

COUNCIL'S REPORT



The Council has pleasure in submitting its Annual Report together with the audited accounts for the year ended 31 December 2008.

Principal place of business

The Law Society of Hong Kong (“The Law Society”) is a company limited by guarantee, and is incorporated and domiciled in Hong Kong and has its registered office and principal place of business at 3/F, Wing On House, 71 Des Voeux Road Central, Hong Kong.

Principal Activities

The principal activities of The Law Society are to act as the professional and regulatory body for solicitors in Hong Kong. The principal activity and other particulars of The Law Society’s subsidiaries are set out in Note 8 to the accounts.

Accounts

The results of The Law Society’s operations for the year ended 31 December 2008 and the state of The Law Society’s affairs at that date are set out in the accounts on pages 132 to 152.

Membership

At 31 December 2008 there were 7,035 (2007: 6,474) members of The Law Society. The total number of practising certificates issued was 6,204 (2007: 5,925). There were 712 (2007: 709) firms of solicitors and 71 (2007: 56) registered foreign law firms.



Fixed Assets

Movements in fixed assets during the year are set out in Note 7 to the accounts.

Donations

Donations by The Law Society during the year amounted to HK\$4,150,000 (2007: HK\$6,000,000) which represent donations to The Hong Kong Academy of Law Limited of HK\$4,000,000 and to the Relief Office of the Liaison office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of HK\$150,000.

Auditors

KPMG retire and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-appointment. A resolution for the re-appointment of KPMG as auditor of The Law Society is to be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Bankers

The bankers are The Bank of East Asia Limited, The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, Standard Chartered Bank Limited and Wing Lung Bank Limited.

Council Members

In accordance with article 15(a) of The Law Society's articles of association, at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting the five members longest in office since election or re-election shall retire but shall be eligible for re-election.

At no time during the year was The Law Society or its subsidiaries a party to any arrangement to enable Members of the Council to acquire benefits by means of acquisition of an interest in The Law Society or any other body corporate.

Except for the related party transactions as disclosed in note 18(a) to the accounts, no contract of significance to which The Law Society or its subsidiaries was a party and in which Members of the Council had a material interest subsisted at the end of the year or at any time during the year.

The Council Members during the financial year and up to the date of this report; and their attendance at the Council meetings are shown in the table below.

	Regular Meeting	Unscheduled Meeting	Total
Lester G. Huang, President	27	5	32
Wong Kwai Huen, Vice-President	31	3	34
Junius K.Y. Ho, Vice-President	29	3	32
Peter C.L. Lo (Re-elected on 22 May 2008)	25	2	27
Michael J. Lintern-Smith	21	0	21
Ip Shing Hing (Re-elected on 22 May 2008)	24	2	26
Billy W.Y. Ma (Re-elected on 22 May 2008)	30	3	33
Sylvia W.Y. Siu	26	0	26
Cecilia K.W. Wong	29	1	30
Alex T.H. Lai	29	5	34
Kenneth S.Y. Ng	19	3	22
Andrew Jeffries (Resigned on 1 April 2008)	2	0	2
Stephen W.S. Hung	29	4	33
Dieter L.T. Yih	23	2	25
Ambrose S.K. Lam	25	2	27
Joseph C.W. Li (Re-elected on 22 May 2008)	30	1	31
Amirali B. Nasir	26	1	27
Melissa K. Pang (Re-elected on 22 May 2008)	22	3	25
Thomas S.T. So	29	3	32
James E. Jamison (Resigned on 1 December 2008)	9	0	9
Angela W.Y. Lee (Co-opted on 29 April 2008 and elected on 22 May 2008)	22	1	23
Brian W. Gilchrist (Co-opted on 6 January 2009)	6	0	6

By order of the Council

Lester G. Huang

President

14 April 2009