

Standing Committee on External Affairs

The Standing Committee on External Affairs has an overall responsibility for organizing events and projects to improve and enhance the relationship between The Law Society and external parties. It also made recommendations to the Council on matters of public policy, government relations, current and media issues.

Members of the Standing Committee:

Billy W.Y. MA (*Chairman*)
Stephen W.S. HUNG (*Vice-Chairman*)
Bonita B.Y. CHAN
Charles C.C. CHAU
Franki W.C. CHEUNG
Anthony W.K. CHOW
IP Shing Hing
Frederick K.C. KAN
Ambrose S.K. LAM
Ludwig S.W. NG
Melissa K. PANG
Sylvia W.Y. SIU
WONG Kwai Huen

Secretary: Assistant Director, External Affairs

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Law Society maintained relationships with various local community groups through its Community Relations Committee.

66 talks were given by members on a wide range of legal topics including building management, wills and probate, and matrimonial law to a number of government departments and non-profit making organizations.

Law and the New Generation

The Committee launched "*Law and the New Generation*" in 2003. This was the third year of the programme which aims to promote understanding of the law by the younger generation. Members gave talks on the Hong Kong legal system at 65 secondary schools. With the assistance of Hong Kong Polytechnic University, a survey was conducted

from April to June to find out the level of legal knowledge in the student population. The survey report was released to the public in January 2007.

Mock Legislative Council Debate



In September, The Law Society and the Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong jointly organised a "*Mock Legislative Council Debate*" where 45 Junior Chief Executives and Junior District Council Members attended to play the roles of Legislative Council Members.

Members of the Committee:

Melissa K. PANG (*Chairman*)
Bronco M.T. BUT
Grace W.C. BUT
Isabella W.H. CHAN
Serina K.S. CHAN
Alexander Y.H. CHANG
Charles C.C. CHAU
IP Shing Hing
Anthony W.M. KWAN
Alexander H.S. LEUNG
MAK Hon Ming
David K.L. MAN
Patricia WIJAYA

Secretary: Assistant Director, External Affairs

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LAW WEEK 2006

Press Conference



Law Week 2006 Press Conference took place on 25 October and initiated the *Law Week 2006* programmes held from 29 October to 13 November. This year, the theme was “*Knowing Intellectual Property Law*”.

Opening Ceremony

The *Law Week 2006 Opening Ceremony* was held at Chater Garden on 4 November. The Chief Justice the Hon. Mr. Andrew Li, the Hon. Mr. Wong Yan Lung, SC, JP, the Hon. Margaret Ng, Mr. Paul Chan, Mr. Benjamin Cheung, JP and Mr. Philip Dykes, SC were the Guests of Honour.

Some of the activities at the Opening included presentation of prizes, performances by the winners of the *Law Week 2006 Drama Competition*, and the Hong Kong Children's Choir. The Law Ambassadors were Ms. Do Do Cheng and Ms. Bernice Liu.



Free Legal Advice

Members assisted by offering free legal advice to the general public at Olympian City and the response from the public was favourable with 1,022 appointments. The *Free Legal Advice Hotline* received 438 calls.

Court Visits



Members assisted in the court visits when 4,160 students from 59 schools participated, and were provided with an opportunity to observe the legal process in real life.

Members of the Committee:

Stephen W.S. HUNG (*Chairman*)

Grand H.L. CHAN

Isabella W.H. CHAN

Serina K.S. CHAN

Karin K.Y. CHOY

Eric C.H. HEUNG

Benjamin C.M. HO

Yeda T.Y. HONG

Anthony J. HUNG

William C.Y. KONG

Stephanie W.Y. LAU

Teresa S.Y. LIU

Melissa K. PANG

Clara POON

Tammy W.Y. TAN (*resigned in October*)

Cecilia G. WONG

Secretary: Assistant Director, External Affairs



COMMUNITY LAW COURSES 2006

Due to the popularity of the *Community Law Courses* in 2005, the courses were extended and held at the Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong from 23 May to 20 June. Over 15 members and six overseas lawyers participated as speakers and approximately 4,000 participants from the general public attended the courses.

RECREATION AND SPORTS COMMITTEE

Established in 2005, the Recreation and Sports Committee consists of nine sports team, including golf, football, tennis, table-tennis, badminton, swimming, ten-pin bowling and volleyball and regular training sessions and matches were organised. During the year, the Committee won various prizes in Hong Kong and overseas.

Orienteering Day 2006

Orienteering Day 2006 was held on 5 November at Braemar Hill. Over 70 members and helpers participated in the event.



Inaugural Sports Night



The *Inaugural Sports Night 2006* was held on 18 November at the Regal Hong Kong Hotel under the theme of "*Join the Sports Family, Share our Unity*". The programme included the presentation of prizes, a video show, a slogan competition, a live band performance and a lucky draw. Over 150 members, along with guests from the professional bodies attended.

Members of the Committee:

Ambrose S.K. LAM (*Chairman*)

CHAN Chak Ming

Anthony W.K. CHOW

Amy Y. S. FUNG

Junius K.Y. HO

Lester G. HUANG

Stephen W.S. HUNG

Frederick K.C. KAN

Lynn LEE

Melissa K. PANG

Jeffrey SZE

Dora M.L. YEUNG

Peter K.C. YIP

Vivian Y.Y. YU

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MEDIA RELATIONS

"Justice for All"



30 members participated in the production of the third series as guest speakers and researchers to promote the public's understanding of the law in Hong Kong and on the Mainland. The show was broadcast weekly by TVB on Saturdays from May to July for seven weeks.

In association with Crown Publishing (HK) Limited, the majority of the first and second series of the TV show were reproduced into a book named *"Justice for All"*.

Press Conference and Press Releases

Press Conference for Higher Rights of Audience

The Law Society invited the press to a briefing on 14 August on the concerns of higher rights of audience for solicitors.

Press Conference for Beijing Symposium 2006

The President, and the President of the Beijing Municipal Lawyers Association, Mr. Li Da-Jin met the press to discuss the Beijing Symposium and their Official Visit on 16 November.

Qualifying Insurers Scheme

A press release was issued on 28 April to announce that the members voted by a majority of 1873 to 506 against a motion to establish a *Qualifying Insurers Scheme* to replace the existing PIS.

Election of President and Vice-Presidents

A press release was issued on 19 May to announce the unanimous re-election of the President and the three Vice-Presidents respectively, Mr. Peter Lo, Mr. Lester Huang, Mr. Wong Kwai Huen and Mr. Junius Ho for a further year.

Mr. Albert Ho Chun Yan's Attack

The Law Society issued a statement on 21 August regarding the attack on Mr. Albert Ho Chun Yan.

Media Enquiries and Interviews

The Law Society answered the following public enquiries:

Month	Enquiry/ Interview
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The President's speech at the <i>Opening of the Legal Year 2006</i>.• The complaint procedures against members of The Law Society.• The Law Society's views on the Ombudsman's investigation into the Legal Aid Department regarding the monitoring of assigned-out cases.
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The new <i>Marriage (Introduction of Civil Celebrants of Marriages and General Amendments) Bill</i>.• Issues in a High Court case challenging the legality of the Chief Executive's Order on Covert Surveillance.
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The total number of "associations" formed and also the number of applications for the forming of "associations" since the signing of CEPA.• The new PCLL course proposed by The Chinese University of Hong Kong.
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Legal issues related to the uploading and downloading of music by youngsters at home and their parents' liability.

- June

 - The preparatory work of The Law Society for the forthcoming election on the Chief Executive's Election Committee.
 - The development of the legal sector under CEPA, especially Hong Kong lawyers and their Mainland business.
 - General procedures where a solicitor breaches the Code of Conduct, and statistics on past disciplinary proceedings.
 - The Law Society's views on Recovery Agents following a Legislative Council press conference on 26 June.
- July

 - Issues on disorderly conduct.
 - The Court of Final Appeal's decision on the validity of the Chief Executive's Order on covert surveillance operations.
 - The effects of the Agreement on mutual recognition of commercial judgments in family and labour cases on the legal profession in Hong Kong.
 - The Law Society expressed its views on the announcement of the Goods and Services Tax ("GST").
 - The amendment made to the bankruptcy law in 1996, which had been declared unconstitutional by the Court of Final Appeal.
- August

 - Issues relating to solicitors and advertisements.
 - The Law Society's view on the Consultation Paper on "Wasted Costs" issued by the DOJ.
- October

 - The conversion courses for overseas LLB graduates and gaining admission as a solicitor of Hong Kong.

Newspaper Articles

21 weekly articles were published in *Singtao Daily* since 7 August. A wide range of legal topics including ownership disputes, Civil Celebrants, trademarks, and land succession were covered.

LIAISON ACTIVITIES WITH GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND ORGANISATIONS

During the year, the Standing Committee met monthly to review its activities and projects and continued to maintain good relationships with various government departments.

Spring Reception 2006

This was held at The Law Society Clubhouse on 16 March to celebrate the *Year of the Dog*. 97 senior partners and 29 government officials attended. Guests included the Secretary for Justice, the Chairman of the Legal Aid Services Council, the Director of Legal Aid, the Director of Immigration, the Secretary for Constitutional Affairs and the Secretary for Security.



Cocktail Party with Government Officials

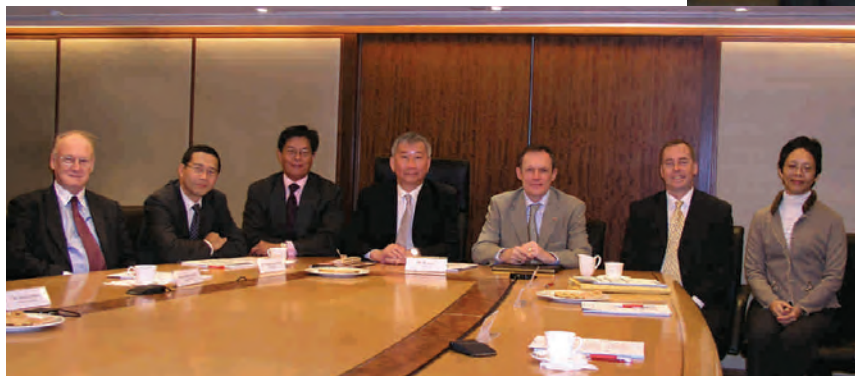
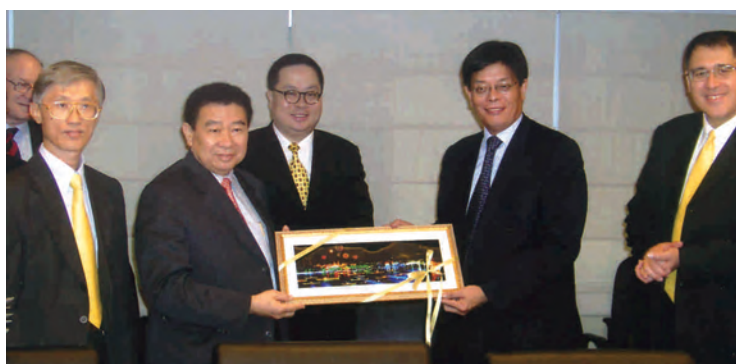
A cocktail party was organised for members of The Law Society to meet various officials, and guests included the Director of Legal Aid, the Chairperson of Equal Opportunities Commission and the Land Registrar.

Standing Committee on External Affairs

Visits by Individuals and Organisations

Throughout the year, a number of overseas delegations visited the Law Society:

Month	Visitors
February	Mr. Edward Nally, Immediate Former President of The Law Society of England and Wales
June	Mr. Shen Deyong, Vice President of the Supreme People's Court, PRC A Delegation from Thailand
September	The All Party Parliamentary China Group, UK Professor Christopher Forsyth, Director of the Centre for Public Law, University of Cambridge, UK
November	Mr. Robert Seabrook QC, Recorder, Deputy High Court Judge and Former Chairman of the Bar Council, UK Sir Peter Graham KCB, QC, Former First Parliamentary Counsel, UK
December	Mr. Henning Fode, Director of Public Prosecutions and President of International Association of Prosecutors, Denmark



MAINLAND LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

To further develop a platform for facilitating professional networking, cooperation and exchanges between Hong Kong solicitors and their Mainland counterparts, the Committee recruited six new members and continued to organize various events and activities with Mainland Lawyers Associations, the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, the DOJ and the Beijing Guangdong Offices of HKSAR Government.

Members' Forum



Two forums were arranged in March and August. Over 90 members attended the Forum on the topic of *"Diversification of Solicitors' Services in Guangdong"* on 8 March. Mr. Peter P.Y. Leung, Director of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong, delivered a speech on the Current economic situation in nine key cities in the Pearl River Delta, namely, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Dongguan, Huizhou, Zhongshan, Zhuhai, Jiangmen, Foshan, and Zhaoqing.

The second forum was held on 2 August. Deputy Solicitor General, Mr. Stephen K.Y. Wong, was invited to deliver a speech on "Supplement III to CEPA" and the "Arrangement on reciprocal recognition and enforcement of court judgements between the Mainland and Hong Kong". Over 150 members attended this Forum.

Beijing Symposium 2006

The Beijing Bureau of Justice and The Law Society co-organized a *Beijing Symposium* in November. The Director of the Beijing Bureau of Justice and the President of the

Beijing Lawyers Association led the Beijing delegation. Around 15 Beijing officials and lawyers attended the event as well as 45 members.

Visitors from the Mainland

Month	Delegation Visitors
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tianjin Bureau of Justice • Hubei Lawyers Association
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bazhong Lawyers Association
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fujian Lawyers Association • Changzhou Lawyers Association • Beijing Investment Bureau • Wuhan Arbitrators
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tianjin Lawyers Association • Anhui Lawyers Association • Shanghai Pudong Economic Development Committee
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qingdao Lawyers Association • Mainland officials under the Training Scheme of the Department of Justice



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- Hubei Ministry of Justice and Hubei Lawyers Association
- Shandong Ministry of Justice and Shandong Lawyers Association

July

- Anhui Lawyers Association
- Jinagsu & Inner Mongolia Attesting Officers
- Shenzhen Lawyers Association

August

- Law school students from Shantou University
- Zhejiang Bureau of Justice

September

- Beijing Bureau of Justice and Beijing Lawyers Association

October

- Shanxi Attesting Officers
- Qingdao Arbitrators

November

- Taiyuan Lawyers Association
- Henan Lawyers Association

December

- Ningbo Lawyers Association
- Shenzhen Lawyers Association

Visit to the Mainland

6+2 Regional Forum in Guilin, Guangxi



The 6+2 Regional Forum hosted by the Guangxi Lawyers Association took place from 24 to 27 August in Guilin, Guangxi. The Lawyers' Associations of Henan, Hunan, Hubei, Guangdong, Hainan, Macau and The Law Society also participated. The Vice-President and Chairman of Mainland Legal Affairs Committee, Junius K.Y. Ho led a delegation of 10 members and delivered a speech at the Opening Ceremony.

The 6th China Lawyers' Forum in Taiyuan, Shanxi

The All China Lawyers Association and Shanxi Lawyers Association hosted the 6th China Lawyers' Forum in Taiyuan, Shanxi from 22 to 24 September. The theme of the Forum was "The Rule of Law and Legal Services Planning, Regulations, and Management". The President led a delegation of six members and delivered a speech.





One-on-one Direct Networking Forum in Shenzhen, Guangdong

The President led a delegation of over 50 members to Shenzhen to participate in a networking forum jointly organized by the Shenzhen Lawyers Association and The Law Society on 6 December. More than 50 Shenzhen law firms participated. Members discussed issues relating to the formation of a “legal services centre” in Shenzhen, the formation of “associations”, and the operation of representative offices in Shenzhen.

Other visits to the Mainland included:

1. Visits to Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong and Guangdong Lawyers Association
2. Hong Kong Mission to Guangxi in June
3. Council visit to the Guangdong Province in September
4. The 11th Five-Year Plan Regulations & Legal Services Seminar in Shenzhen in October
5. The 3rd China and the Association of Southeast Asia nations Free Trade Zone - Legal Services Forum in Nanning, Guangxi in November
6. Visit to Shenzhen Lawyers Association in November

Mainland Column

The Mainland Legal Affairs Committee contributed 10 articles to the ‘Mainland Column’ of the *Hong Kong Lawyer*.

Month	Topics
January	CEPA III and the Competitive Advantages of Hong Kong Lawyers in the Mainland
February	The New Property Rights Law
March	The Wishes of a Young Hong Kong Lawyer with Regard to Legal Affairs in the People’s Republic of China
April	Members’ Forum on the Diversification of Solicitors’ Services in Guangdong
May	The Challenges of Trade Mark Protection in China
June	A Practitioners’ Retrospective
July	Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement Proposal for Further Opening in Relation to Legal Services
September	Differences between Hong Kong and the Mainland: Legal Practice and Firm Management
November	Opinions on the Development of the Legal Profession of the Mainland - with Reference to Hong Kong Experience
December	Where Do We Go from CEPA - Liberalization Measures and the Development of Legal Services in Mainland China

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Members of the Committee:

Junius K.Y. HO (*Chairman*)
Franki W.C. CHEUNG (*Vice-Chairman*)
TSUI Kei Ping (*Vice-Chairman*)
Carmelo K.S. LEE (*Vice-Chairman*)
Paulina M.S. CHAN
Margaret CHOI
CHONG Tin Cho
Anthony W.K. CHOW
Grace H.W. CHU
Elaine Y.L. HO
Raymond C.K. HO (resigned in June)
IP Shing Hing
Christine M. KOO
Emily Y. M. LAM
Patrick K.H. LAM
William C.W. LAM
Maurice W.M. LEE
Vincent W.S. LIANG
MA Xiaohu
Thomas S.T. SO
Herbert H.K. TSOI
Christine P.W. WONG
James K.T. WONG
Stephen K.Y. WONG
WONG Tak Shing

Secretary: Assistant Director, External Affairs