

THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

The Standing Committee on External Affairs has overall responsibilities in coordinating public relations activities, projects and special events to foster relationship between The Law Society, government and non-government organizations, other professional bodies, media representatives and the public at the local, regional or international level. It is also entrusted with the responsibilities to make recommendations to the Council on The Law Society's views on policies and issues relevant to the legal profession or of concern to the public, to develop legal awareness within the community in Hong Kong through special projects such as the annual *Law Week* as well as to look after members' relations through activities organized by the Recreation and Sports Committee.

Members of the Standing Committee:

Billy W.Y. MA (*Chairman*)

Stephen W.S. HUNG (*Vice-Chairman*)

Bonita B.Y. CHAN

Charles C.C. CHAU

Anthony W.K. CHOW

Lillian L.N. HO

Elaine Y.L. HO

Frederick K.C. KAN

Ambrose S.K. LAM

Ludwig S.W. NG

Melissa K. PANG

Philip W.C. WONG

Secretary: Assistant Director, External Affairs

In 2008, the Standing Committee on External Affairs and the committees under its supervision, namely the Mainland Legal Affairs Committee, the Community Relations Committee and the Recreation and Sports Committee (until 31 September 2008) had a busy year in coordinating projects planned for the year.

MEMBERS' RELATIONS

By promoting and encouraging members to take part in various sports and recreational activities, the Recreation and Sports Committee has successfully reformed and brought new culture to the Law Society. Members can easily find a game of sport or recreational activity to enjoy after work. The right amount of exercise helps members to be better prepared to face the stress and strain of a demanding work routine.

From January to September, over 600 members participated in regular practice sessions, covering a wide range of recreational and sports activities including golf, football, tennis, table-tennis, badminton, swimming, tenpin bowling, basketball, volleyball, Chinese calligraphy, dancing, singing and chess. Regular matches and tournaments were also organized, whether by The Law Society alone or jointly with other professional bodies, such as *Universities Football League*, *the Joint Professional Sports Tournaments* on golf, tennis, badminton, tenpin bowling, basketball, table-tennis and karaoke.

In addition, non regular activities were organized for members to participate such as the *32nd New Year Winter Swimming Lifesaving Championship 2008*, *The 3rd & 4th Cross Strait Lawyers' Golf Tournaments*, *Law and Order Cup*, *War Game*, *The Hong Kong Coalition of Professional Services Tenpin Bowling Tournament*, *Hong Kong Medical Association Swimming Gala*, *Saint Joseph College Anniversary Soccer Competition 2008*, *Escort and Support Group Annual Family Day Soccer Match* and *the Law Society Beach Volleyball Competition*.

The Standing Committee on External Affairs

The *3rd Annual Recreation and Sports Night* took place on 6 September at the Hong Kong Football Club bearing the theme of “The Origin of Sports and Recreation”. Highlights of the event included the ‘Best Video Award’ competition, the ‘Best Uniform Award’ presentation, live band performance and lucky draw. Over 300 members and guests attended the event.



A toast to all participants at the annual Sports Night

The good work of the Recreation and Sports Committee and their achievement in fostering harmonious relationship between members were highly appreciated and acknowledged by members.

Members of the Committee:

Ambrose S.K. LAM (*Chairman*)

CHAN Chak Ming

Kendrick CHEUNG

Anthony W.K. CHOW

Junius K.Y. HO

Lester G. HUANG

Stephen W.S. HUNG

Frederick K.C. KAN

Lynn LEE

Melissa K. PANG

Andrew TSE

Dora M.L. YEUNG

Peter K.C. YIP

Vivian Y.V. YU

Secretary: Assistant Director, External Affairs



Escort and Support Group Annual Family Day Soccer Match



War Game

The Standing Committee on External Affairs



The Singing Group



The Chess Team

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Fostering and maintaining good relationship with our counterparts from around the world was an important part of the work of the Standing Committee on External Affairs in enhancing the Law Society's image and status in the international arena.

The year kicked off with a welcoming programme for bar leaders from abroad who have come especially to attend the Ceremonial Opening of the Legal Year on 16 January 2008.

Other guests the Law Society had received during the year included Mr. Geoffrey Vos, Immediate Past Chairman of the Bar Council of the United Kingdom, a delegation from the Japan Ministry of Justice, and representatives of the State Bar of California.

In July, the Law Society assisted the American Bar Association ("ABA") Section of International Law with its 2008 International Legal Exchange (ILEX) programme staged in Hong Kong. We also hosted a luncheon for the ABA delegates on 16 July with Chief Justice Andrew Li as the guest speaker.

To mark the *60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, the Law Society participated in a number of special activities in the month of December:

- On 6 December, President Lester Huang attended a conference of lawyers around the world in Paris where a Convention between Lawyers of the World was signed to reconfirm the willingness of the lawyers from around the world to work in concert to uphold the Rule of Law while assuming their role as sentinels of freedom. The Law Society of Hong Kong was a subscriber of the Convention.

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Announcement of the joint statement by the Law Society and the Hong Kong Bar Association

- On 9 December, The Law Society and the Hong Kong Bar Association co-organized a seminar on Human Rights. The two organisations also issued a joint statement citing their support of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948.

- The Law Society published 50,000 complimentary leaflets containing a full version of The Hong Kong Bill of Rights for distribution to the public.
- President Lester Huang also wrote to Mr. Henry Tang Ying-yen, the Chief Secretary for Administration, inviting the Administration of the Hong Kong SAR to reaffirm its commitment to human rights as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on the 60th anniversary of its promulgation.



The two Presidents shook hands after signing the MOU.

The year 2008 was also of significance to The Law Society at the international front as The Law Society signed a Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) with the Czech Bar Association in Czech Republic on 30 May under the witness of Mr. John Tsang, the Financial Secretary of the Hong Kong SAR. This was a major breakthrough for The Law Society in its attempt to seek possible cooperation between lawyers from Hong Kong and Central Europe.

During the year under review, President Lester Huang and Council Members Mr. Stephen Hung, Mr. Ip Shing Hing, Mr. Alex Lai, Mr. Michael Lintern-Smith, Mr. Billy Ma, Mr. Amirali Nasir and Ms. Melissa Pang attended the *19th Conference of Presidents of Law Associations in Asia* (“POLA”) held in Ho Chi Minh city, Vietnam on 22 and 23 August. President Lester Huang also attended the *IPBA 18th Annual Conference* from 27 to 30 April.

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GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Apart from participating in international events and engaging in exchange with professionals from other jurisdictions, the Law Society also maintained close working relationship with senior members of the Central People's Government and HKSAR government offices and related organizations through meetings and special events such as the *Spring Reception* on 22 February at the Law Society Clubhouse in celebration of the Year of Rat. Dignitaries including officials from the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the PRC and the Central People's Government Liaison Office in the HKSAR, The Hon Chief Justice, the Secretary for Justice and other senior government officials, the President and Members of the Legislative Council were in the attendance. Members of The Law Society were also invited.



The Standing Committee on External Affairs

The Council had also hosted luncheons for those officials who The Law Society closely worked with including The Hon. Chief Justice Andrew Li and senior members of the Judiciary, and the Council of the Hong Kong Bar Association.

In support of the Government's initiative to combat money laundering and terrorist financing in the international community, The Law Society set up a Working Group on the *Promotion of Anti-Money Laundering* and launched an extensive campaign in June. The key message of the campaign was to 'Keep Money Laundering Away from Hong Kong – Lawyers and Public to Play Key Roles'. The message was effectively communicated through a press conference, television and radio interviews, advertorial in print magazine, promotional leaflets and posters. A series of talks and seminars introducing the new anti-money laundering measures was also held for practitioners and other parties concerned.

President Lester Huang at the Anti-Money Laundering Press Briefing



The Law Society also supported the new initiative *Path Builders* recommended by the Task Force on Youth Drug Abuse ("Task Force") led by the Secretary for Justice, Mr. Wong Yan Lung, SC. The initiative provided a platform for those who care to help pave the way for a positive generation and help young people say "no" to drugs. President Lester Huang (R1 in front row) attended the launching ceremony of the 'Path Builders' programme on 12 September and pledged The Law Society's support to the programme.



*Path Builders Launching Ceremony
(Photo: Courtesy of the Information Services Department of the HKSARG)*

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MEDIA RELATIONS

As in the past, the Law Society from time to time received enquiries from the media on various matters relevant to the legal profession. The External Affairs Department at the Law Society Secretariat upon receipt of any enquiries would coordinate among the President, the two Vice-Presidents, the Chairman of the Standing Committee on External Affairs and members of various committees dealing with the specific issues in question to identify a spokesman to respond to the media enquiries.



President Lester Huang and Council Member Ms. Melissa Pang attending press briefing



On the spot interview on human rights issues

Press conferences and press releases promoting various projects and special events initiated by The Law Society were organized during the year. Daily news alerts were also prepared to keep Council Members abreast with news concerning the Law Society and the legal profession including public policies that might have an impact on the legal profession.

LAW WEEK 2008

The curtain of *Law Week 2008* was unveiled on 6 December at the Chiang Chen Studio Theatre, the Polytechnic University of Hong Kong. The Opening Ceremony was officiated by the Honourable Mr. Andrew Li, GBM, Chief Justice of the Court of Final Appeal, the Honourable Mr. Wong Yan Lung, SC, JP Secretary for Justice, the Honourable Ms. Margaret Ng, Member of the Legislative Council (Legal Functional Constituency), the Honourable Mr. Paul Chan, MH, JP, Chairman of the Legal Aid Services Council, Mr. Benjamin Cheung, JP, Director of Legal Aid Department, and Mr. Paul Shieh, SC, Vice-Chairman of Hong Kong Bar Association. Representatives of supporting organizations and speakers also attended the Opening Ceremony.

Bearing the theme of '*Law is always there for you and me*', this year's Law Week programme offered a series of talks covering unrepresented litigant in courts, drugs problem, property law, employment law, personal injury law, family law, criminal law, Notary Public and China Appointed Attesting Officer system, anti-money laundering law and building management law from 6 to 12 December. Most of the talks attracted an average of 150 participants for each session.

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Law Week 2008 Opening Ceremony



*Ms. Melissa Pang, Chairman of
Law Week 2008 Organizing Committee*



*Officiating guest, the Honourable
Mr. Andrew Li, GBM, Chief Justice of
the Court of Final Appeal*

Law Week 2008 represented an outstanding effort of the Organizing Committee headed by Council Member Ms. Melissa Pang. The event also received continuous support from the Judiciary, the Department of Justice, the Legal Aid Department and the Law Society Council. Other organizations such as the China Legal Service (H.K.) Ltd., Association of China-Appointed Attesting Officers Ltd., Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre, Hong Kong Mediation Council, Hong Kong Mediation Centre, Hong Kong Society of Notaries, Hong Kong Federation of Women, Hong Kong Federation of Women Lawyers, Consumer Council, Hong Kong Council of Social Service, Fu Hong Society, The Boys' and Girls' Clubs Association of Hong Kong, Tung Wah Group of Hospitals CROSS Centre, Evangelical Lutheran Church – Tin Shui Wai District Youth Outreaching Social Work Team, and Caritas Lok Heep Club had also rendered assistance on the occasion. Of course, gratitude must be extended to the Legal Aid Department for their financial support throughout the years.

The Standing Committee on External Affairs



Course on Family Law



Course on Probate Law



*Course on China Appointed
Attesting Officers system*

Members of the Committee:

Melissa K. PANG (*Chairman*)

Stephen Wan Shun HUNG (*Vice-Chairman*)

Grand Hau Leong CHAN

Isabella Wan Ha CHAN

Yeda Tin Yee HONG

Anthony James HUNG

William Chung Yau KONG

Alex Chi Yau LAM

Stephanie Wing Yin LAU

Cecilia Grace WONG

Philip Wing Cheong WONG

Ann Mo Sheung YEUNG

Secretary: Assistant Director, External Affairs

The Standing Committee on External Affairs

MAINLAND RELATIONS

The Mainland Legal Affairs Committee (“MLAC”) is responsible for promoting exchanges between The Law Society and officials of the Central Government Offices, various provincial and municipal authorities, and lawyers associations in Mainland China.

Under the leadership of its Chairman, Vice-President Junius Ho, MLAC had organized a variety of activities



Forum on ‘White Paper on China’s Efforts & Achievements in Promoting the Rule of Law’

as in previous years such as paying courtesy visits to various destinations in the Mainland for the purpose of identifying potential business partnership between Hong Kong and Mainland lawyers; staging a number of roadshows in the Mainland promoting the services of Hong Kong law firms; sharing information on the Mainland market in the ‘Mainland Column’ in Hong Kong Lawyer regularly; and providing research back-up to the Law Society Council for drawing up papers for further liberalization of the legal market in the Mainland under CEPA. The year 2008 was indeed event-packed.



Visiting the GZLA

To reciprocate a visit by the Guangzhou Lawyers Association to The Law Society in February, a Law Society delegation led by President Lester Huang and Council Members paid a courtesy visit to the Guangzhou Lawyer’s Association (“GZLA”) and Guangzhou Committee on Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference Office on 29 March to renew ties with the GZLA and to engage in a substantive discussion on how the legal profession between the two places might strengthen their ties.

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On 29 July, the MLAC hosted a Forum covering the “*White Paper on China’s Efforts & Achievements in Promoting the Rule of Law*”. Professor Li Lin, Head of the Institute of Law of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences was the guest speaker and Professor Albert Chen from the Faculty of Law of the University of Hong Kong acted as the moderator. More than 80 members attended the Forum.



From 21 to 23 October, members of the MLAC headed for Chongqing six years after the signing of a Cooperation Agreement between the Law Society and the Chongqing Lawyers Association in 2002. The visit carried a special meaning as it forged closer cooperation between the two parties.

Visiting the chongqing Lawyers Association

One of the missions of the MLAC for the year 2008 was to promote Hong Kong’s legal system and services in the Mainland. With this in mind, the Chairman Junius Ho, Committee Member Wong Tak Shing and the Secretary General Raymond Ho participated in the annual “*Shenzhen Legal Panorama*” road show at the Kite Square, Shenzhen’s Lotus Hill Park on 7 December. This event was co-organized by the local Chinese Communist Party Committee, Shenzhen Municipal Publicity Department, Shenzhen Municipal Justice Bureau, Shenzhen Municipal Office of Law Education and Shenzhen Municipal Urban Administration for the purpose of providing legal education for residents in Shenzhen. Other participants from Hong Kong included representatives from the Department of Justice and the Hong Kong Bar Association.



Shenzhen Legal Panorama Roadshow



Fuzhou Straits Law Forum

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During the year under review, Members of the MLAC also acted as speakers at a number of seminars held in the Mainland including the Nanchang & Changsha Roadshow and the Ningbo Hong Kong Economic Cooperation Forum organized by Hong Kong Trade Development Council; the Fuzhou Straits Law Forum organized by the China Law Society, and the 10th Civil and Commerce Law Forum organized by the Shanghai Lawyer's Association.

While MLAC members paid visits to parties in the Mainland representing The Law Society, they also reciprocated hospitality to the latter when they visited Hong Kong. Below were some of the Mainland parties who had visited The Law Society during the year under review:



Lawyers from Shanghai & Fuzhou



Lawyers from Hunan



Visitors from Shantou University Law School

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Month	Mainland visitors
January	Delegation from the Shanghai Bar Association
March	Delegation from the Guangzhou Lawyers Association
May	Officials from the Jiangsu Provincial Ministry of Justice under the Training Scheme of the Department of Justice Mainland lawyers under the Lord Chancellor Training Scheme of the British Council
July	Law students from the Shantou University
September	Members of the Intellectual Property & Hi-Technology Committee of the Shenzhen Lawyers Association
October	Members of the Tianjin Bar Association and China University of Political Science and Law in Beijing

Another main task of the MLAC was to share information about the Mainland market and cross-border practices with practitioners in Hong Kong. As in previous years, the Committee did so through publishing articles in the 'Mainland Column' of Hong Kong Lawyer. In 2008, the Committee had published a total of six articles covering the following topics:

- “Raising the Capabilities in Dealing with Trade Conflicts Measures by Foreign Countries” – Speeches delivered by Vice-Minister Gao Hu Cheng, Ministry of Commerce and President Lester Huang at the Anti-dumping seminar on 10 December 2007.
- “Hong Kong Solicitors Take Advantage of CEPA and Reap the Benefits” authored by Mr. Junius K.Y. Ho, Chairman of the MLAC.
- “The PRC Labour Contract Law: Taking Stock Six Months On” authored by Mr. Andy Ye, Partner of Mayer Brown JSM.
- “The Impact of China’s Anti-Monopoly Law on Foreign-Funded Mergers & Acquisitions” authored by Ms. Paulina Chan, Member of the MLAC.
- “China’s Efforts & Achievements in Promoting the Rule of Law” authored by Professor Li Lin, Institute of Law, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.
- “Law Society Delegates’ Visit to Chongqing” co-authored by Mr. Junius Ho (Chairman of the Mainland Legal Affairs Committee), Mr. Wilfred Tsui and Mr. James Wong (Members of the Mainland Legal Affairs Committee).

The Standing Committee on External Affairs

Members of the Committee:

Junius K.Y. HO (*Chairman*)

Emily Y. M. LAM (*Vice-Chairman*)

Carmelo K.S. LEE (*Vice-Chairman*)

TSUI Kei Ping (*Vice-Chairman*)

Paulina M.S. CHAN

Franki W.C. CHEUNG (resigned in December)

Margaret CHOI

CHONG Tin Cho (resigned in December)

Anthony W.K. CHOW

Grace H.W. CHU

Elaine Y.L. HO

IP Shing Hing

Christine M. KOO (resigned in December)

William C.W. LAM

Patrick K.H. LAM

Ambrose S.K. LAM

Maurice W.M. LEE

Vincent W.S. LIANG

Alexandra D.W. LO (appointed in May)

MA Xiao Hu (resigned in August)

Thomas S.T. SO (resigned in December)

Herbert H.K. TSOI

James K.T. WONG

Christine P.W. WONG

WONG Tak Shing

Tony Y.H. YEN

Secretary: Assistant Director, External Affairs

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The Community Relations Committee was responsible for fostering relations between The Law Society and various organizations in the local community with a view to enhance the corporate image of The Law Society and promote pro bono services provided by solicitors. Under the guidance of the Standing Committee on External Affairs, all activities coordinated by the Committee in 2008 were implemented smoothly and successfully with the concerted effort of its members.



Members of the Community Relations Committee



Discussion on community projects

The Standing Committee on External Affairs

During the year under review, the Community Relations Committee took charge of the following activities:

Visit to the Psychiatric Ward in Queen Mary Hospital

After visiting Hong Kong Jockey Club Drug InfoCentre in 2007, participants found the visit to be an enriching experience affording them the opportunity to understand the needs of clients addicted to drugs. Taking into account members' interest in reaching out to different groups of potential clients and the fact that members often ran into clients with mental problems, the Community Relations Committee organized a visit to the Psychiatric Ward in Queen Mary Hospital on 16 January to acquaint members with the specific needs of mental patients. A total of eleven Law Society members attended the visit. The tour visit was guided by Dr. Josephine Wong.

Internship Scheme for Form 5 students in Yuen Long and Tin Shui Wai

At the invitation of the Hong Kong Coalition of Professional Services, the Community Relations Committee invited law firms to provide a two-week internship for Form 5 students attending secondary schools in the Yuen Long and Tin Shui Wai districts. The internship programme echoed the call for public's assistance to provide career training to the deprived students in the districts cited. In response, 17 law firms offered places for 24 students who undertook a two-week internship at the firms and each received an allowance of HK\$100 per workday. An evaluation meeting was held at the end of the two-week programme and participating students shared their internship experience on that occasion. The Chairman of the Community Relations Committee Ms. Melissa Pang was in attendance.

"Legal Mail Box" Column in Sing Tao Daily

The 'Legal Mail Box' Column published in Sing Tao Daily on a weekly basis was a joint project between the newspaper and The Law Society launched since 2006. In 2008, a total of 44 articles were published in the Column every Monday of the week throughout the year. Topics of the articles covered intellectual property, human right, anti-money laundering, property, wills and probate issues, divorce cases, employment law, anti-drugs and other legal matters of public concern. Below is a list of members who had contributed articles to the Column during the year:

Francis Man Bun AU YEUNG

Nicholas Hiu Fung CHAN

Isabella Wan Ha CHAN

Kenneth Yuen Hang CHAN

Kwan Yu CHENG

Dora Wai Man CHOW

Shirley Siu Ling CHUA

Shing Hing IP

Chloe Yeuk Fu LEE

Wing Hung LUK

Hon Ming MAK

Hoi Fung NG

Melissa K. PANG

Cecilia Grace WONG

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Community Talks

29 solicitor members delivered a total of 46 talks for government departments and non-profit making organizations such as Hong Kong Housing Society, District Offices, Labour Department, and Christian Family Service Centre Jockey Club Youth Leap. A wide range of legal subjects were covered and the most common topics are divorce, building management and formation of owners corporations. The following is a list of members who had volunteered service as speakers:

Ka Hay CHAN

Serina Kit Sum CHAN

Kwok Hung CHAN

Francis Wing Kei CHAN

Isabella Wan Ha CHAN

Sai Tak CHANG

Eleanor Sin Yu CHENG

Hoi Shan CHIU

Pui Lam CHUNG

Bruce Chi Kai FU

Lillian Lai Ngan HO

Stephen Wan Shun HUNG

Chung Yau KONG

Doreen Yuk Foon KONG

Anthony Wai Ming KWAN

Kin Hung LAM

Yau Han LAM

Elsa Pik Han LAW

Yan Wing LEUNG

Ismail Shiu Wah MA

Ka Wing MAK

Ludwig Siu Wing NG

Abby Chui Yi SIN

Kin Wing TANG

Ricky Wai Ki TSE

Cecilia Grace WONG

Kelvin Wai Man WONG

Kee Cheong YAM

Clara Mei Sze YIP

Law and the e-New Generation

For the 2008-09 academic year, a total of 50 secondary schools signed up for the 'Law and the New Generation – Talk Series' and 20 solicitors had participated as voluntary speakers. The following is a list of the speakers:

Kenneth CHAN

Raymond Kwok Man CHAN

Maggie Man Ki CHAN

Zoe So Yuen CHAN

Sai Tak CHANG

Lily See Mun CHANG

Queenie CHENG

Benny Tsz Leung CHENG

Dora Wai Man CHOW

Lillian Lai Ngan HO

Lai Kwan HUNG

Anthony Ho Kong LAM

Kiu Yan LAM

Francis Chak Yan LI

Asha Rani SHARMA

Choi Ho SUEN

Kwok Kwong TANG

Yuen Ting TANG

Kwong Man WONG

Phoebe Oi Ying YUEN

The Standing Committee on External Affairs

Members of the Committee:

Melissa K. PANG (*Chairman*)

Bronco Man Tai BUT

Grace Wai Ching BUT

Isabella Wan Ha CHAN

Serina Kit Sum CHAN

Alexander Yau Hung CHANG

Charles Chi Chung CHAU

IP Shing Hing

Anthony Wai Ming KWAN

Alexander Hong Shun LEUNG

MAK Hon Ming

MAN Kwok Leung

Patricia WIJAYA

Secretary: Assistant Director, External Affairs



External Affairs Department