

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 Council with recommendations of the Standing Committee.

During the year, the Standing Committee met 12 times to review policy strategies and to consider and monitor the annual budget, income and expenditure; to recommend to the Council on membership fee, practising certificate fee for solicitors and annual registration fee for foreign lawyers; to consider recruitments and other staff matters including salary review; to consider the chairmanship and membership of various Law Society Committees; to consider the renovation of Law Society clubhouse facilities; to approve the agreement by the Law Society with LexisNexis on Law Society's offsite library access services; to select service providers for various matters including the survey of the current charge out rates of solicitors and to review the civil litigation "party and party taxation rates" and the installation of a new document management system.

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

Huen WONG (<i>Chairman</i>)	(11/12*)	IP Shing Hing	(7/12)
Junius K.Y. HO	(9/12)	Ambrose S.K. LAM (<i>appointed in March</i>)	(7/10)
Raymond C.K. HO	(12/12)	Alex T.H. LAI (<i>resigned in March</i>)	(2/2)
Lester G. HUANG (<i>resigned in December</i>)	(8/12)	Thomas S.T. SO	(9/12)
Stephen W.S. HUNG	(10/12)	Dieter YIH	(7/12)

Secretary: Director of Finance and Administration

* *The Chairman was on official duty of the Law Society and could not chair one of the meetings of the Standing Committee in 2010.*

ANNUAL COCKTAIL RECEPTION

Nearly 400 members and guests attended the Annual Cocktail Reception held on 15 November 2010 at The Hong Kong Bankers Club. The Chief Justice and Secretary for Justice were the Guests of Honour.

HONOURS COMMITTEE

The Committee reviewed the criteria for the selection of candidates for nomination to the Roll of Honour and made recommendation to the Council in March 2010 for the admission to the Roll of Honour. Ms. Elsie Leung was admitted to the Roll of Honour by Council on 27 May 2010. The Guidelines adopted by the Committee for the selection of candidates was circulated to the general membership in October 2010.

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 reviewed the current CEPA measures on access to the Mainland legal services market by solicitors and Hong Kong law firms; and made recommendation for new measures for introduction on a trial basis and as pilot scheme in Guangdong, including permitting the representative offices of Hong Kong firms in Guangdong to employ qualified Mainland lawyers and to provide Mainland legal services.

Members of the Working Party:

IP Shing Hing (*Chairman*)
Anthony W.K. CHOW
Junius K.Y. HO
Secretary: Secretary General

Lester G. HUANG (*resigned in December*)
Huen WONG
ZHU Xuanfeng

WORKING PARTY ON INCORPORATION OF SOLICITORS' PRACTICES

The Working Party considered the recommendation of the Professional Indemnity Advisory Committee on the draft consequential amendments to the Solicitors (Professional Indemnity) Rules on the enactment of the Solicitor Corporation Rules before submission to Council for approval. The Working Party reviewed in consultation with the Drafting Division of the Department of Justice the revisions to the draft Solicitor Corporation Rules. In January 2011, Council adopted the recommendation of the Committee and approved the draft Solicitor Corporation Rules. A report was made to the Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services of the Legislative Council.

Members of the Working Party:

Junius K.Y. HO (*Chairman*)
Fred K.C. KAN
Secretary: Secretary General

Christopher E.M. LAMBERT
Cecilia K.W. WONG

WORKING PARTY ON LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIPS (“LLPs”)

The Working Party convened on seven occasions, had four meetings with the Department of Justice (“DOJ”) and attended two meetings with the Bills Committee of the Legislative Council.

The Working Party reviewed drafts of the *Legal Practitioners (Amendment) Bill 2010 (“Bill”)* prepared by DOJ, made submissions commenting on the drafts and suggested revisions.

In May, the Working Party issued a consultation paper to the general membership seeking views on DOJ’s major proposals regarding the LLP framework. The Working Party further conducted a Members’ Forum and had face to face interactive discussions with members on the proposals.

Following the gazette of the *Bill* on 18 June, consultation was made with the Professional Indemnity Advisory Committee on any impact that the introduction of LLPs might have on the *Solicitors (Professional Indemnity) Rules*.

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Further meetings were held with the Department of Justice with a view to resolving differences arising from the provisions in the *Bill*. Two submissions were made to the Bills Committee explaining the Law Society's position on specific issues including the provisions in the *Bill* that related to constructive knowledge and regulation on the distribution of partnership property.

The Working Party continued to work closely with the Department of Justice on the *Bill* with a view to reaching consensus on a piece of mutually acceptable legislation that maintained the right balance of the interests of all stakeholders.

Members of the Working Party:

Joseph C.W. LI (*Chairman*)

David W. HIRSCH

Allan C.Y. LEUNG

Secretary: Deputy Secretary General

Michael J. LINTERN-SMITH

Amirali B. NASIR

Huen WONG

WORKING PARTY ON THE LAW SOCIETY IT SYSTEMS

The Working Party was set up by the Standing Committee on Policy and Resources to oversee the IT systems of The Law Society and to make recommendations to the Standing Committee.

The Working Party reviewed the progress on the development of membership database system and website system of The Law Society in 2010 and made recommendations to the Standing Committee on the procurement of hardware and software for the new systems and the supplemental agreement with the software developer on the project. The Working Party also reviewed proposals for upgrading the existing Document Management System and made recommendation on the appointment of the service provider for the work.

Members of the Working Party:

Dieter YIH (*Chairman*)

IP Shing Hing

Raymond C.K. HO

Secretary: Director of Finance & Administration

William W.S. LAM

Andrew S.K. LAW

THE LAW SOCIETY OF HONG KONG EDUCATIONAL TRUST

The Trust was in the process of winding up. The practice previously adopted by The Law Society for the payments of unclaimed balances from clients accounts of law firms to the Trust was transferred to a Law Society special account designated for such purpose.



Finance & Administration Department