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**Regulations: Legal Practitioners
Ordinance, Practice Directions
and Rules**

CIRCULAR 23-485 (SD)

27 July 2023

23-485 (SD) THE HONG KONG SOLICITORS' GUIDE TO PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT, VOLUME 1 ("THE GUIDE")

Various amendments to Chapters 1 and 15 of the Guide

1. Various amendments to Chapters 1 and 15 of the Guide as set out below are made with immediate effect.

Chapter 15 of the Guide

2. Chapter 15 of the Guide is primarily concerned with the powers of the Law Society and applicable procedures in relation to allegations of misconduct. In paragraph 3 under the heading "Complaints", it is provided that letters of regret or letters of disapproval may be issued as sanctions to solicitors.
3. The Council is of the view that decisions of the Standing Committee on Compliance are collective decisions. To avoid any misunderstanding or misperception that may arise from the issue of letters of regret and letters of disapproval as being personal decisions of the signatory of those letters, the said paragraph 3 under the heading "Complaints" in Chapter 15 of the Guide is amended as follows:-

"...

3. Sanctions

The sanctions that can be imposed are the issue of letters of regret or letters of disapproval to the ~~respondent~~ solicitor concerned ~~(which are signed by the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee).~~
..."

4. Please click [here](#) for the updated Chapter 15 of the Guide incorporating the changes mentioned in paragraph 3 above.



New Principle 1.00

5. The Basic Law is the constitutional document of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China ("HKSAR"). It forms the foundation for legal practice in the HKSAR.
6. To highlight the importance of the Basic Law to solicitors, a new Principle, Principle 1.00 is included in the Guide and placed before Principle 1.01. Principle 1.00 provides as follows:-

"1.00 Upholding the Basic Law"

A solicitor shall uphold The Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China.

Commentary

The Basic Law is the constitutional document of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China. It forms the foundation for legal practice in Hong Kong. A solicitor shall act in a way that upholds the constitutional principle of the rule of law enshrined in the Basic Law."

7. Please click [here](#) for the updated Chapter 1 of the Guide incorporating the changes mentioned in paragraph 6 above.
8. This Circular serves as an Addendum to the Guide.
9. This Circular is mandatory.
10. All enquiries should be sent by email to Assistant Director, Regulation and Guidance at adrg2@hklawsoc.org.hk.