

STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

The Standing Committee on External Affairs oversees the promotion of the objects and overall image of The Law Society, as well as fostering relationship with various sections of the local and international communities and the mass through projects and events. It is also responsible for monitoring public issues that were of concern to the legal profession or of public interest and making recommendations to the Council on whether The Law Society should and how it may address those issues.

Council Member Mr. Stephen Hung stepped down from the Chairmanship of the Standing Committee in July and he was succeeded by Council Member Ms. Melissa Pang. Another Council Member Mr. Joseph Li assumed the position of Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee in the same month.

Members of the Standing Committee On External Affairs and their meeting attendances during the year::

Melissa K. PANG (<i>Chairman from July</i>)	10/10	Frederick K.C. KAN	5/10
Stephen W.S. HUNG (<i>Chairman until June</i>)	10/10	Ambrose S.K. LAM (<i>resigned in May</i>)	4/5
Mr. Joseph C.W. Li (<i>Vice-Chairman from July</i>)	4/5	Kenneth H.S. NG	6/10
Billy W.Y. MA	4/10	Philip W.C. WONG	9/10
CHAN Chak Ming	8/10	Ann M.S. YEUNG	8/10
Nicholas H.F. CHAN	9/10	Henry K.W. YIP	7/10
Charles C.C. CHAU (<i>resigned in May</i>)	1/1	Stephen Reed W.Y. YAP	6/10
Elaine Y.L. HO	6/10		

Secretary: Director of Communications and External Affairs

MAJOR PROJECTS/EVENTS

2011 remained an eventful year for the Standing Committee. Numerous events and activities were organised by the Standing Committee and its Sub-committees in the areas of community relations, government relations, international relations, mainland relations and media relations. Below are the highlights of these events and activities:

Law Week 2011

Under the leadership of the Organising Committee Chairman Mr. Billy Ma, *Law Week 2011* took the form of a half-hour television series broadcasted on TVB Jade Channel at 10:30pm in five consecutive evenings in the week of 12 December. Titled "The Law Society's Law Week: "Know and Observe the Law" (「香港律師會法律周 – 知法守法」), the television series featured panels of solicitors sharing their professional knowledge on laws relating to conveyancing, reverse mortgage, employment, family and personal injury. The first episode of the *Law Week* series also featured the opening ceremony officiated by The Hon Chief Justice Geoffrey Ma, The Hon Secretary for Justice Wong Yan-lung SC, Dr. Hon. Margaret Ng, Director of Legal Aid Mr. William Chan, Vice-Chairman of the Hong Kong Bar Association Mr. Paul Shieh SC, President of The Law Society Mr. Junius Ho, and Chairman of the *Law Week 2011* Organising Committee Mr. Billy Ma.

Presenting *Law Week* on television was not a new experience for The Law Society as similar presentations for promoting *Law Week* activities were staged before. By presenting *Law Week* on television, The Law Society was able to reach out to the mass spreading knowledge of law and solicitor's expertise in particular areas of practice.

Producing a television series is a mammoth task demanding a great deal of time and effort on the part of not just the production team of the television station, but also that of the group of solicitors and volunteers who worked very hard behind the scene conducting research on the topics covered in each episode and preparing for the taping sessions. The television series reached over 1 million viewers throughout the week and made records in the history of *Law Week*. The success of *Law Week 2011* was attributed to the contribution of the Organising Committee, the staunch support of the officiating guests and that of the Council, and also the financial contribution from the Legal Aid Department.



Members of the Law Week 2011 Organising Committee:

Billy W. Y. MA (*Chairman*)
Stephen W. S. HUNG
Melissa K. PANG
Clare S.Y. CHEUNG
Nadine LAI
Alex LAM

Stephanie W. Y. LAU
Arthur Y.W. LAW
Kenneth H. S. NG
SAUW Yim
Philip W. C. WONG
Ann M. S. YEUNG

Secretary: Director of Communications & External Affairs

Teen Talk 2011

Teen Talk 2011 represented The Law Society's effort to address the aspirations of the next generation. Following its success in November 2010 when *Teen Talk* made its debut, the project was repeated for the second time in 2011 providing a platform for secondary school students to think and discuss topics covering legal and morality issues. The project also received a cash sponsorship from the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education.

This year, the event took place on Saturday, 26 November at the Summit Hall of Asia World Expo with around 1,800 students and 212 facilitators participated as against 1,400 students and 200 facilitators in 2010 when *Teen Talk* made its debut. Participants were engaged in group discussions on scenarios depicting issues concerning jurisprudence, intellectual property and family law in three separate video clips. During the group discussions, the students aided by the group facilitators comprised of Law Society members and university law students examined the issues raised in the video clips. Some groups had the opportunity to speak their minds on stage after the discussion.

On the event day, a survey was also conducted with the students aiming at evaluating whether *Teen Talk* has achieved its objectives of enriching youngsters' legal knowledge and educating them on the importance of upholding one's moral standard. The survey result is expected to be released in the first quarter of 2012. Last year, a similar survey was conducted post-event by The Hong Kong Polytechnic University among the 1,400 students who had participated in the "*Teen Talk 2010*". Results of last year's survey were announced at a press conference held on 16 May attended by the then President Mr. Huen Wong, Council Members Mr. Stephen Hung, Ms. Melissa Pang and Chairman of the "*Teen Talk*" project Organising Committee Mr. Fred Kan. The survey findings received substantial coverage in the print and electronic media the next day.



Teen Talk was amongst one of the successful projects organised by The Law Society. Credits should go to members of the Organising Committee for putting together a great and meaningful event, and also the facilitators for volunteering service. The positive outcome of the project has The Law Society decided to organise the project again in 2012.



Members of the Teen Talk 2011 Organising Committee:

Frederick K.C. KAN (*Chairman*)
Kenneth H.S. NG (*Vice-Chairman*)
Sylvia W.Y. SIU
Cecilia K.W. WONG
Melissa K. PANG

Nicholas H.F. CHAN
Cammie K.Y. LEUNG
MAK Hon Ming
Asha SHARMA
Annie P.Y. WONG

Secretary: Assistant Director of Communications and External Affairs

Spring Reception

The annual Spring Reception was held on 16 February at the Peking Garden Restaurant. Over 260 guests including the Deputy Director and members of the Legal Department of the PRC Liaison Office in HKSAR, representatives from the Office of the Commissioner of PRC Foreign Ministry in HKSAR, the Hon Chief Justice Geoffrey Ma, the Hon Secretary for Justice Wong Yan Lung, members of Legislative Council, Heads of various departments of the HKSAR Government, as well as representatives from other professional bodies and members of The Law Society attended the reception.



Ceremonial Opening of the Legal Year

Over 50 delegates from 13 different jurisdictions attended the Ceremonial Opening of Legal Year 2011 in Hong Kong. Leaders from law societies and bar associations from Australia, Czech Republic, England & Wales, France (Paris), Germany (Berlin), Japan, Korea, Macau, Mainland China, Malaysia, Singapore, Taipei and the United States joined members of the Hong Kong legal profession in the audience at the City Hall on 10 January.

After breakfast at the newly renovated Law Society Clubhouse, the chief delegates attended the Presidents' Roundtable at which stimulating ideas on the latest development on competition law, Hong Kong as a gateway for Chinese outbound investments and collaboration of lawyers' associations worldwide were exchanged.

To extend hospitality to our overseas guests, The Law Society and Hong Kong Bar Association jointly hosted a lunch and a dinner for them. This allowed the delegates to network with each other in less formal settings. The Hon Chief Justice Geoffrey Ma and the Secretary for Justice Wong Yan-lung were the Honourable Guests at the dinner reception.



The Law Society also provided a special half-day programme for spouses and accompanying persons in the morning of 10 January. The programme kicked off with a cooking class during which the participants prepared a beef dish in Chinese style.

The next stop of the spouse programme was the Lan Lin Garden, a scenic garden known for its Chinese landscaping, fascinating stone scriptures from Mainland China, and many species of trees that are more than thousand years old. The half-day programme ended with a sumptuous vegetarian meal.

On this auspicious occasion, The Law Society entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Taipei Bar Association on 11 January. The signing of the MOU brought the two professional bodies closer despite the distance between them across the Strait. It also set a milestone in the history of The Law Society in breaking new grounds in fostering relationship between lawyers from the two cities.

Signing of Memorandum of Understanding with Bar Associations and Law Societies

In addition to signing Memorandum of Understanding with the Taipei Bar Association, The Law Society has also signed Memorandum of Understanding with the following overseas bar associations and law society during the year under review:

- Korean Bar Association
- Queensland Law Society
- Croatian Bar Association

Proposals for signing MOU with The Frankfurt Chamber of Lawyers and the Bar Council of England and Wales were also discussed among the parties concerned, and the proposals would likely be materialised once the parties agreed on suitable dates for the signing ceremony.



Fostering Relationship with Lawyers from Taiwan

In 2011, The Law Society stepped up effort in fostering relationship with lawyers from Taipei and Kaohsiung. The former was invited to participate in the Ceremonial Opening of the Legal Year in January when the two parties also took the opportunity to sign a Cooperation Agreement to formalise friendship. A delegation from the Kaohsiung Bar Association (“KBA”) visited The Law Society on 26 July, and they were warmly greeted by President Junius Ho, Hon. Member of The Law Society Ms. Elsie Leung and Secretary General of The Law Society Ms. Heidi Chu.

At the meeting with the Taipei and KBA, information on the organisation structures and the legal systems in Taiwan and Hong Kong was exchanged. The visits laid the foundation for a closer relationship between the parties concerned.



Fostering Relations with Government Agencies, Political Parties and Other Professional Bodies

The Law Society maintained good relationship with government offices and related organizations in both formal and informal manners such as through organising seminars, forums, courtesy visits, luncheons and dinners.

The Law Society also worked closely with various Government agencies in special projects and events such as assisting the Judiciary in coordinating participation by overseas delegates in the Ceremonial Opening of the Legal Year; road show hosted by the Department of Justice in promoting Hong Kong legal services in the mainland; and publicising legal aid services with the Legal Aid Department during Law Week.



The Law Society is always supportive of the work of the HKSAR Government by nominating members to serve on different public committees and statutory bodies, or acting as a supporting organisation for special projects initiated by the Government such as the “Family Friendly Employers’ Award Scheme” launched by the Home Affairs Department, and the “Path Builders” Mentorship Programme initiated by the Task Force on Youth Drug Abuse.

The President of The Law Society also participated in business missions organised by the HKSAR Government or the Hong Kong Trade Development Council promoting Hong Kong as an international financial and legal hub to the business communities in overseas markets.

As a member of the Hong Kong Coalition of Professional Services (“The Coalition”), The Law Society maintained regular contacts with other professional bodies and supported their activities. Former President Huen Wong represented The Law Society in the Board of Directors of The Coalition and another past president Ip Shing Hing is the alternate representative.

Members of other professional bodies were also invited to volunteer as mentors under the “Path Builders” Mentorship Programme. These activities greatly enhanced the relationship between The Law Society and other professionals.

Fostering relationship with political parties is part of the responsibilities of the Standing Committee as the task would facilitate the lobbying effort of The Law Society in pursuing matters that are of importance and/or interest to its members at the legislature. During the year under review, courtesy meetings with members of the Democratic Party, the Liberal Party, the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong, the Civic Party and the New People Party were arranged. Members of The Law Society Council and the Standing Committee on External Affairs attended the meetings and exchanged The Law Society's views on some topical issues with the representatives from the political parties.



Media Coverage on Law Society's Activities and Views

In the past year, The Law Society remained responsive to media enquiries on issues or news that were relevant to the legal profession or of public concern. The President was the Chief Spokesperson of The Law Society addressing enquiries from newspaper, radio and television news reporters. In case he is not available, the two Vice Presidents and chairmen of specialist committees concerned would address media enquiries or attend interviews.

The Government's proposed amendment to the *Legislative Council Bill 2011* had been a topical issue in Hong Kong during the year under review. The issue has attracted much attention from the media and in response to requests for comments, President Junius Ho accompanied by the two Vice Presidents, Dieter Yih and Ambrose Lam hosted a press conference stating The Law Society's position on the matter. Substantial coverage on the press conference was published the next day.



The security arrangement for China's Vice Premier Li Keqiang's visit to Hong Kong had also made headlines and as a result, The Law Society was in demand for comments on the subject. Comments by President Junius Ho were quoted in several reports.

In addition, The Law Society had also issued the following press releases in 2011:

- A press release on The Law Society's responses towards *Legislative Council (Amendment) Bill 2011*;
- A joint statement with the Hong Kong Bar Association on the public statements and discussions concerning applications for judicial review of administrative decisions and actions;
- A press release on The Law Society's responses towards the signing of a Co-operative Arrangement on Legal Matters Between The People's Government of the Shenzhen Municipality and the Department of Justice of the HKSAR;
- A press release on a survey report on Hong Kong law firms' business development in the Pearl River Delta;
- A press release on Competition Law experts sharing their experience at the UIA "Competition Law Seminar" held in Hong Kong;
- A press release on the signing of a Cooperation Agreement between The Law Society of Hong Kong and Taipei Bar Association;
- A press release on the election of the new Law Society Council at its Annual General Meeting;
- A press release on Teen Talk 2011;
- A press release on the survey result on the Ethical Standards and Prosocial Behavior of Young People conducted as a part of Teen Talk activities;
- A press release on the "Mental Health Forum" organised by The Law Society under its "Solicitors' Care and Share" Programme;
- A press release on the launch of Phase III of The Law Society's "Path Builder" Mentorship Programme;
- A press release on the closing of the Phase II of The Law Society's "Path Builder" Mentorship Programme;
- A press release on The Law Society's first Pro Bono Exhibition.

To keep the Council informed of the latest news related to the legal profession and issues that were public interest, The Law Society Secretariat monitored news reports and prepared news alerts on a daily basis.

To enhance relations and promote the image of The Law Society, media luncheons with President and Council Members were also arranged on a regular basis.



Media Training Workshop for Council Members

From time to time, Law Society Council Members especially the President and the two Vice-presidents have to deal with media inquiries and attend media interviews. It is important that they understand how media works and are able to master the skill of dealing with the media in order to deliver the desired messages to the public on the activities of The Law Society or issues that were of concern to the legal profession. On 24 September, a media training workshop was organised for Council Members. Veteran journalist and the host of ATV's current affairs programme "Newslines" Mr. Michael Chugani was the key trainer who shed lights on the Do's and Don'ts in attending media interviews or addressing media enquiries. There were also role plays in which Council Members were tested on their skills in handling one-to-one interviews on camera and in conducting press briefings.

New Law Society Corporate Video

The last corporate video profiling The Law Society and its work was produced in 2003 and required updating. The Standing Committee undertook the task of producing a new corporate video to cover the latest status of The Law Society and its activities. The 12-minute video carried three soundtracks, namely English, Cantonese and Putonghua, and all three versions were uploaded to The Law Society website in May accessible by the public and members of The Law Society.

Involvement in Government and Community Activities

Under the coordination of the Standing Committee, The Law Society was involved in many government and community activities, to name just a few:

Family-Friendly Employers Award Scheme

Launched on 7 April, the *Family-Friendly Employers Award Scheme* is a new initiative of the Family Council, an advisory body to the HKSAR Government examining family-related policies and promoting a culture of loving family in the community. The Scheme aimed at raising awareness in the business sector of the importance of family core values, and fostering a pro-family culture and environment; as well as giving recognition to business and firms that demonstrate a family-friendly spirit and encourage them to implement family-friendly employment policies and practices. All companies and firms registered under the *Business Registration Ordinance* or incorporated under the *Companies Ordinance* are eligible to participate in the Scheme.

The Law Society was one of the Supporting Organisations of the Scheme and Council Member Mr. Billy Ma represented The Law Society in the Organising Committee of the Scheme. The Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs Mr. Raymond Young also attended a lunch talk to brief members of The Law Society on the purposes of the Scheme.



Standard Chartered SME Marathon 2011

One of the highlights of the Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon was the SME Marathon Cup on 20 February. Only the head of SMEs or organisations is eligible for participating in the run and each team was expected to donate or raise a minimum sum of HK\$3,000 for participation. The then President of The Law Society Mr. Huen Wong teamed up with Council Member Ms. Melissa Pang, and a member of the Standing Committee Mr. Kenneth H S Ng in the run. The team finished the run well ahead of the stipulated time and emerged as the first runner-up in the race.



The Law Society, represented by Council Member Ms. Melissa Pang, was a member of the Hong Kong Council of Volunteering ("HKCOV") and has been actively supporting the mission of HKCOV in promoting volunteerism among professional bodies and the community at large.

The Law Society also supported the annual Caring Company Scheme organised by the Hong Kong Council of Social Services and was awarded as a Caring Organisation with the nomination of the Agency of Voluntary Services. To fully discharge its responsibilities, the Standing Committee could not have completed all tasks without the support of its three Sub-committees, namely the Community Relations Committee, the Mainland Legal Affairs Committee and the International Legal Affairs Committee. These Sub-committees assisted the Standing Committee in fostering relations with different sections of the local community, parties in the mainland and the international community through projects and courtesy visits. Below are the activities carried out by these three Sub-committees in 2011 under the supervision of the Standing Committee:

THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Since the launch of the “Solicitors Care and Share” Programme in 2009, a series of activities has been organised for children, youths and the elderly by members of the Community Relations Committee (“CRC”).

Members of the Community Relations Committee:

Philip W.C. WONG (*Chairman*)
MAK Hon-ming (*Vice-Chairman*)
IP Shing Hing (*resigned in February*)
Melissa K PANG
Nicholas H.F. CHAN
Isabella W.H. CHAN
Serina K.S. CHAN
Charles C.C. CHAU (*resigned in February*)
Eric. C.H. HEUNG
Doreen Y.F. KONG (*joined in April*)
Anthony KWAN (*resigned in February*)
Nadine LAI (*joined in April*)

Alexander LEUNG (*resigned in February*)
Man Kwok LEUNG (*resigned in February*)
Cecilia G. WONG
James K.T. WONG (*joined in April*)
Nathan S.K. WONG (*joined in April*)
Patricia WIJAYA
Judy W.C. YAM (*joined in April*)
Victor C.K. YAU (*joined in March*)
Sauw YIM
Ann M.S. YEUNG
Peter K.C. YIP

Secretary: Assistant Director of Communications and External Affairs

Below are highlights of activities coordinated by CRC in 2010:

“Path Builders” Mentorship Programme

This is a flagship programme of The Law Society illustrating solicitors’ care for the well being of the next generation. 22 January marked the conclusion of Phase II of the “*Path Builder*” Mentorship Programme (“*Programme*”) launched by Law Society back in 2009 in support of the Government’s actions against youth drug abuse. The wrap-up ceremony was held in a cold and windy Sunday at the Noah’s Ark Theme Park on that day, but the presence of the Deputy Secretary for Security Mr. Simon Lai and Vice-president of The Law Society Mr. Dieter Yih, mentors and mentees brought warmth on the otherwise freezing day. Over 200 students from 27 schools in the Yuen Long and North District secondary schools, and 111 mentors comprising solicitors, trainee solicitors and members of other professional bodies had participated in Phase II of the *Programme*.

Following the closure of Phase II of the *Programme*, the curtain of Phase III of the *Programme* was unveiled on 14 May. Phase III of the *Programme* is expected to last for a period of twelve months until April 2012. During the period, a one-day tour to the Correctional Services Department and its facilities in Stanley cum visit to the landmarks in the neighbourhood was arranged on 20 August. Another visit to The Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China in the HKSAR, DrugInfo Centre & High Court were also arranged during summer time.



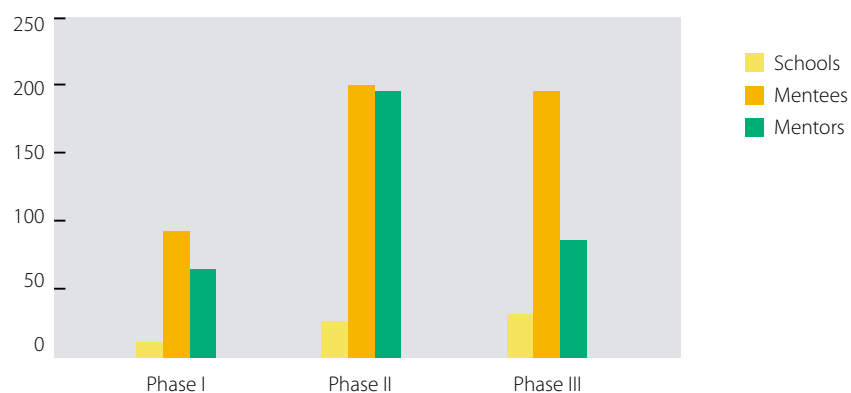
The launching ceremony for Phase III was held at the Po Leung Kuk Pak Tam Chung Holiday Camp where over 200 mentors and mentees gathered to pledge their participation in the *Programme*. Officiating guests include Ms. Sally Wong, the then Commissioner for Narcotics; Mr. Lawrence Hui, Council Member of Hong Kong Bar Association; Ms. Kitty Wong, Council Member of Hong Kong Institute of Planners; Mr. Billy Chan, Co-Chairman of the Community Development Committee of Hong Kong Institute of Architects; Mr. Yuen Man Kam Bernard, Public Relations Officer of Association of Hong Kong Nursing Staff; Principal Tang, Chairman of Yuen Long Districts Secondary Schools Heads Association; Ms. Sylvia Siu, Council Member of The Law Society; Mr. Philip Wong, Chairman of CRC; and Mr. Mak Hon Ming, Chairman of CRC's Working Group of the "Path Builders" *Mentorship Programme*.

Prior to the launching ceremony, CRC Chairman Mr. Philip Wong, Vice-chairman Mr. Mak Hong Ming and member of the "Path Builders" *Mentorship Programme* Working Group Ms. Judy Yam attended a media interview arranged by the Narcotics Division sharing The Law Society's success story in launching the *Programme*.

Apart from the events organised by The Law Society, individual mentors also arranged activities such as watching movies, singing at karaoke and attending volunteer works with their group of mentees.



The following chart summarises the number of schools, mentees and mentors who had participated in Phase I to Phase III of the *Programme*:



Generous support of members of The Law Society signed up as mentors and school Headmasters in nominating students as mentees is much appreciated. Without their unfailing support, The Law Society could not have achieved its mission of educating the young students of the importance of abiding with the laws and staying away from drugs.

Mental Health Forum

This is a new initiative of the CRC to arouse public's awareness on the plights of those suffering from mental health problems and the kind of legal assistance they and their families might access.

On 24 July, a *Mental Health forum* was staged at the shopping mall of Olympus City II. The *Forum* attracted overwhelming response. Over 100 participants comprising members of 15 NGOs and the general public attended the *Forum*. President Junius Ho was the officiating guest and Vice President Ambrose Lam acted as the moderator for the *Forum*. Guest speakers included Dr. Roger M.K Ng, Chief of Service and Consultant Psychiatrist, Department of Psychiatry, Kowloon Hospital; Dr Tsang Fan-kwong (private practitioner); Dr. Sammy Cheng, Chairman, Division of Clinical Psychology, the HK Psychological Society Ltd; Dr. Chang Wing Chung, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry, University of Hong Kong; Mr. Jimmy Chiu, Chief Executive, Stewards and Mr. Cap Chan, a Law Society member.

At the *Forum*, guest speakers exchanged views on the pros and cons of compulsory treatment and addressed the legal issues arising from compulsory treatment. Many participants commented that the *Forum* had greatly enhanced their understanding of issues surrounding mental health and compulsory treatment.

The *Forum* has created some noise in the community resulting in the launch of a series of legal talks for NGOs commencing December covering issues relevant to mental health patients and their families, namely criminal law, estate and probate, laws protecting the rights of patients, legal requirements for Compulsory Treatment and Community Order, matrimonial law and guardianship of children, contract and employment relations.



Legal Mail Box Column in Sing Tao Daily

In 2011, over 50 articles were published on Sing Tao Daily every Monday under the coordination of CRC. At the recommendation of CRC, the column also took on the new title of "Solicitors Say" (法人法語) effective from 5 September.

All articles contributed for the Column were reviewed by a Vetting Group under CRC to ensure factual accuracy prior to publication. To facilitate the networking and exchange of views among article contributors, quarterly gatherings were arranged.

Law and New Generation Programme

This is a regular programme coordinated by the CRC and has been running for eight years since 2003 with an aim to enrich secondary school students' legal knowledge. Law Society members volunteered as speakers for the school talks. In 2011, 13 talks were arranged at schools.

Talks delivered under the "Law and New Generation" Programme consists of three parts. Part 1 is a general introduction of the legal system in Hong Kong followed by a presentation on the specific topic that the schools have indicated interest. Part 3 of the talk is the Q & A session. Schools participating in the "Law and New Generation" programme have indicated interest in various topical legal issues ranging from citizen's legal right to stage demonstration for a cause or matter that is of public interest to laws governing shop-lifting or criminal liabilities in drug-taking or electoral system in Hong Kong.

A "Speaker's Group" comprising a pool of solicitors take turns to delivering talks at schools. Their contribution is significant in terms of educating the younger generation to abide with the law as responsible citizens of Hong Kong. Speakers who have given talks in schools located in remote areas or taking up the speaking commitments on urgent basis deserved special credits for their efforts and time.

In recognition of their contribution, speakers were invited to quarterly gatherings to share their encounters with students at the talks and topics that were of interest to students. The gatherings were also attended by members of the CRC Writer's Group so that the two groups might share experience and offer suggestions on how The Law Society might improve on its community initiatives.



Community Talks

Apart from giving talks at secondary schools, members of the CRC Speakers' Group also delivered talks for NGOs and community centres upon requests. A wide range of legal subjects such as building management issues, formation of owners corporations, criminal law, making of a will and divorce proceedings were covered. During the year under review, 24 talks were arranged.



Delivery of Moon Cakes to the Elderly

To fulfill its role as a Caring Organisation, CRC arranged a moon cake delivery event on 27 August at the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Wong Cho Tong District Elderly Community Center. Fifteen solicitors and their family members delivered moon cakes to more than 60 elderly and spent a joyful afternoon with them.



INTERNATIONAL LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

2011 was a year when Law Society's involvement in international affairs escalated. As the level of international activities and interaction with lawyers from overseas jurisdictions increased significantly, the International Legal Affairs Committee had been busily engaged in planning and implementing projects and activities targeting at different markets around the world.

Members of the International Legal Affairs Committee:

Melissa K PANG (<i>Chairman until June</i>)	GU Jing
Joseph C.W. Li (<i>Chairman from July</i>)	Elaine Y.L. HO
Gavin P. Nesbitt (<i>Vice-chairman from August</i>)	Frederick K.C. KAN
Lester G. HUANG	Alan H. LINNING
Bonita B.Y. CHAN	Kenneth H.S. NG
CHAN Chak Ming	Cynthia Y.S. TANG (<i>joined in June</i>)
Jeckle CHIU	Jean H.C. WONG
Kenneth Y. CHOY	Philip W.C. WONG
Geoffrey S. GREEN	

Secretary: Valerie Cheung, Director of Communications & External Affairs

Business Mission to Berlin and Prague

During the period of 18 and 22 January, a 10-member delegation headed for Berlin and Prague on a business mission in Germany and Czech Republic to promote Hong Kong as an international legal platform for doing business, in particular, cross-border business and investment deals in China and Asia.

With the staunch support of the Hong Kong SAR Economic and Trade Office ("HKETO"), Berlin, the luncheon presentations promoting "Hong Kong as the Preferred Platform for Doing Business in China and the Asian Region" was well-attended by representatives from leading internationally law and audit firms as well as business leaders from banks and technology enterprises in Germany. The presentation has generated encouraging feedbacks from the participants and some companies have expressed interest in partnership and business cooperation with law firms in Hong Kong.

Under the coordination of the HKETO, The Law Society delegation also paid courtesy call to the Directorate-General of Judicial System of the Federal Ministry of Justice, Ms Graf-Schlicker, to update her on the latest development of professional legal services in Hong Kong and to promote the Basic Law under the principle of "One Country, Two Systems". The Law Society delegation also met with members of the German Bar Association and visited a German law firm.

Highlights of the mission in Berlin were covered in a press release issued by the HKETO, Berlin and by the local media. Prague was the second stop of The Law Society's business mission. Upon arrival in Prague in the afternoon of 20 January, The Law Society delegation attended a seminar hosted by the Czech Bar Association where the then President Huen Wong delivered a presentation on the Basic Law of HKSAR and Hong Kong as the platform for doing business in China to the Czech lawyers.

On 21 January, members of The Law Society delegation met with the Deputy Minister of Justice Mgr. František Korbel, PhD. The two parties had a useful exchange on self-regulation of the legal profession in Hong Kong, the role of lawyers in the legislative process in Hong Kong and the Czech Republic, e-justice in the Czech Republic, and organisation of justice in the Czech Republic.

The mission in Prague concluded with the "Lawyer of the Year Gala Evening", an annual event during which members of the legal community in the Czech Republic recognises lawyers who have excelled in their legal practice.



UIA Competition Law Seminar in Hong Kong

Held on 17 and 18 March, the Competition Law Seminar represented the first joint effort between The Law Society and the Union Internationale des Avocats ("UIA") in staging an event in Hong Kong. The seminar attracted close to 80 participants including an impressive line-up of speakers from Europe, PRC and Hong Kong.

The Seminar commenced with welcoming remarks from the then UIA President Pascal Maurer, the then Law Society President Huen Wong and Mr. Benoit Merkt, Vice-president of UIA Competition Law Commission from Switzerland followed by presentations from Mr. Gregory So, the then Under Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development of the HKSAR Government and speakers from Beijing and Poland on competition law in Hong Kong, PRC and Europe. Other speakers including Mr. Simon Berry and Mr. David Cox, members of The Law Society Competition Law Committee as well as speakers from Mainland China, Belgium, London and Austria covered issues on antitrust enforcement, abuse of dominance and market power, merger control and joint ventures.

UIA representatives and members of the Macau Bar Association also visited the Shenzhen Lawyers Association on 19 March.



“Think Asia, Think Hong Kong – London”

“Think Asia, Think Hong Kong – London” was a Hong Kong Trade Development Council initiative aiming to showcase Hong Kong as the ideal place where UK companies could develop their business in preparation of further expansion into the Asian markets, particularly mainland China.

With the support of the HKSAR government offices and over 20 organisations from Hong Kong and UK including The Law Society, the event was successfully staged at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre on 13 September attracting over 1600 participants comprising mainly SME operators, lawyers, accountants and others from the UK, as well as representatives from over 20 partners from Hong Kong and UK.

A 10-member Law Society delegation led by President Junius Ho attended the event with a mission to promote Hong Kong’s competitive edge in providing legal services to UK companies intending to bring their businesses to Asia. At a breakout session, Law Society Council Members Ms Melissa Pang and Mr Gavin Nesbitt acted as panellists and expounded on the “dos and don’ts” when doing business in China and the legal requirements for setting up companies in Hong Kong respectively. Immediate Past President Huen Wong was the moderator of the session.

Participating in the event did not only generate exposure for The Law Society at the thematic session featuring presentations by Law Society speakers, but it also allowed The Law Society to promote services provided by Hong Kong’s legal profession to UK participants at a promotions counter on site. Six Hong Kong firms also set up counters at the event introducing their services to UK participants, namely: Linklaters, Marks & Clerk, Tanner de Witt, P C Woo & Co, Christine M Koo & Ip, W. S. Szeto and Lee, Solicitors. Some of them also joined the second part of the event staged in Leeds.



Launch of an International Webpage in Law Society's Homepage

To follow up on efforts spent in marketing Hong Kong legal services in the international communities, a new "International Desk" webpage was launched in Law Society's Homepage. The new webpage comprised two sections with one section featuring the latest news of the legal profession in Hong Kong, legislation and events updates, and links to websites offering information on how to set up business in Hong Kong and in mainland China through Hong Kong. The other section which is still under construction will feature facts about overseas markets, the legal profession in those markets and information on setting up business in countries in other parts of the world.

Training Programme Jointly Organised with the Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia

To explore business opportunities for members of The Law Society in the Indo-China region, a 10-member delegation of The Law Society visited Cambodia from 19 to 22 July and jointly organised a two-day training programme with the Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia ("BAKC") for around 200 Khmer lawyers. Speakers from both professional bodies covered a wide range of topics ranging from criminal law to legal aid & pro bono services, company law, loan arrangements and securities, the do's and don'ts in buying and selling business, as well as civil law cases.

The trip facilitated professional exchange between members of the two professional bodies, and opened the door to potential business opportunities for Hong Kong law firms. It also resulted in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between BAKC and The Law Society. It might take time to cultivate relationship with our counterparts in Cambodia but the future looks promising.



Participation in International Conferences and Meetings

As the world sets its eyes on China, Hong Kong emerged as the natural agent between the world and China. To capitalise on such a strategic position, The Law Society has become more active in the international legal community by sending delegations to international conferences hosted by the International Bar Association, Union Internationalé des Avocats, Inter-Pacific Bar Association, LawAsia, Commonwealth Lawyers Association, American Bar Association and All China Lawyers Association.

Through participation in these conferences, members of The Law Society served as "ambassadors" to introduce the strength of Hong Kong legal profession to their overseas peers and businesses who are interested in heading East to China and intended to use Hong Kong as the platform to doing business in the mainland. Some Law Society delegates also acted as speakers at the conferences promoting Hong Kong lawyers' expertise in handling cross jurisdictional projects and transactions.

International conferences also constituted a superb vehicle for nurturing young members of The Law Society who needed international exposure and a broader knowledge on international legal practices. For the year of 2011, The Law Society has sponsored eleven young lawyers for attending conferences organised by five international legal organisations and one by the All China Lawyers Association. Amidst the threat of radiation contamination resulting from the earthquake in Japan, the two young lawyers who were offered sponsorship to attend the IPBA annual conference in Osaka, Japan withdrew attendance.

Apart from attending international conferences, the President and Vice-Presidents of The Law Society from time to time attended other activities or meetings hosted by various overseas bar associations/law societies, and related organisations, namely:

- Opening of the Legal Year in England, Singapore and Malaysia in January;
- 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Israel Bar Association in Jerusalem in February;
- Meeting with the President and members of the Bar Council of England and Wales and members of the UK Solicitors Regulatory Authority in England in April;
- World Bar Leaders Conference in Madrid, Spain in May;
- Annual meeting of the Presidents of Lawyers Association in Asia in June in Taipei;
- Greater China Arbitration Forum held in Macau in September;
- Meeting with members of the International Committee of the Japan Federation of Bar Associations during the IBA Dubai conference in October;
- Hong Kong High Level Business Mission to South Africa led by Mr. John Tsang, the Financial Secretary of the HKSAR Government from 4 – 11 December.





Overseas Visitors

Throughout the year, members of the Council and its Standing Committee on External Affairs received groups of overseas visitors as follows:

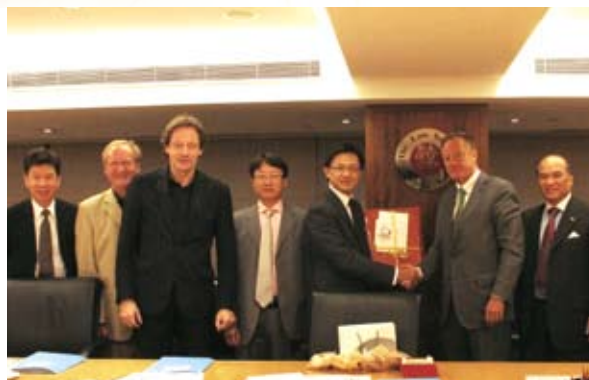
On 12 April, Ms. Chantal-Aimée Doerries QC, Chairman of the International Committee of the Bar Council of England & Wales paid a courtesy call to The Law Society. She was greeted by Council Members Ms. Melissa Pang and Mr. Gavin Nesbitt; both are also members of the International Legal Affairs Committee, and Ms. Heidi Chu, the Secretary General of The Law Society. Representing the International Committee of the Bar Council, Ms. Doerries discussed how the Bar Council and The Law Society may foster closer relationship and work in areas of mutual interest. The two parties exchanged ideas on possible cooperation in organising networking activities at international conferences and training programmes for young lawyers from the two jurisdictions.

On 1 April, a delegation from the National Judicial Academy (“NJA”) of Nepal visited The Law Society. The NJA is a statutory body mandated to conduct training and other programmes for the capacity building of judges, government attorneys and private legal practitioners. The visitors were briefed on the training activities and programme offered by The Law Society by the then President Huen Wong and the Secretary General, Ms. Heidi Chu.

On 16 May, Ms. Caroline Counsel, President of the Law Institute of Victoria, Australia (“LIV”) paid a courtesy call to The Law Society. The then President Huen Wong, Vice-Presidents Junius Ho and Dieter Yip, and the Secretary General Ms. Heidi Chu greeted Ms. Counsel. Both parties had a fruitful discussion on how the two legal bodies may foster closer relationship and sharing of information resources. LIV is the first overseas legal organisation with whom The Law Society has signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2009 to foster professional exchange between lawyers from the State of Victoria and Hong Kong.

On 9 August, six students from the Law School of Kyungpook National University, Republic of Korea and their Professor Mr. Lee Dongsik visited The Law Society. The delegation was on a study tour on intellectual property laws in Hong Kong. They were greeted by Council Member Ms. Melissa Pang and a member of the International Legal Affairs Committee Ms. Jing Gu on that occasion.





MAINLAND LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The Mainland Legal Affairs Committee ("MLAC") continued with its work in promoting mutual cooperation and exchanges between Hong Kong solicitors and their Mainland counterparts. In July, Mr. Ambrose Lam was appointed as the Chairman of MLAC succeeding Mr. Junius Ho.

Members of the Mainland Legal Affairs Committee:

Junius K.Y. HO (*Chairman until June*)
Ambrose S.K. LAM (*Chairman from July*)
Emily Y. M. LAM (*Vice-Chairman*)
TSUI Kei Pang (*Vice-Chairman*)
James K.T. WONG (*Vice-Chairman*)
Sylvia W.Y. SIU (*joined in November*)
Stephen W.S. HUNG (*joined in November*)
Hugo S.K. CHAN
Rico W.K. CHAN
Charles C. C. CHAU (*joined in November*)
Neville C.H. CHENG
Margaret CHOI (*resigned in August*)
Anthony W.K. CHOW
Grace H.W. CHU (*resigned in January*)

IP Shing Hing
Carmen W. M. KAN (*joined in November*)
Benny P.T. KONG (*joined in November*)
Patrick K.H. LAM (*resigned in August*)
William C.W. LAM
Maurice W.M. LEE (*resigned in August*)
Brian C.S. LEUNG
Elsie O.S. LEUNG
Alexandra D.W. LO
Derek Y.W. TSANG (*resigned in September*)
Herbert H.K. TSOI (*resigned in August*)
Henry Y.H. WAI (*joined in November*)
Christine P.W. WONG
WONG Tak Shing (*resigned in January*)

Hannah C.L. HA (*joined in November*)
Elaine Y.L. HO (*resigned in August*)

Tony Y.H. YEN
Simon S.M. YEUNG

Secretary: Assistant Director, Communications and External Affairs

Cross Strait Three Regions Young Lawyers Forum

For the first time in the history of The Law Society, young lawyers from 29 provincial and municipal lawyers associations from mainland China, the Taipei Bar Association and KBA gathered in Hong Kong from 18 to 19 November for attending “Cross Strait Three Regions Young Lawyers Forum” hosted by The Law Society in Hong Kong. The main theme of the *Forum* was “The Growth of Capital Markets: Collaborations & Opportunities” with a focus on the Corporate Finance practice in mainland China, Taiwan and Hong Kong. The *Forum* featured an impressive line-up of speakers including Mr. Charles Li, the CEO of Hong Kong Stock Exchange, Mrs. Alexa Lam, Executive Director and Chief Executive of the Securities and Futures Commission, and other seasoned speakers. It was also well attended by 150 young lawyers from the three regions.

The success of the *Forum* was a commendable joint effort of the MLAC and the Young Solicitors’ Group. It has generated publicity in the press and a lot of interest from our counterparts from the mainland and Taiwan who have indicated wish to host the next *Forum* in 2012.





Prospects of the Development of Legal Practice by Hong Kong Law Firms in the Pearl River Delta Region

MLAC has long been studying the prospects of development of Hong Kong law firms in the Pearl River Delta. In 2010, MLAC has commissioned the School of Law of the Sun Yat-Sen University to conduct a research study on the subject and the research report was subsequently published in July offering useful information on the macro environment in the PRD Region and an analysis on the problems pertaining to the operation of Hong Kong law firms in the PRD Region and possible solutions to address the problems.

Bilingual copies of the research report have been circulated to all local and foreign law firms in Hong Kong, all lawyers associations in mainland China, relevant government departments and other organisations for reference. Results of the research study were also announced at a press conference in April. The media coverage has attracted the attention of government officials responsible for formulating policies governing the development of Hong Kong's service industry in the Mainland.

Business Matching Road Shows cum Seminar in PRD region

On 25 March The Law Society and Hong Kong Trade Development Council (“HKTDC”) organised a business matching road show cum seminar in Zhuhai promoting Hong Kong legal services available to mainland enterprises. The road show was the last of a series of road shows hosted by the two parties in major cities in the PRD region debuted in 2010. Matters concerning trademark registration, intellectual property rights, and ways to resolve cross boundary trade disputes were of particular interest to the 130 business representatives from Zhuhai attending the event.



“Smart Hong Kong” Road show in Guangzhou

HKTDC organised the “Smart HK” in Guangzhou Jin Han Exhibition Centre from 12 to 13 May bearing the theme of “Marketing and Management Upgrading”. As a Supporting Organisation of this event, The Law Society set up a booth at the exhibition site promoting Hong Kong’s legal services to the Mainland enterprises. Recent development of cross-border legal services provided by lawyers in Hong Kong for mainland clients and general facts about the legal profession in Hong Kong were introduced to visitors on the spot.

Hong Kong Value-added Legal Services Road Show in Qingdao

From 28 to 30 August, a 14-member delegation of The Law Society set off to Qingdao, Shandong on a mission to explore business opportunities for Hong Kong law firms. The mission was co-organised by The Law Society and HKTDC. More than 200 Qingdao lawyers and business representatives attended a seminar where speakers from The Law Society introduced the capability of Hong Kong lawyers in assisting mainland enterprises to reach out to overseas markets using Hong Kong as the platform. The mainland participants had shown much interest in the speakers' presentations on topics covering Mergers & Acquisitions transaction and dispute resolution in cases involving overseas parties, outbound investments, and laws governing the protection of intellectual property rights in respect of product designs, trademarks and patents.

Throughout the three-day programme, The Law Society delegation also visited the Qingdao Municipal Justice Bureau, the Qingdao Lawyers Association as well as law firms and an enterprise in Qingdao. The road show ended with positive responses from all parties participating in the event.



Participation in Mainland events

Throughout the year, MLAC organised a number of delegations comprising members of The Law Society for participating in various major conferences/events organised by HKTDC as well as different Mainland parties. Below is a list of these conferences/activities:

From 25 to 28 May, MLAC Vice Chairman Ms. Emily Lam and Mr. Wilfred Tsui participated in the Mainland-Hong Kong Services Industry Symposium & Hong Kong Services Industry Delegation to Sichuan, Chengdu organised by HKTDC. Ms. Lam also gave a keynote speech on “The Edge of Hong Kong Legal Services” at one of the plenary sessions held on 27 May.

From 5 to 9 June, MLAC Vice Chairman Mr. James Wong joined the HKTDC Business Mission to Inner-Mongolia and participated at the Roundtable Meeting on the Inner Mongolia-Hong Kong Economic Cooperation at which Mr. Wong highlighted that Hong Kong as a major offshore fund-raising centre for funds to mainland enterprises.

On 18 August, MLAC member Mr. Patrick Lam attended the Straits Law Forum organised by China Law Society in Fuzhou. The theme of this year’s forum is on the protection of intellectual property rights.

Eight members of The Law Society comprising two young lawyers attended the 9th China Lawyers Forum held in Qingdao from 17 to 19 October. President Junius Ho was one of the speakers at the breakout session on international legal affairs. The two young lawyers received sponsorship from The Law Society for attending the Forum and they have shared their experience in the Mainland Column of the *Hong Kong Lawyer* in January 2012.

Professional Services Development Programme for Mainland and Hong Kong lawyers

The Professional Development Programme for Mainland & Hong Kong Legal Profession was one of the major projects coordinated by the MLAC. The *Programme* was partially funded by the Professional Services Development Assistance Scheme (“PSDAS”) administered by the HKSAR Government for the period of 2011/12.

Under the *Programme*, three batches of Mainland lawyers from Sichuan, Tianjin and Hainan completed a 4-week attachment programme in Hong Kong this year. As required under PSDAS, a series of China law seminars featuring the mainland lawyers as speakers were organised in March and October respectively. They shared with members of The Law Society the latest development in legal practices in the Mainland relating to property law, company law, family and marriage law, as well as policy for investing in Western China.

In May 2011, three solicitors from Hong Kong completed a one-week attachment programme in law firms in Beijing whereas another five Hong Kong solicitors were attached to law firms in Shenzhen in December. Another group of Hong Kong solicitors are expected to attend attachment programmes in Guangzhou law firms in April or May 2012.

Seminars on China-related Legal Issues

This year, MLAC organised four seminars with prominent speakers to give updates to members on various Mainland-related topics.

On 15 April, MLAC together with the Academy of Law organised a China Law Seminar featuring eminent judges from the Mainland as speakers. Topics for this seminar included foreign-related civil and commercial trial in the Mainland.

On 19 May, MLAC hosted a lunch seminar featuring Mr. Junius Ho as our speakers to discuss the challenges facing Hong Kong law firms and the prospects on development of law practice by Hong Kong law firms in the Mainland.

On 19 September, a lunch seminar on “China’s Legal System and One Country, Two Systems” presented by Professor Wang Zhenmin, Dean of the School of Law of Tsinghua University was held at The Law Society Clubhouse.

On 31 October, Mr. Yu Ning, the then President of All China Lawyers Association delivered a talk on the latest development of the legal profession in mainland China.



Mainland Visitors

In 2011, The Law Society received many groups of visitors from the mainland including the following parties:

- On 9 June, 17 PRC officials undergoing training under the “Training Scheme in Common Law for Mainland Legal Officials 2010/2011” hosted by the Department of Justice visited The Law Society. President Junius Ho, Immediate Past President Huen Wong, MLAC Vice-Chairman Mr. Wilfred Tsui and two MLAC members Mr. Tony Yen and Ms. Christine Wong greeted the visitors and briefed them on the latest status of the legal profession in Hong Kong.
- On 30 June, Mr Han Dayuen, the Dean of the Law School of the Renmin University of China and his colleagues visited The Law Society. President Junius Ho and two members of the MLAC, namely Mr. Anthony Chow and Mr. James Wong received them.
- On 5 July, members of their Real Estate Committee of the Tianjin Bar Association visited Hong Kong and met with representatives of The Law Society Property Committee and MLAC. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Emily Lam, Chairman of the Property Committee and Vice-chair of the MLAC. The parties concerned had a fruitful exchange at the meeting discussing issues relevant to real estate projects in Hong Kong and in Tianjin.
- On 15 July Mr. Hu Zhong, Vice-President of the China Law Society and his colleagues visited The Law Society and exchanged views on the possibility of co-organising seminars with The Law Society.
- On 28 July Mr. Sun Mianqi, Head of the Nanjing Justice Bureau and Mr. Xue Jimin, President of Nanjing Lawyers Association visited The Law Society to strengthen the ties between the two professional bodies. The Law Society subsequently signed a cooperation agreement with the Nanjing Lawyers Association at a Symposium hosted by Nanjing Municipal People’s Government in Hong Kong on 29 July.
- On 3 August, a delegation of Foshan lawyers led by Mr Lai ZiNing, Head of the Foshan Justice Bureau and Mr Zhou Rongchi, President of the Foshan Lawyers Association visited The Law Society. Matters concerning on-the-job training opportunities for Foshan lawyers in Hong Kong law firms, hyperlinks of list of lawyers list from Hong Kong and Foshan in the website of the two organisations, and referral of mediation cases among Foshan and Hong Kong lawyers were discussed at the meeting.
- On 20 October, 36 Mainland senior judges attending the “4th Advanced Programme for Chinese Senior judges” arranged by the City University of Hong Kong visited The Law Society. President Junius Ho briefed the visitors on the organisation of The Law Society and facts about the legal profession in Hong Kong. Members of The Law Society’s Mainland Interest Group, namely Mr. William Kong and Mr. Victor Yau were also in attendance.
- On 18 November, a delegation from the Changzhou Justice Bureau and Changzhou Lawyers Association visited the Law Society. The two parties also signed a renewed version of the cooperation agreement that was signed in 2004.



“Mainland Column” in *Hong Kong Lawyer*

MLAC coordinated six articles for publication in the “Mainland Column” of Law Society’s official publication *Hong Kong Lawyer* in 2011, namely:

Month

January

Topics of the article

Sharing of Attachment Programme in Shanghai Law Firms by Participating Solicitors

March

Development of Anti-monopoly Legislation and Practice in China

June

Business Development Prospects for Hong Kong Law Firms in the Pearl River Delta Region

July

Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the China-Appointed Attesting Officers system

August

The Inner Mongolia-Hong Kong Economic Cooperation: Prospects for Legal Professional Services

October

The Hong Kong Legal Services Road Show in Qingdao, Shandong

Communications and External Affairs Department

