

STANDING COMMITTEE ON POLICY AND RESOURCES

The Standing Committee on Policy and Resources is responsible for formulating policy and overseeing the finance and administration of The Law Society. Matters of policy and finance are discussed by the Standing Committee; and in appropriate cases, submitted to the Council with recommendations of the Standing Committee.

During the year, the Standing Committee met 12 times to review policy strategies to consider and monitor the annual budget, income and expenditure; to recommend to the Council on the revision of the practising certificate fee for solicitors and the annual registration fee for foreign lawyers and on the waiver of membership subscription; to consider and adopt a statement of diversity and inclusion principles in the employment policy and to introduce a policy on staff retirement; and to consider and review recruitments and other staff matters.

Members of the Standing Committee and their attendance at meetings during the year (in brackets):

Huen WONG (<i>Chairman from June</i>)	(12/12)	Alex T.H. LAI	(12/12)
Junius K.Y. HO	(6/12)	Michael J. LINTERN-SMITH (<i>retired in June</i>)	(1/5)
Raymond C.K. HO	(11/12)	Peter C.L. LO (<i>retired in June</i>)	(4/5)
Lester G. HUANG (<i>Chairman up to May</i>)	(8/12)	Billy W.Y. MA (<i>retired in June</i>)	(5/5)
Stephen W.S. HUNG (<i>appointed in June</i>)	(5/7)	Thomas S.T. SO	(8/12)
IP Shing Hing	(11/12)	Dieter YIH	(10/12)

Secretary : Director of Finance and Administration

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ANNUAL COCKTAIL RECEPTION

Over 350 members and guests attended the Annual Cocktail Reception held on 16 November at the Hong Kong Club. The Chief Justice and the Secretary for Justice were the Guests of Honour.



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HONOURS COMMITTEE

The Honours Committee was re-constituted after the former members had completed their terms of appointment on 31 December. The Committee makes recommendations to the Council on admissions to the Roll of Honour and election as honorary members of The Law Society.

Members of the Committee:

IP Shing Hing (*Chairman*)

Anson K.C. KAN

Ambrose S.K. LAM

Secretary : Secretary General

Michael J. LINTERN-SMITH

Paul C.Y. TAN

WORKING PARTY ON CEPA

The Working Party met representatives of the Ministry of Justice in early 2009 and discussed The Law Society's proposal for the introduction of further liberalisation measures in legal services under CEPA in Guangdong. It reviewed the new measures relaxing the rules governing associations in Guangdong; and the lifting of the requirement for one year's internship for practitioners with not less than 5 years' experience in legal practice that were implemented on 1 October.

Members of the Working Party:

IP Shing Hing (*Chairman*)

Anthony W.K. CHOW

Junius K.Y. HO

Secretary : Secretary General

Lester G. HUANG

Huen WONG

ZHU Xuanfeng

WORKING PARTY ON INCORPORATION OF SOLICITORS' PRACTICES

The Working Party monitored the work progress of the draft Solicitor Corporation Rules and the draft consequential amendments to the *Solicitors (Professional Indemnity) Rules* for submission to the Chief Justice for approval.

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Members of the Working Party:

Junius K.Y. HO (*Chairman*)

Christopher E.M. LAMBERT

Fred K.C. KAN

Cecilia K.W. WONG

Secretary : Secretary General

WORKING PARTY ON THE LAW SOCIETY IT SYSTEMS

The Working Party was set up by the Standing Committee on Policy and Recourses to oversee a revamp of the membership database system and website system of The Law Society and to make recommendations to the Standing Committee. In 2009, the Working Party reviewed the Request for Proposal (“ROP”) for the system analysis and design, system implementation and integration and system maintenance and support services of The Law Society membership database system and website system; shortlisted the vendors for the ROP; considered the proposals received; and made a recommendation to the Standing Committee on the selection of vendor for appointment to undertake the redevelopment of these IT systems of The Law Society.

Members of the Working Party:

Dieter YIH (*Chairman*)

William W.S. LAM

IP Shing Hing

Andrew S.K. LAW

Secretary: Director of Finance & Administration

WORKING PARTY ON OFFICE PREMISES

The Working Party was established to review and consider the office space requirements of The Law Society and to make recommendations to the Council. In 2009, it met three times and appointed Jones Lang LaSalle to provide a comprehensive report of the commercial market situation and advice on the best options for consideration by The Law Society to meet the current and future office space requirements.

Members of the Working Party:

Junius K.Y. HO (*Chairman*)

Kenneth S.Y. NG

Lester G. HUANG

Melissa K. PANG

Ambrose S.K. LAM

Huen WONG

Angela W.Y. LEE

Dieter YIH

Joseph C.W. LI

Secretary: Secretary General

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THE LAW SOCIETY OF HONG KONG EDUCATIONAL TRUST

The *Law Society of Hong Kong Educational Trust* (the “Trust”) provides financial support to residents of Hong Kong for furthering their legal education; and for training courses, seminars and conferences relating to the study of law.

During the year, the Trust sponsored four law students to attend the *Asian Law Students International Conference* from 4 to 8 February in Beijing, China; six solicitors to attend the *International Young Lawyers Forum* from 7 to 10 February in Seoul, Korea; 35 solicitors and 17 trainee solicitors to attend the *16th Commonwealth Law Conference* from 5 to 9 April in Hong Kong; one solicitor to attend the *26th Annual Financial Law Conference* from 13 to 15 May 2009 in Rome, Italy; one solicitor to attend the *International Maritime Law and Practice Course* from 18 to 29 May 2009 in Singapore; and the enrolment by an employee of a law firm for the *Diploma Course in Legal Studies*. The Trust also awarded book prizes to law students of the universities.

The practice previously adopted by The Law Society for the payments of unclaimed balances from clients accounts of law firms to the Trust pursuant to the authorisations given by the Council was discontinued in September when the Trust was in the process of winding down. The balance of unclaimed monies held in the account of the Trust was transferred to a Law Society special account designated for such purpose.

16th COMMONWEALTH LAW CONFERENCE

The *16th Commonwealth Law Conference* was hosted by The Law Society for the second time in Hong Kong since 1983 from 6-9 April. The theme of the conference was *The Dynamics of Law in a Rapidly Changing World* on the topics of constitutional issues, human rights and the rule of law; corporate/commercial issues; the judges, the profession and the community; and contemporary legal issues. In his opening address to officiate the conference, the Hon Chief Justice Andrew Li talked about the strength of diversity of the common law world and the significance of comparative jurisprudence in Hong Kong. Other keynote speakers included Wong Yan Lung SC, the Secretary for Justice of Hong Kong SAR; Lady Justice Mrs. Georgina Theodora Wood, the Chief Justice of the Republic of Ghana; Geoffrey Robertson QC; former Justice of the High Court of Australia, Michael Kirby AC, CMG and the Rt. Hon. The Lord Judge, Chief Justice of England & Wales. More than 670 delegates from the Commonwealth and non-Commonwealth countries and territories attended the conference and the social functions. At the closing ceremony, Huen Wong, chairman of the Organising Committee, handed over the Conference Flag to representatives from the Indian city of Hyderabad where the next Commonwealth Law Conference will be held in 2011.

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Members of the Organising Committee:

Huen WONG (*Chairman*)

John R. BUDGE

Serina CHAN

Selwyn CHAN

Charles CHAU

Conference Secretary: Patrick MOSS

Secretary: Maybo FOK

Stephen W.S. HUNG

Elen LAU

Michael J. LINTERN-SMITH

Melissa K. PANG



Finance and Administration Department