

COUNCIL'S REPORT



The Council has pleasure in submitting its annual report together with the audited accounts for the year ended 31 December 2009.

Principal place of business

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

Accounts

The results of the Society’s operations for the year ended 31 December 2009 and the state of the Society’s affairs at that date are set out in the accounts on pages 148 to 170.

Membership

At 31 December 2009 there were 7,507 (2008: 7,035) members of the Society. The total number of Practising Certificates issued was 6,465 (2008: 6,204). There were 738 (2008: 712) firms of solicitors.

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Fixed assets

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

Donations

Donations by the Society during the year amounted to HK\$3,018,600 (2008: HK\$4,150,000) which represent donations to The Hong Kong Academy of Law Limited of HK\$3,000,000, Chi Lin Nunnery of HK\$3,000, the agency for Volunteer Service of HK\$9,600 and The Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education of HK\$6,000

Auditors

KPMG retire and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-appointment. A resolution for the re-appointment of KPMG as auditors of the 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, Hang Seng Bank, Standard Chartered Bank Limited, Wing Lung Bank Limited and Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited.

Council Members

In accordance with article 15(a) of the 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.

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At no time during the year was the 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 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 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
Huen Wong, President	28	6	34
Junius K.Y. Ho, Vice-President	24	5	29
Dieter Yih, Vice-President	25	5	30
Lester G. Huang	25	4	29
Peter C.L. Lo	27	3	30
Michael J. Lintern-Smith (Re-elected on 21 May 2009)	22	4	26
Ip Shing Hing	25	5	30
Billy W.Y. Ma	25	5	30
Sylvia W.Y. Siu	23	4	27
Cecilia K.W. Wong (Re-elected on 21 May 2009)	25	5	30
Alex T.H. Lai (Resigned on 10 March 2010)	28	6	34
Kenneth S.Y. Ng (Re-elected on 21 May 2009)	23	2	25
Stephen W.S. Hung (Re-elected on 21 May 2009)	30	6	36
Ambrose S.K. Lam	23	4	27
Joseph C.W. Li	25	5	30
Amirali B. Nasir (Re-elected on 21 May 2009)	25	6	31
Melissa K. Pang	24	4	28
Thomas S.T. So	29	2	31
Angela W.Y. Lee	29	5	34
Brian W. Gilchrist (Co-opted on 6 January 2009 and elected on 21 May 2009)	23	3	26
Gavin P. Nesbitt (Co-opted on 23 March 2010)	1	0	1

By order of the Council

Huen Wong

President

13 April 2010