



THE
LAW SOCIETY
OF HONG KONG
香港律師會

34th POLA SUMMIT

6 - 8 JUNE 2024 | HONG KONG

SUSTAINABILITY OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION GLOBALLY



Session 1

Keys to sustainability of the legal profession

Topic (b)

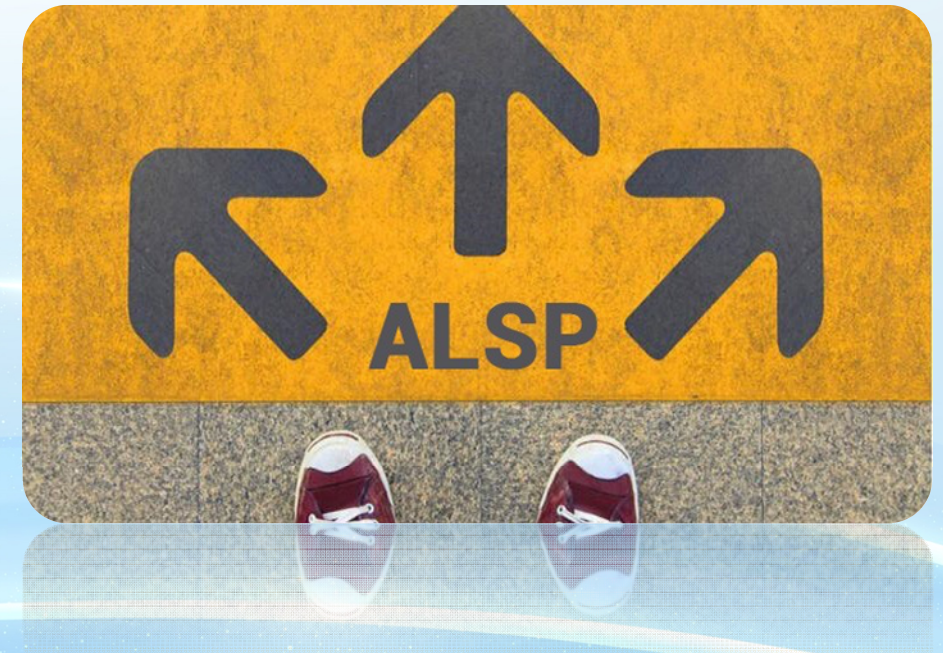
Proliferation of unregulated legal services

Speaker: Jose Maurellet SC, Vice Chairman of Hong Kong Bar Association

- Regulation of the legal profession in Hong Kong
 - Law Society of Hong Kong: Hong Kong Solicitors' Guide
 - Hong Kong Bar Association: Code of Conduct
 - Legal Practitioners Ordinance (Cap. 159)



- Alternative legal service providers (ALSPs)
 - Benefits of ALSPs
 - Common areas of law
 - Concerns
 - Difficulties with regulation



Will writing services

- Overview
- Presence in Hong Kong
- Regulation of these services?



- Sample terms:
 - “[X] is an unregulated organisation but some of our advisers are themselves individually regulated.
 - “[X] is not a law firm and is not registered or regulated by the Law Society of Hong Kong or any other institutions or associations. Any use of our Products, Services or Website does not create or constitute a lawyer-client relationship between [X] or any employee of or other person associated with [X] and you. It is for you to satisfy yourself that the nature of the Services that we offer and the Products provided to you meet your requirements and are satisfactory for your purposes and any legal requirements. We cannot accept any responsibility to you if the Products, Services and/or Membership you purchased from us are not legally correct for your situation.”

Will writing services

- Potential problems:
 - Lack of regulation
 - Not personalized
 - Hidden costs
 - Lack of professional indemnity
- Developments in the UK



Will writing services

- Way forward for Hong Kong?
 - Consumer protection laws?
 - Existing legislation?
 - Raising awareness



LegalZoom in the US

- Background
 - Online legal technology and services company
 - Established in 2001
- Legal sustainability
- Services provided and areas of law
- What are consumers offered?



- Legal challenges and intervention:
 - Class action lawsuits
 - State Bar Association of North Carolina
 - Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice and the Federal Commission (the “Agencies”)
 - Expansion to the UK



Legal Services Act 2007 (LSA)

- Objective of the LSA
- “Reserved legal activities”
- Legal Services Board (LSB)
 - Objective behind regulation
- Alternative Business Structures (ABSs)
- Implications for barristers
 - Employed Bar in the UK



Legal Services Act
2007

CHAPTER 29



LEGAL SERVICES
BOARD

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Takeaways for Hong Kong

- Sustainability for the legal profession
- Keep up with international trends
 - E.g., Singapore



Thank you!



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