

## The Standing Committee on External Affairs

The Standing Committee on External Affairs oversees the organisation of public relations activities, projects and conferences by The Law Society with a view to promote a closer relationship between the profession and the public. It also makes recommendations to the Council on The Law Society's views on matters of public policy and current issues.

### *Spring Reception 2007*

57 government officials and 25 senior partners attended a spring reception to celebrate the Year of the Pig on 5 March. Guests included the Hon. Chief Justice, the Hon. Secretary for Justice; the Deputy Director of Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR, President of the Legislative Council; the Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs, the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury and the Legislative Councillors.



### *Lunch with the Secretary for Justice*

An official lunch with the Secretary for Justice, and senior staff of the Department of Justice and Council Members of Law Society was held on 12 November at the Hong Kong Club.

### **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 (resigned in December)  
 Anthony W.K. CHOW  
 Elaine Y.L. HO  
 Lillian L.N. HO

IP Shing Hing (resigned in June)  
 Frederick K.C. KAN  
 Ambrose S.K. LAM  
 Ludwig S.W. NG  
 Melissa K. PANG  
 Sylvia W.Y. SIU (resigned in June)  
 WONG Kwai Huen  
 Philip W.C. WONG

Secretary: Assistant Director, External Affairs

## The Standing Committee on External Affairs

### 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 continued to organize various events and activities with Lawyers Associations in the Mainland, the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (“HKDTC”), the Department of Justice, Office of the HKSAR Government in Beijing and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Guangdong, HKSAR.

#### Promotion of Hong Kong Value-added Professional Legal Services in the Pearl River Delta

Two series of seminars were conducted in January and July to provide members with the professional legal skills when handling various cross boundary legal matters involving the Mainland and Hong Kong. More than 60 members attended these seminars and some of them participated as presenters in the four roadshows on promotion of Hong Kong value-added professional legal service held in Guangzhou, Dongguan, Huizhou, and Shenzhen. Close to 1,000 participants attended the four roadshows, including representatives of Mainland enterprises and lawyers.



#### Seminar on Anti-dumping

In December, a public forum on anti-dumping was co-organised by The Law Society with the Bureau of Fair Trade for Imports and Exports of the Ministry of Commerce, the Economic Affairs Department of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR and the HKTDC. Mr. Gao Hu Cheng, Vice-Minister of the Ministry of Commerce, and the President each delivered keynote speeches. Committee Members gave presentations during the breakout sessions. More than 300 participants attended the plenary and breakout sessions on anti-dumping measures in the EU, US, India and Turkey.



## The Standing Committee on External Affairs

## Visitors from the Mainland

Month	Delegation Visitors
March	Zhejiang Lawyers Association
April	Changzhou Lawyers Association
June	Hebei Bureau of Justice
July	Law School of Shantou University
November	Legal Education Trust Fund, Peking University, China University of Political Science and Law Guangzhou Lawyers Association
December	Shenzhen Lawyers Association Zhuhai Lawyers Association

## Visits to the Mainland

## Council Visit to Beijing

In April, the immediate past President, Mr. Peter Lo led a delegation of Council Members to Beijing paying visits to various organisations and government departments including the Hong Kong & Macau Affairs Office of the State Council, the Ministry of Justice, the Supreme People's Court, the All China Lawyers Association ("ACLA"), the Beijing Lawyers Association, the China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission ("CIETAC"), the China Law Society and Tsinghua University. Views on a wide range of topics were exchanged. These included the political and economic development in Hong Kong, the market access measures under CEPA for solicitors, a proposal to establish a joint committee with ACLA on property law and practice, and participation of Hong Kong solicitors in CIETAC arbitrations.



## The Standing Committee on External Affairs

### 2007 Hong Kong Commerce, Industry & Professional Services Delegation to Shenyang, Liaoning

In January, the Chairman of the Committee led a delegation to Shenyang, Liaoning organized by the Office of the HKSAR Government in Beijing. During the visit, the Law Society signed a cooperation agreement with Shenyang Lawyers Association.

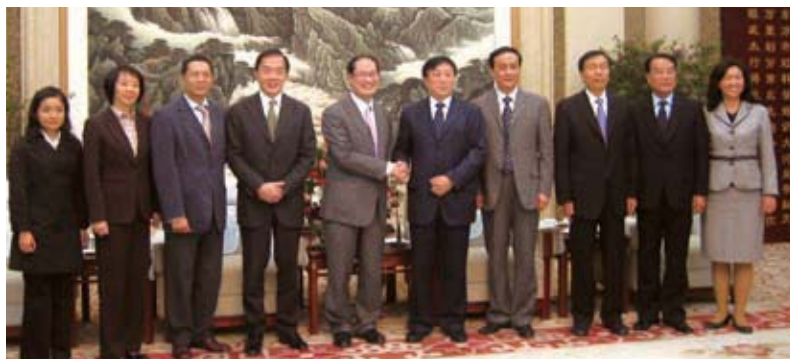
### Six provinces in South China and Hong Kong and Macau ("6+2") Regional Lawyers' Forum in Dongguan, Guangdong

The Law Society participated in the 6+2 Regional Lawyers' Forum hosted by the Guangdong Lawyers Association in Dongguan from 22-24 August. The Lawyers Associations of Henan, Hunan, Hubei, Guangdong, Hainan, Guangxi, Macau and Hong Kong attended the Forum.



### The 7th China Lawyers' Forum in Yinchuan, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region

ACLEA and the Government of Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region hosted the 7th China Lawyers' Forum in Yinchuan in September. The theme of the Forum was "Constructing a Harmonious Society & Lawyers' Mission". The President attended the Forum with a delegation of eight members and delivered a speech on "Exchanges & Collaboration between Mainland & Hong Kong Legal Practitioners".



### Other Visits to the Mainland included participation at the following events:

- Hong Kong High-level Business Mission to Jilin in June
- The 3rd China Jilin Northeast Asia Investment and Trade Expo in September
- The 5th East China Regional Lawyers' Forum in Anhui in September
- Visit to Henan Lawyers Association in November
- Shenzhen Law Exhibition in December

## The Standing Committee on External Affairs

## Mainland Column

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

Month	Topics of the article
January	The Shenzhen Conference and Joint Premises Proposal
February	Sailing Toward Success: Some Thoughts & Comments after the Beijing Forum
	My Experience in Law Firm Management in Hong Kong
March	A Law Firm of Greater China – Dream or Vision?
April	Should Hong Kong Law be an Elective for Graduate Students in Mainland Chinese Law Schools?
May	Practice Promotion Roadshows in the Pearl River Delta
August	Mainland Endeavours
October	Moving Towards the Era of Greater China Law Firms
December	Law Society Delegation to the 7 <sup>th</sup> China Lawyers’ Forum
	Combined Anti-dumping and Countervailing Measures by the US Department of Commerce Against Chinese Exports

## Members of the Committee:

Junius K.Y. HO (*Chairman*)  
 Franki W.C. CHEUNG (*Vice-Chairman*)  
 Carmelo K.S. LEE (*Vice-Chairman*)  
 TSUI Kei Ping (*Vice-Chairman*)  
 Paulina M.S. CHAN  
 Margaret CHOI  
 CHONG Tin Cho  
 Anthony W.K. CHOW  
 Grace H.W. CHU  
 Elaine Y.L. HO  
 IP Shing Hing  
 Christine M. KOO  
 Ambrose S.K. LAM

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 (resigned in January)  
 WONG Tak Shing  
 Tony Y.H. YEN

Secretary: Assistant Director, External Affairs

## The Standing Committee on External Affairs

### COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

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

#### Articles Published in Newspaper

50 weekly articles written by members were published in Singtao Daily every Monday on a wide range of legal topics relating to ownership disputes, Civil Celebrants, trademarks, property, wills and probate and the Employment Ordinance.

#### Law and the New Generation

“Law and the New Generation” is an annual programme which was first launched by the Committee in 2003 with the aims to promote awareness of law by the younger generation through school seminars. 66 secondary schools received talks on the Hong Kong legal system, court system and criminal law.

#### Community Seminars

51 seminars were given by members to the community on topics such as building management, wills and probate and property law to the community.



#### Visits to Organizations

Members made separate visits to the Hong Kong Jockey Club Drug InfoCentre, and the Psychiatric Ward of Queen Mary Hospital.

#### 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

## The Standing Committee on External Affairs

### MEDIA RELATIONS

The Law Society maintains regular dialogue with the media.



#### Press conferences

The following press conferences were held during the year:

- “Law and the New Generation Survey”



- Law Week 2007

#### Press release

##### Higher Rights of Audience for Solicitors

The Law Society issued a statement to welcome the report on Higher Rights of Audience for Solicitors released on 29 November by the Working Party appointed by the Chief Justice. It marked an important step forward on an issue for which The Law Society had campaigned for many years.

## The Standing Committee on External Affairs

### Media Enquiries and Interviews

The Law Society responded to enquiries from the public from time to time including.

Month	Enquiry/Interview
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The President's speech at the Opening Ceremony of Legal Year 2007.</li> <li>– The prospects of the legal profession.</li> </ul>
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Solicitors' professional fees.</li> <li>– Complaints on purchase of property.</li> </ul>
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Job opportunities for the legal profession.</li> <li>– Legal issues relating to counterfeit banknote of HK\$1,000.</li> <li>– Legal issues relating to domestic helpers.</li> </ul>
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Continuing education for the legal profession.</li> <li>– Business development opportunities for Hong Kong solicitors in the Mainland.</li> </ul>
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Salary levels of new entrants to the legal profession.</li> <li>– Transfer of the Legal Aid Department from the Administration wing to the Home Affairs Bureau.</li> </ul>
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The provisions of CEPA affecting the legal profession.</li> </ul>
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The Land Titles Ordinance.</li> </ul>
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Medical negligence.</li> <li>– Conditional Fees.</li> </ul>
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Green Paper on Constitutional Development.</li> </ul>

## The Standing Committee on External Affairs

**LAW WEEK 2007****Opening Ceremony**

*The Opening Ceremony of Law Week 2007* took place at Olympian City 2 on 27 October with the theme “*A Century of Legal Journey in Hong Kong*” marking the 100th Anniversary of The Law Society. The Hon. Chief Justice, the Hon. Secretary for Justice, representative of the Legal Constituency LegCo Member; Chairman of the Legal Aid Services Council and Director of Legal Aid were Guests of Honour.

The Programme included donation of one hundred longevity buns to HKSKH Li Ka Shing Care and Attention Home for the Elderly. Certificates of Thanks were presented to members to acknowledge their assistance in Law Week 2006. The theme song was performed by Law Ambassador Ms. Jade Kwan with the Hong Kong Children's Choir, and Chinese Operas performed by four young talents from the Chinese Opera Association. Besides, two promotional TV were shown in various media channels.



## The Standing Committee on External Affairs

### Free Legal Advice

Solicitors provided one week of free legal advice services to the general public in Wong Tai Sin and Tin Shui Wai from 29 October to 4 November when approximately 600 people received assistance.

### Members of the Committee:

Stephen W.S. HUNG (*Chairman*)

Bonita B.Y. CHAN

Grand H.L. CHAN

Isabella W.H. CHAN

Serina K.S. CHAN

Karin K.Y. CHOY

Eric C.H. HEUNG

Benjamin C.M. HO

Elaine Y.L. HO

Yeda T.Y. HONG

Anthony J. HUNG

William C.Y. KONG

Alex C.Y. LAM

Stephanie W.Y. LAU

Eva LEE

Teresa S.Y. LIU

Melissa K. PANG

Clara POON

Cecilia G. WONG

Philip W.C. WONG

Ann M.S. YEUNG

Secretary: Assistant Director, External Affairs

## RECREATION AND SPORTS COMMITTEE

The Recreation and Sports Committee has organised nine teams in golf, football, tennis, table-tennis, badminton, swimming, ten-pin bowling, volleyball and basketball, and three recreational activities including Chinese calligraphy, hiking and social dancing. Over 500 members joined regular practice sessions and matches. Various matches and tournaments were jointly organized by The Law Society with other professional bodies during the year.



## The Standing Committee on External Affairs



### *The Law Society Centenary Sports Meet*

In July, over 250 legal practitioners from seven Lawyers Associations of Beijing, Shanghai, Taipei, Macau, Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Hong Kong participated in *The Law Society Centenary Sports Meet* at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Former Secretary for Justice officiated the Opening Ceremony. Delegates competed in tennis, badminton, soccer and ten-pin bowling. The Hong Kong delegation won the overall championship in ten-pin bowling and tennis.

### **Annual Sports Night**

Over 160 members and guest attended the 2nd Annual Sports Night Dinner in October.

### **Joint Professional Tournaments**

The Law Society participated in the Joint Professional Sports Tournaments in golf, tennis, badminton, ten-pin bowling and basketball. Our teams were successful in the following tournaments: The Law Society Bowling Team played in the 2007 Joint Professional 10-Pin Bowling Tournament which took place on 14 October, the Golf Team competed in the Joint Professional Golf Tournament on 7 March at Kau Sai Chau, The Law Society Football Team participated in the first Asianlawyer Football Tournament that took place in January in Bangkok, Thailand. The main objective of these tournaments were to promote friendship and networking.



## The Standing Committee on External Affairs

### *Members' Night 2007*

This was held in December at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. Shortly after the opening by the President, seven new “celebrities” of the legal profession joined the first-ever Bachelors Auction to raise funds for The Law Society Educational Trust Fund. Canapés, champagne and drinks were served to over 500 participants.



### **Members of the Committee:**

Ambrose S.K. LAM (*Chairman*)  
 CHAN Chak Ming  
 Anthony W.K. CHOW  
 Junius K.Y. HO  
 Lester G. HUANG  
 Stephen W.S. HUNG  
 Frederick K.C. KAN

Martin H.T. KWOK  
 Lynn LEE  
 Melissa K. PANG  
 Wilson H.W. TANG  
 Dora M.L. YEUNG  
 Peter K.C. YIP  
 Vivian Y.V. YU

Secretary: Assistant Director, External Affairs

## The Standing Committee on External Affairs

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS****Visits by Overseas Organizations**

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

**Month****Visitors**

April

- The Law Society of England and Wales

- The California Bar Association

August

- The International Chamber of Commerce

September

- The Bar Association of Indonesia (“IPHI”)

November

- The Advocates’ Chamber in Primorsky Region, Russian Federation



## The Standing Committee on External Affairs

### OVERSEAS CONFERENCES

The Council Members have attended on behalf of The Law Society overseas conferences during the year as follow.

Month	Visitors
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The 35th Australian Legal Convention on 22-25 March in Sydney, Australia.</li> </ul>
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The ABA 2007 Annual Meeting on 9-14 August in San Francisco, California.</li> <li>– The 18th Conference of the Presidents of Law Associations in Asia (“POLA”) on 20-21 August in Jakarta, Indonesia.</li> </ul>
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The 15th Commonwealth Law Conference on 9-13 September in Nairobi, Kenya.</li> </ul>
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The Opening of the Legal Year on 1-2 October in London.</li> <li>– The IILACE Conference on 11-13 October in Singapore.</li> <li>– The IBA Conference on 14 – 19 October in Singapore.</li> </ul>



*Department of External Affairs*