and their children completing different fitness challenges and talent performance. Images of the drawings by our young participants were also submitted for the Drawing Competition. The Main Activity on 19 June was graced by the presence of star athletes including distance running coach Mr Chan Ka-ho, champion body builder and speed climber Ms Lisa Cheng, and swimming Olympian Ms Sze Hang-yu, who shared ways to maintain physical and mental health with their families during the pandemic.

Members continued to enjoy 50% discount for joining the Programme in 2021, one of the measures introduced in 2020 to assist members in sailing through the difficult times. The offer has been extended to the 2022 Programme where members who have joined the 2021 Programme would have their 2022 membership automatically renewed at no cost.

The Law Society is a member of the Recreation and Sports Club for Hong Kong Professional Bodies (“RSCP”), a platform enabling and encouraging members to foster collaboration with members of six other major professional bodies in Hong Kong, namely Hong Kong Bar Association, Hong Kong Dental Association, Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants, The Hong Kong Institute of Architects, The Hong Kong Medical Association, and The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors, on different sports grounds and occasions. RSCP started to resume its activities towards the end of 2021 after the suspension of all its activities in 2020 in the light of the pandemic.

YOUNG SOLICITORS’ GROUP (“YSG”)

YSG was established to serve the needs and interests of members with less than five year’s post-qualification experience and trainee solicitors. Its mission is to facilitate and assist the career and personal development of the younger generation in the legal profession by offering diversified services and activities that are of interest to, and to the benefit of, its members and trainee solicitors. YSG also serves as a platform for interaction between trainee solicitors, junior and senior members of the profession, and law students. YSG convened six meetings this year.

The Committee introduced two new initiatives this year:

- In March, YSG launched the Sit-In Programme for Members of the Young Solicitors' Group (the "Sit-In Programme"). The aim of the Sit-In Programme is to provide a platform for YSG members to transition from YSG to other Law Society committees through assigning them to different committees as Observers to take part in their meetings and to learn more about their work and operation, thereby facilitating the injection of new blood to Law Society committees by matching the appropriate young members to these committees in future, which is essential for the organic growth of The Law Society as a whole. A pilot phase of six months was introduced to the Sit-In Programme where YSG members were assigned to "sit-in" nine committees under the Standing Committee on Member Services. In view of the positive feedbacks, the scope of the pilot Sit-In Programme would be expanded to covering those committees under the Standing Committee on External Affairs and the Standing Committee on Standards and Development in 2022.
- YSG also organised its first Joint University Virtual Law Fair on 11 November, where law students from the three local law schools were given the opportunity to learn from YSG members about the different practice areas in the legal profession including corporate/commercial/capital market practices, civil and criminal litigation, dispute resolution, personal injury, regulator and compliance, data privacy, intellectual property, and in-house practice. Over 100 law students signed up for the online event.

The CONNECTED Mentorship and Buddy Scheme 2021 successfully recruited around 200 participants including mentors (senior members), buddies (junior members) and mentees (trainee solicitors), who were assigned to different family sub-groups. Through this scheme, trainee solicitors were provided the opportunity to establish long term friendship and mentoring relationships with members of different seniority in the profession. Participants were brought together at the kick-off event on 29 April via a virtual meeting platform and took part in an ice-breaking game to get to know their family group members. The second event, namely the "Project Clues", adopted a semi-virtual format where participants went on a scavenger hunt adventure in the bustling city of Hong Kong through completing different weekly challenges and a final mission assigned through a mobile app over a span of five weeks between early September and mid-October.

WORKING PARTY FOR IN-HOUSE LAWYERS

The Working Party is tasked to study the long term strategies to enhance the connections between in-house solicitors and private practitioners. The Working Party, which comprises of members joining from both the in-house sector as well as private practice had its first meeting in January.

The Working Party conducted a survey in November to gather information on demographics of in-house lawyers in Hong Kong, their experiences and feedback on The Law Society's activities, as well as gauging their interest to interact with members in private practice and vice-versa, and ways to enhance their communication with The Law Society. The results of the survey would provide groundwork for a report to be produced by the Working Party on long term strategies to strengthen the services of The Law Society to in-house lawyers/potential in-house lawyers.

WORKING PARTY ON HISTORICAL ARCHIVE

The Working Party is tasked to recommend a policy for the establishment of an archive for The Law Society so that materials and information of historical value can be preserved and made accessible systematically. It will also make further recommendations on the compliance and implementation of the archival policy whenever necessary.

The Working Party is delighted to launch the Oral History Project (the "Project") in late 2020 where very senior and significant members of the legal community, including members who have been admitted to The Law Society's Roll of Honour, Past Presidents and those who are among the most senior members of The Law Society (in terms of their respective admission dates), have been invited to be interviewed. 13 interviews have been conducted over the year featuring the following notable figures in the legal profession (in alphabetical order of their surnames):

Name of interviewee(s)	Law Society honorific title(s) (if any)
Mr Christopher Cheuk CHAN	Past President (1996-1997) Roll of Honour (2011)
Ms Ella Shuk-ki CHEONG	Roll of Honour (2004)
Mr Roland Kun-chee CHOW	
Mr Winston Ka-sun CHU	
Mr Timothy George FRESHWATER	Past President (1984-1985)
Mr Lester Garson HUANG	Past President (2007-2009) Roll of Honour (2021)
Mr Simon Sik-on IP	Past President (1987-1989) Roll of Honour (2013)
Mr Ambrose Hon-chuen LAU	Past President (1992-1993)
Ms Elsie Oi-sie LEUNG	Roll of Honour (2010)
Mr Siu-hon LEUNG	Roll of Honour (2012)
Mr Ho-fai MA & Mr Che-sang SAT	
Mr Peter James THOMPSON	
Mr Herbert Hak-kong TSOI	Past President (2000-2002) Roll of Honour (2016)

A webpage dedicated to the Project entitled "Tribute to our Senior Members: Oral History Project" has been created under The Law Society website to showcase the video and/or audio recordings of the interviewees in October.

The Working Party was also invited in early October to visit the Hong Kong Chronicles Institute, which is running a project entitled "Hong Kong Chronicles", a history book series entailing the history of Hong Kong covering various areas/topics with a full volume dedicated to Hong Kong's law and judiciary, to facilitate the research work of the institute in compiling the law chapter of the book series.