

The Standing Committee oversees The Law Society's administrative and regulatory functions, these responsibilities having been delegated to it by the Council.

There are 17 members of the Standing Committee, nine of whom are Council Members. The Standing Committee met nine times during the year and considered 136 agenda items (compared to 170 agenda items in 2012).

The Compliance Department (Conduct and Registration Sections) of the Secretariat supports the work of the Standing Committee.

## Members of the Standing Committee and their meeting attendances during the year:

### Members:

Angela W.Y. LEE ( <i>Chair from July</i> )	8/9
Stephen W.S. HUNG ( <i>Chair until July</i> )	6/9
Denis G. BROCK ( <i>Vice-Chair from July</i> )	4/9
Alfred K.H. CHAN	6/9
Charles C.C. CHAU	5/9
LAI Kwok Kwong	1/9
Henson LAM	9/9
Andrew Y.B. LEE	8/9
Jason C.K. LI	7/9
Peter C.L. LO	7/9
Billy W.Y. MA	4/9
Catherine L.M. MUN	7/9
Gavin P. NESBITT	7/9
Kenneth S.Y. NG	3/9
Melissa K. PANG ( <i>joined in August</i> )	1/3
Hanifa RAMJAHN	6/9
Annie P.Y. WONG	8/9

Secretary: Director of Compliance

## Conduct Section

The Conduct Section of the Compliance Department is mainly responsible for investigating allegations of professional misconduct against solicitors, foreign lawyers, trainee solicitors and employees of solicitors and foreign lawyers. In 2013, it handled 834 complaints (976 in 2012), of which 439 complaints (458 in 2012) were lodged or referred by members of the public and government organizations and 67 complaints (68 in 2012) were made by solicitors. 770 files were closed during the year; of the 770 files, 413 were closed without seeking an explanation.

In April, the Conduct Section compiled the 2013 edition of the *Manual on Interventions*. This is a guide on intervention procedures for solicitors' firms appointed on The Law Society's Panel of Intervention Agents.

The Conduct Section also provided extensive comments on the revised draft *Manual on Solicitors' Accounting* for consideration by the Working Party on *Solicitors' Accounts Rules*.

A new Investigation Counsel and a new Monitoring Accountant joined the Conduct Section this year.

# STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMPLIANCE

## Investigation Committees

Investigation Committees are ad-hoc sub-committees of the Standing Committee. Three members of the Standing Committee are appointed to each Investigation Committee to consider reports prepared by the Conduct Section and to adjudicate on complaints.

Investigation Committees may recommend to the Standing Committee to issue letters of good practice, regret, or disapproval (or any other sanction authorised by the Council from time to time), and to submit matters to the Tribunal Convenor of the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal Panel. Reviews of the decisions of the Investigation Committees are conducted by the Standing Committee.

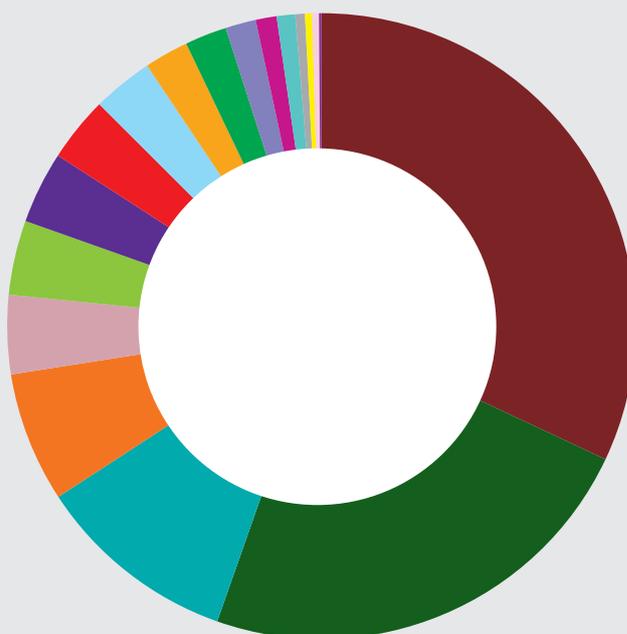
Investigation Committees considered 194 complaints by circulation of 194 agenda. (In 2012, 188 complaints were considered by circulation of 188 agenda.)

The Standing Committee reviewed six decisions of the Investigation Committees and consequently, three decisions were upheld and three were varied. (In 2012, 22 decisions were reviewed, with one new decision resolved, 17 upheld, one varied and three reversed.)

## Determination of Complaints in 2013

Figure 1: Subject matters of complaints

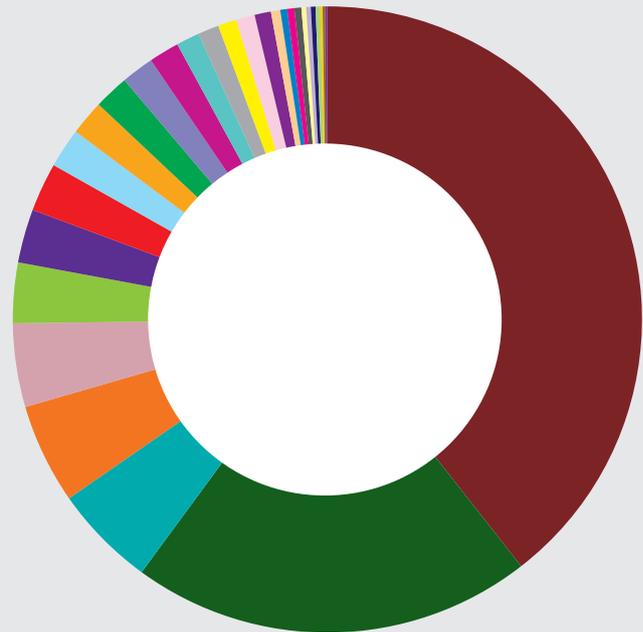
	2013	2012	2011
Administrative/regulatory	32.01%	38.11%	28.91%
Civil litigation	23.38%	18.34%	23.21%
Conveyancing (H.K.)	10.43%	13.52%	14.63%
Matrimonial	6.71%	4.41%	3.32%
Company/commercial	4.08%	1.84%	7.14%
Miscellaneous	3.84%	3.07%	4.25%
Owners'/incorporated owners' disputes	3.72%	2.05%	3.23%
Criminal	3.36%	4.92%	6.46%
Probate	3.12%	2.97%	2.13%
Reports of purported law firms	2.28%	3.59%	2.98%
Court inspections	2.16%	2.46%	1.19%
Bankruptcy	1.56%	0.92%	0.68%
Contract	1.08%	0.82%	0.68%
Landlord & tenant	0.96%	0.92%	0.26%
Media/promotion	0.48%	0.31%	0.09%
Civil Celebrant	0.36%	0.82%	0.17%
Conveyancing (other than H.K.)	0.36%	0.31%	0.17%
Mediation	0.12%	0.10%	—
Inspections	—	0.51%	—
Election	—	—	0.51%



\* The percentages have been calculated to the nearest decimal point. Therefore the aggregation of the percentage may not add up to 100%.

Figure 2: Nature of professional misconduct

	2013	2012	2011
Breach of <i>Conduct Guide</i> Principles	39.45%	32.99%	33.33%
Breach of <i>Solicitors' Practice Rules</i>	20.62%	17.42%	23.89%
Miscellaneous	5.28%	3.69%	4.08%
Breach of <i>Solicitors' Accounts Rules</i>	5.16%	15.16%	5.19%
Breach of <i>Continuing Professional Development Rules</i>	4.32%	1.95%	2.55%
Overcharging	3.12%	2.36%	2.98%
Late submission of Accountant's Reports	2.76%	3.07%	5.95%
Unqualified persons acting or pretending to be a solicitor (ss.45-48 of the LPO)	2.52%	3.59%	3.06%
Circular no. 01-142(COM) (Court attendance form)	2.04%	3.59%	2.30%
Breach of undertaking	1.80%	1.95%	2.89%
Negligence	1.80%	1.33%	1.45%
Breach of <i>Foreign Lawyers Registration Rules</i>	1.68%	2.77%	1.79%
Dishonesty	1.56%	1.33%	0.85%
Delay	1.20%	1.64%	1.87%
Breach of <i>Foreign Lawyers Practice Rules</i>	1.08%	1.13%	0.77%
Inadequate service	0.96%	0.61%	0.68%
Commission taking	0.96%	0.10%	—
Misbehaviour	0.84%	0.72%	1.02%
Failure to reply to letters on behalf of a client or to inquiries from The Law Society	0.48%	0.51%	0.26%
Non-payment of barristers' fees	0.36%	1.02%	0.77%
Breach of <i>Practice Directions</i>	0.36%	0.61%	1.53%
Breach of <i>Solicitors (Professional Indemnity) Rules</i> (r.8)	0.36%	0.61%	1.28%
Conflict of interest	0.24%	0.72%	0.60%
Breach of <i>Solicitors' Practice Promotion Code</i>	0.24%	0.61%	0.17%
Practising without a practising certificate	0.24%	—	0.34%
Breach of <i>Trainee Solicitors Rules</i>	0.24%	—	—
Property fraud	0.12%	0.31%	—
Touting	0.12%	0.10%	0.09%
Offences in relation to foreign lawyers, etc. (s.50B of the LPO)	0.12%	—	0.09%
Breach of <i>Risk Management Education Rules</i>	—	0.10%	0.26%



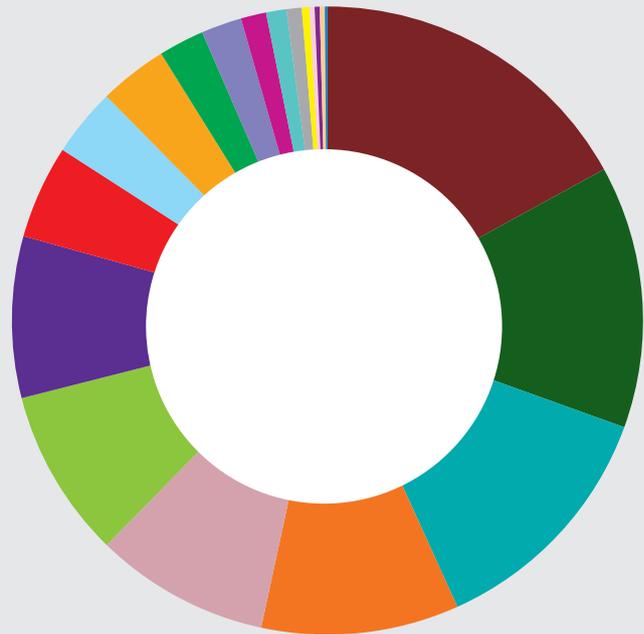
Notes: "Conduct Guide" = Hong Kong Solicitors' Guide to Professional Conduct (Volume 1, 2nd edition)  
 "LPO" = Legal Practitioners Ordinance

\* The percentages have been calculated to the nearest decimal point. Therefore the aggregation of the percentage may not add up to 100%.

# STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMPLIANCE

Figure 3: Analysis of closed files decided by Investigation Committees

	2013	2012	2011
No further action	17.01%	27.98%	16.67%
Referred — Independent legal advice (including District Office)	13.51%	11.06%	9.70%
Letter of regret	12.73%	9.88%	16.14%
Letter of good practice	10.13%	5.19%	6.26%
Unpursuable	8.96%	7.53%	8.99%
Pending	8.70%	6.16%	4.85%
Unsubstantiated/No professional misconduct	8.31%	6.56%	6.17%
Withdrawn	4.81%	4.31%	3.88%
Letter of disapproval	3.51%	8.02%	10.49%
Referred — enforcement agencies	3.51%	3.62%	3.44%
Referred — taxation	2.34%	0.49%	0.88%
Referred — relevant authorities	2.08%	3.72%	4.14%
Strong letter of disapproval	1.30%	—	—
Referred — Tribunal Convenor	1.04%	1.66%	2.65%
Resolved amicably	0.78%	3.13%	4.06%
Circular issued	0.39%	—	—
Referred — other departments of the Society	0.26%	0.39%	1.32%
Referred — Joint Tribunal	0.26%	0.29%	0.09%
Referred — others (including intervention agents)	0.26%	—	0.18%
Summary disposal	0.13%	—	0.09%



\* The percentages have been calculated to the nearest decimal point. Therefore the aggregation of the percentage may not add up to 100%.

## Applications to the Chief Judge under section 9A(2) of the *Legal Practitioners Ordinance* ("the *LPO*")

Under Section 9A(2) of the *LPO*, where a complaint is made to the Council and the Council does not submit a matter to the Tribunal Convenor of the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal Panel ("the Tribunal Convenor") under Section 9A(1) of the *LPO* within 6 months after receiving the complaint, the Chief Judge may, on application by any person or on his own initiative, submit the matter to the Tribunal Convenor if he considers that the Council ought to have done so.

In 2013, The Law Society was notified by the Chief Judge in five matters that upon reviewing the relevant documents, he considered that none of the matters should be submitted to the Tribunal Convenor under Section 9A(2) of the *LPO*.

## Inspections and visits

Under Section 8AA of the *LPO*, the Council is empowered to appoint inspectors to verify compliance with the provisions of the *LPO* or any *Practice Direction* issued by The Law Society, and to determine whether the conduct of those against whom an inspection was made should be inquired into or investigated. Section 8AA of the *LPO* stipulates the powers of an inspector in making such inquiries and investigations.

In 2013, the Council made one resolution under Section 8AA of the *LPO* and one solicitor's firm had been inspected for seven times as a result. In addition, five visits were made by Investigation Counsel to three other law firms.

The Conduct Section conducted further inspections and thereafter investigation against one solicitors' firm following a Council's resolution made under Section 8AA of the *LPO* in 2012. The findings of the investigation led an Investigation Committee to resolve to submit the matter to the Tribunal Convenor.

During the year, three court inspections were conducted by inspectors at magistrates' courts. For these court inspections, the Council appointed inspectors to verify compliance with rule 5D of the *Solicitors' Practice Rules* ("*SPR*") and to monitor the proper completion of court attendance forms.

The Monitoring Accountants paid visits to law firms to provide assistance in their accounting procedures/systems and to inspect their books and accounts to ensure compliance with the rules relating to solicitors' accounting. 83 visits were made to 35 solicitors' firms and foreign law firms; some firms required more than one visit (178 visits to 71 firms in 2012).

## Interventions

The Council's power of intervention is exercised for the protection of the public and occurs when clients' interests are at risk. The powers vested in the Council for the exercise of an intervention under Sections 26A, 26B or 26C of the *LPO* are set out in Schedule 2 to the *LPO*. Through the intervention agents, The Law Society first takes control of the office and clients' monies of the intervened firms and takes possession of the intervened firms' documents. If necessary, The Law Society may commence court applications to implement the Council's resolution to intervene. The intervention agents return documents to clients who have specifically requested their return or forward clients' documents to other firms of solicitors on the instructions of clients. The process of distributing clients' monies of the intervened firms may involve court proceedings and claimants must produce supporting documents to verify their claims. Subject to any Court order for the payment of costs, any costs incurred by the Council in the intervention shall be paid by the solicitor or the foreign lawyer whose practice had been intervened.

The Council appoints a monitoring committee (usually consisting of three Council members) to oversee the progress of each intervention; the Conduct Section and the intervention agent work closely in each intervention.

In 2013, the Council resolved to intervene in the practice of one sole practitioner on the ground that he has abandoned his practice. The Council also resolved to vest in the Council the clients' monies of the practice of a solicitor who immediately before her death was practising as a sole practitioner, and hold the clients' monies on trust to exercise the powers conferred by Schedule 2 to the *LPO* and for the persons beneficially entitled to them.

During the year, The Law Society commenced taxation proceedings for intervention costs as part of the costs recovery procedure against a solicitor whose firm was intervened. In another set of taxation proceedings for intervention costs, the solicitor whose firm was intervened applied for a review of the taxing master's decision.

### Investigation Committee on Disciplinary Matters

The Investigation Committee (Disciplinary Matters) is the only Investigation Committee with a fixed membership drawn from senior members of the Standing Committee on Compliance. The Committee's work includes monitoring the progress of disciplinary proceedings, appeals and court proceedings (including bankruptcy petitions), giving instructions to prosecutors and The Law Society's legal representatives, and authorizing the payments of fees incurred in disciplinary proceedings, appeals and court proceedings.

The Committee considered 133 matters by circulation of 60 agenda. (In 2012, 163 matters were considered by circulation of 63 agenda.)

### Disciplinary proceedings, appeals and summary disposals

The Standing Committee resolved to submit five matters to the Tribunal Convenor concerning the conduct of five solicitors under Section 9A(1) of the *LPO*. In addition, one matter concerning the conduct of one solicitor was resolved to be submitted to the Tribunal Convenor for him to dispose of on a summary basis. In 2013, 10 matters had been submitted to the Tribunal Convenor (six in 2012).

A Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal is a statutory tribunal established by the *LPO*. It is independent of The Law Society which is the prosecuting body. Members of the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal Panel are appointed by the Chief Justice. The Chief Justice also appoints the Tribunal Convenor and the Deputy Tribunal Convenors who have the responsibility to appoint a panel of three or four members to sit as a Tribunal to determine applications, and who have the power to dispose of certain classes of complaint on a summary basis.

Seven disciplinary proceedings were determined by the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunals in 2013 (compared to nine in 2012) which resulted in the following Orders being made:

Respondent	Position	Charge(s)	Penalty	Fine (HK\$)
1	Solicitor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 count of rule 2(a), (c), (d) &amp; (e) of the <i>SPR</i> and Principle 13.02 of the <i>Conduct Guide</i></li> <li>1 count of rule 2(a) &amp; (d) of the <i>SPR</i> and Principle 13.02 of the <i>Conduct Guide</i></li> <li>1 count of rule 2(a) &amp; (d) of the <i>SPR</i></li> <li>1 count of rule 2(a), (c), (d) &amp; (e) of the <i>SPR</i> and Principle 14.02 of the <i>Conduct Guide</i></li> <li>1 count of Principles of 12.04 and 12.05 of the <i>Conduct Guide</i></li> <li>1 count of rule 2(d) of the <i>SPR</i> and Principle 12.05 of the <i>Conduct Guide</i></li> <li>1 count of rule 2(a) &amp; (d) of the <i>SPR</i> and Principle 13.02 of the <i>Conduct Guide</i></li> <li>1 count of Principle 6.04 of the <i>Conduct Guide</i></li> <li>1 count of s.8AA of the <i>LPO</i> and rule 2(a) &amp; (d) of the <i>SPR</i></li> <li>1 count of common law offence of misconduct</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>censured</li> <li>in the event the Respondent is issued with a Practising Certificate, the Respondent shall not, for a period of 12 months, practise as a sole-proprietor or partner of a solicitors' firm but can only practise as an employed solicitor under the supervision of a solicitor who has actively practised in Hong Kong for at least 10 years</li> <li>ordered to pay costs</li> </ul>	985,000
1	Solicitor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 count of s.8AA of the <i>LPO</i> and rule 2(d) &amp; (e) of the <i>SPR</i></li> <li>1 count of rule 2(d) &amp; (e) of the <i>SPR</i></li> <li>1 count of Principle 6.04 of the <i>Conduct Guide</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>censured</li> <li>ordered to pay costs</li> </ul>	70,000
1	Solicitor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>14 counts of rule 4 of the <i>SPR</i> and Principle 4.15 of the <i>Conduct Guide</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>censured</li> <li>ordered to pay costs</li> </ul>	20,000
1	Solicitor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 counts of rule 4 of the <i>SPR</i> and Principles 2.03 and 4.15 of the <i>Conduct Guide</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>censured</li> <li>ordered to pay 50% of the costs</li> </ul>	10,000
1	Solicitor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 counts of rule 4 of the <i>SPR</i> and Principles 2.03 and 4.15 of the <i>Conduct Guide</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>censured</li> <li>ordered to pay 50% of the costs</li> </ul>	10,000
1	Clerk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 counts of disgraceful, dishonourable or discreditable conduct within the meaning of s.2(2) of the <i>LPO</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>prohibited from employment with any solicitors' firm in Hong Kong for 8 years</li> <li>ordered to pay fixed costs of HK\$119,000</li> </ul>	
1	Clerk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 count of disgraceful, dishonourable or discreditable conduct within the meaning of s.2(2) of the <i>LPO</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>prohibited from employment with any solicitor or solicitors' firm or any foreign lawyer or foreign law firm in Hong Kong for 3 years</li> <li>ordered to pay fixed costs of HK\$30,000</li> </ul>	
1	Clerk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 count of disgraceful, dishonourable or discreditable conduct</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>prohibited from employment with any firm of solicitor(s) or foreign lawyer(s) for 2 years</li> <li>ordered to pay fixed costs of HK\$30,000</li> </ul>	

Notes: "LPO" = *Legal Practitioners Ordinance*

"SPR" = *Solicitors' Practice Rules*

"Conduct Guide" = *The Hong Kong Solicitors' Guide to Professional Conduct* (Volume 1, 2nd edition)

Furthermore, the Tribunal Convenor summarily disposed of two matters by making orders requiring each of the two solicitors concerned to pay a total of a fixed fine of HK\$10,000 and fixed costs of HK\$15,000.

In March, the Court of Appeal (“CA”) dismissed a respondent’s application for leave to appeal to the Court of Final Appeal (“CFA”). The respondent then applied to the CFA for leave to appeal against the judgment of the CA. In April, the Acting Registrar issued a Summons requiring the respondent to show cause as to why his application should not be dismissed. In October, the Appeal Committee of the CFA dismissed the respondent’s application for leave to appeal to the CFA on the ground that it disclosed no reasonable grounds for leave to appeal.

### Litigation Proceedings

The Law Society was made the respondent in several litigations the subject matters of which related to the functions of the Compliance Department and the Council; particulars were as follows:

In September, a complainant’s judicial review against The Law Society’s complaint handling procedure was dismissed by the High Court with costs awarded to The Law Society. In October, the complainant filed a notice of appeal to the High Court and applied to vary the costs order nisi.

In October, the joint and several trustees in bankruptcy of a solicitor took out an inter-partes summons against The Law Society to seek discovery of documents filed by the solicitor. In December, the trustees withdrew their court application.

In December, a solicitor took out a writ of summons against The Law Society and others claiming negligence.

In December, a solicitor took out an originating summons against The Law Society under Section 6(9) of the *LPO*.

### Consents Committee

The Consents Committee is a sub-committee of the Standing Committee. Of the 12 members, four are Council members.

The Consents Committee decides on applications made under the *LPO*, its subsidiary legislation and The Law Society’s *Practice Directions* for (i) registration by solicitors; (ii) registration as a (a) trainee solicitor, (b) foreign lawyer and (c) foreign law firm; and (iii) consent and waiver. Reviews of the decisions of the Consents Committee are conducted by the Standing Committee.

The Committee met 20 times during the year and considered 446 items (in 2012, 20 meetings and 521 items). A further 27 matters were dealt with by circulation of three agenda (in 2012, 54 matters by circulation of five agenda).

## Members of the Committee:

### Members:

Melissa K. PANG (*Chair from July*)  
Ambrose S.K. LAM (*Chair from January until June*)  
Kenneth S.Y. NG  
Charles C.C. CHAU (*joined in May*)  
Junius K.Y. HO  
IP Shing Hing  
Raymond M.S. KWOK  
Henry H.W. LAI  
Billy Y.C. LAM  
Henson LAM  
William C.W. LAM  
Billy W.Y. MA (*retired in January*)  
Paul K.Y. NG  
Kelly Y.H. WONG

*Secretary:* Director of Compliance

## Registration Section

The Registration Section of the Compliance Department processes applications and handles applications considered by the Consents Committee.

In mid-year, the Registration Section audited the forms filed by sole practitioners under Rule 5AA of the *SPR*. The review found that some sole practitioners had failed to advise The Law Society about the particulars of the executors of their wills and/or the particulars of the solicitor-managers whom they appointed to manage their practices after their death pending the disposal or cessation of their practices; some sole practitioners had also failed to provide updates of the information they previously filed with The Law Society. The Law Society wrote individually to the above mentioned sole practitioners to remind them about the importance of complying with the provision, and at the end of the year, the sole practitioners have all responded to The Law Society.

As with previous years, in conjunction with the Conduct Section, the Registration Section reviewed, processed and filed the "employees' returns" submitted by all solicitors' firms and foreign law firms in January of each year, and the Notification of Changes to a Practice on firms' particulars submitted by solicitors' firms and foreign law firms throughout the year.

The Registration Section and the Conduct Section continued to participate in The Law Society's redevelopment and restructuring of its membership database and website.

Two new staff members joined the Registration Section to replace two staff members who left at the end of 2013.

# STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMPLIANCE

## Nature of applications

Applications considered by the Consents Committee and those processed by the Registration Section during the year included:

	2013	2012	2011
Admissions	627	508	569
Certificates of eligibility for admission	628	557	454
Practising certificates: English	7,864	7,483	7,149
Chinese	3,387	3,440	3,005
Practising certificates — removal of conditions under s.6(6) LPO (solicitors)	170	197	159
Membership	8,967	8,562	8,448
First registration as a foreign law firm	11	11	11
First registration as a foreign lawyer	336	323	415
Renewal of registration as a foreign lawyer	1,184	1,235	1,136
Removal of conditions on certificates of registration (foreign lawyers)	55	69	56
Registration as an Association	8	13	6
Removal of name from the roll of solicitors	4	9	5
Restoration of name to the roll of solicitors	1	1	1
Admission of English barristers	1	1	1
Qualifications for admission s.4(1A) LPO	175	156	157
Employment of staff: s.53(1) LPO	—	1	—
s.53(3) LPO	2	7	2
Practising certificates — removal of conditions under s.6(6A) LPO	51	65	67
Practising certificates — Special Conditions	25	27	18
Registration of first trainee solicitor contracts	458	562	431
Registration of subsequent trainee solicitor contracts	63	122	61
Special leave to employ trainee solicitors	18	14	9
Other trainee solicitor matters	162	165	180
Law costs draftsmen	1	1	1
Accountant's report — solicitors' firms	810	792	747
Accountant's report — foreign law firms	75	83	74
Firm name and letterhead	14	10	8
Waiver applications — general	*5	*17	*6
Waiver applications — PD	2	8	6
Registration as an associate member	5	5	2
Certificates of standing	507	583	1,652
Letters of no objection <sup>#</sup>	818	815	1,000
Authorised solicitors' clerks	13	35	42

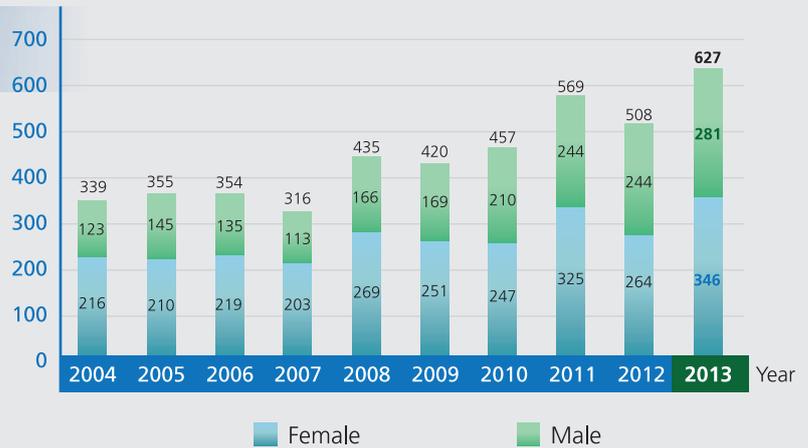
"LPO" = *Legal Practitioners Ordinance*

"PD" = *The Law Society's Practice Directions*

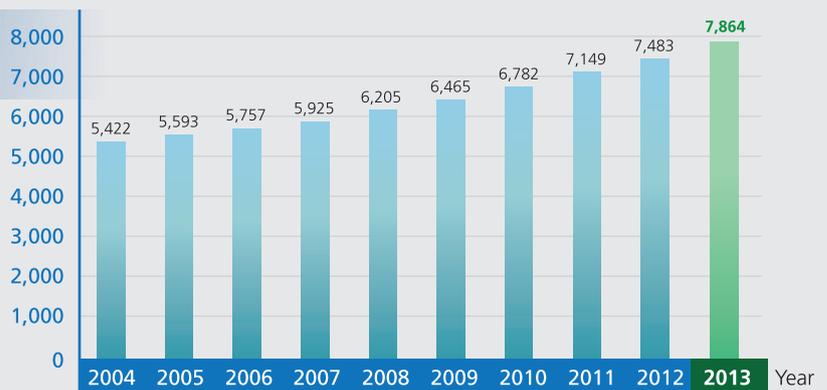
\* Applications were under the *SPR*; the *Accountant's Report Rules*; *Foreign Lawyers Registration Rules*; and *Foreign Lawyers Practice Rules*.

<sup>#</sup> "No objection" letters are issued to applicants for work visas.

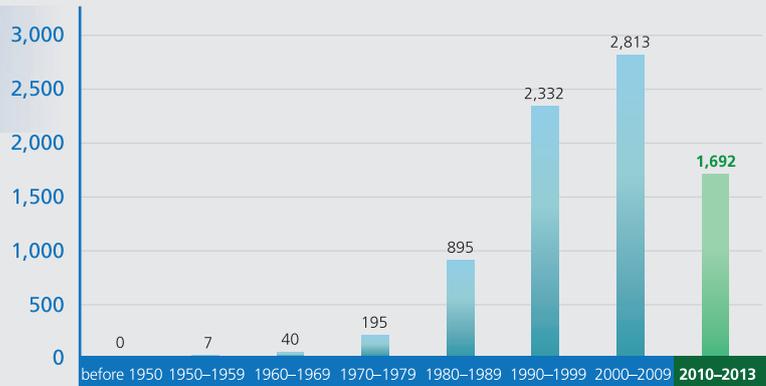
**Figure 4: Admission of solicitors 2004–2013**



**Figure 5: Practising certificates issued 2004–2013**



**Figure 6: Years of admission of solicitors holding a 2013 practising certificate**

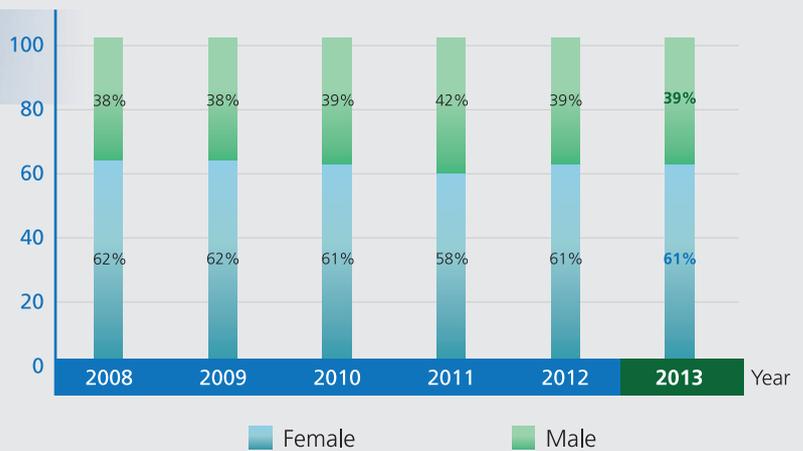


# STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMPLIANCE

**Figure 7a: Gender ratio — Solicitors holding a practising certificate**



**Figure 7b: Gender ratio — Trainee solicitors**



**Figure 7c: Gender ratio — Partners**

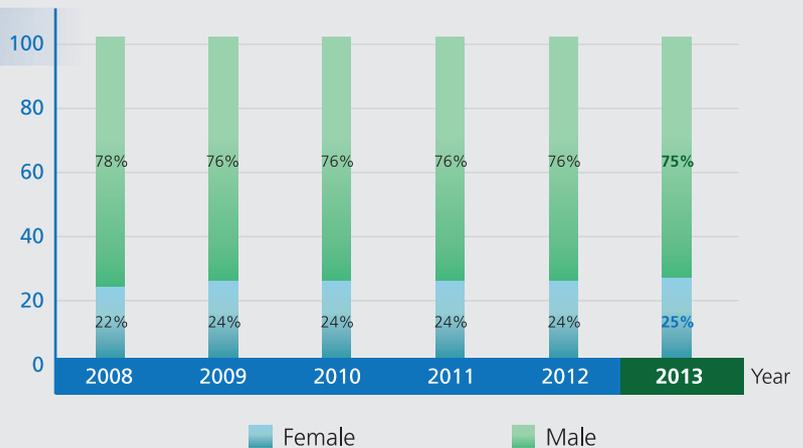


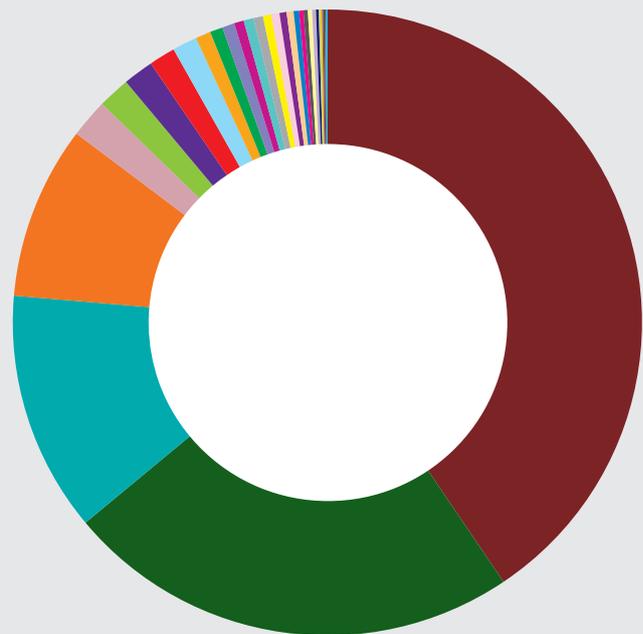
Figure 8: Size of solicitors' firms and number of trainee solicitors in 2013

Size of firm	No. of firms		No. of trainee solicitors	
	2013	2012	2013	2012
Sole practitioners	366	364	59	54
2–5 partners	364	356	272	271
6–10 partners	51	49	200	210
11–20 partners	28	28	226	228
Over 20 partners	9	9	152	159
<b>Total</b>	<b>818</b>	<b>806</b>	<b>909<sup>#</sup></b>	<b>922<sup>*</sup></b>

\* excluding 15 in government and 3 working "in-house"  
<sup>#</sup> excluding 14 in government and 6 working "in-house"

Figure 9: Home jurisdictions of registered foreign lawyers in both foreign law firms and solicitors' firms

	Number	%
USA	568	40.54
England and Wales	328	23.41
Mainland China	174	12.42
Australia	125	8.92
Bermuda	28	2.00
Singapore	23	1.64
New Zealand	22	1.57
British Virgin Islands	19	1.36
Canada	18	1.28
France	11	0.79
Italy	9	0.64
Japan	9	0.64
Cayman Islands	7	0.50
Germany	7	0.50
Luxembourg	7	0.50
Belgium	6	0.43
The Philippines	6	0.43
The Netherlands	5	0.36
Sweden	5	0.36
India	4	0.29
Ireland	3	0.21
Republic of Korea	3	0.21
Scotland	3	0.21
Switzerland	3	0.21
Guernsey	2	0.14
Brazil	1	0.07
Malaysia	1	0.07
Malta	1	0.07
Thailand	1	0.07
The Isle of Man	1	0.07
Vietnam	1	0.07



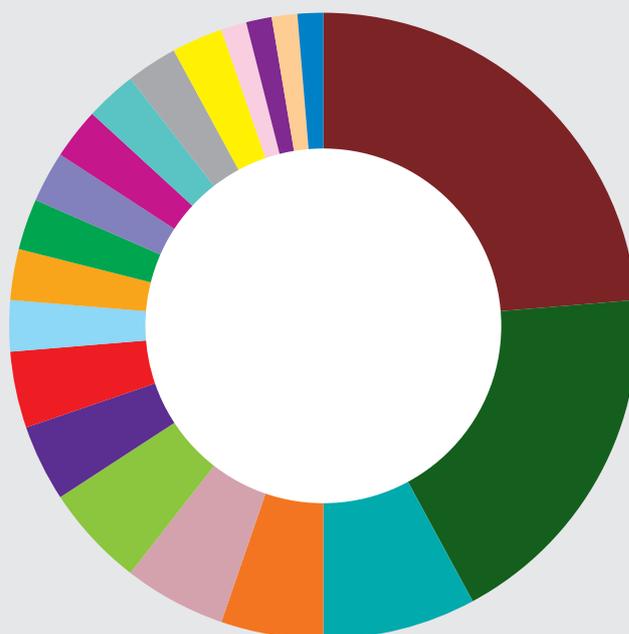
Note: Of the 1,401 registered foreign lawyers, 313 worked in foreign law firms and 934 in solicitors' firms.

\* The percentages have been calculated to the nearest decimal point. Therefore the aggregation of the percentage may not add up to 100%.

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Figure 10: Home jurisdictions of foreign law firms

	Number	%
USA	18	23.68
Mainland China	14	18.42
England and Wales	6	7.89
British Virgin Islands	4	5.26
Cayman Islands	4	5.26
France	4	5.26
Canada	3	3.95
Sweden	3	3.95
Belgium	2	2.63
Bermuda	2	2.63
Germany	2	2.63
Guernsey	2	2.63
Italy	2	2.63
Luxembourg	2	2.63
The Philippines	2	2.63
Switzerland	2	2.63
Australia	1	1.32
Ireland	1	1.32
Japan	1	1.32
Republic of Korea	1	1.32



Note: There were 72 foreign law firms in Hong Kong, of which one was registered to practise the laws of both Cayman Islands and BVI, one was registered to practise the laws of Cayman Islands and Guernsey, one was registered to practise the laws of Bermuda and BVI, and one was registered to practise the laws of England and Wales and the USA. (In 2012, there were 70 foreign law firms, of which five were registered to practise the law of more than one jurisdiction.)

\* The percentages have been calculated to the nearest decimal point. Therefore the aggregation of the percentage may not add up to 100%.

There were 35 Associations registered between foreign law firms and solicitors' firms (32 in 2012). Eight new foreign law firms commenced practice (12 in 2012). Six foreign law firms were closed, three of which established local practices. (In 2012, 14 were closed, nine of which established local practices.)

There were 14,677 unqualified staff members employed by solicitors' firms at the end of the year (14,874 at the end of 2012). In addition, there were 464 unqualified staff members employed by foreign law firms at the end of 2013 (450 in 2012).

The Standing Committee on Compliance oversees the work of the Conduct Section in administering the authorised solicitors' clerks scheme and has delegated its power to the Consents Committee to consider applications. By December, there were 978 authorised solicitors' clerks (965 in 2012).

The Law Society continued to waive subscription fees for student members in 2013. By the end of the year, there were 233 student members registered with The Law Society (260 in 2012).

At the end of December, the number of Law Society Approved Law Costs Draftsmen was 36 (37 in 2012).

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMPLIANCE



Compliance Department