



THE
LAW SOCIETY
OF HONG KONG
香港律師會

Committees & Working Parties Reporting Directly to the Council

2021

HONOURS COMMITTEE

The Committee met on one occasion. In accordance with the Nomination Guidelines, the Committee considered candidates for admission to the Law Society's Roll of Honour and for admission as an Honorary Member of the Law Society and made recommendations to the Council.

Upon recommendation of the Honours Committee, the Council admitted Mr Lester Huang to the Roll of Honour and former Chief Justice Mr Geoffrey Ma as Honorary Member for life at the Annual General Meeting on 24 August 2021.

HONG KONG SOLICITORS INDEMNITY FUND LIMITED

Hong Kong Solicitors Indemnity Fund Limited ("HKSIFL") was established by The Law Society and empowered by the Solicitors (Professional Indemnity) Rules ("the SPI Rules") to manage and administer the Professional Indemnity Scheme ("PIS") and the Solicitors Indemnity Fund ("HKSIF") subject to direction from the Council.

The HKSIFL held a total of six Board meetings during the year and an Annual General Meeting.

The HKSIFL considered a number of matters including:

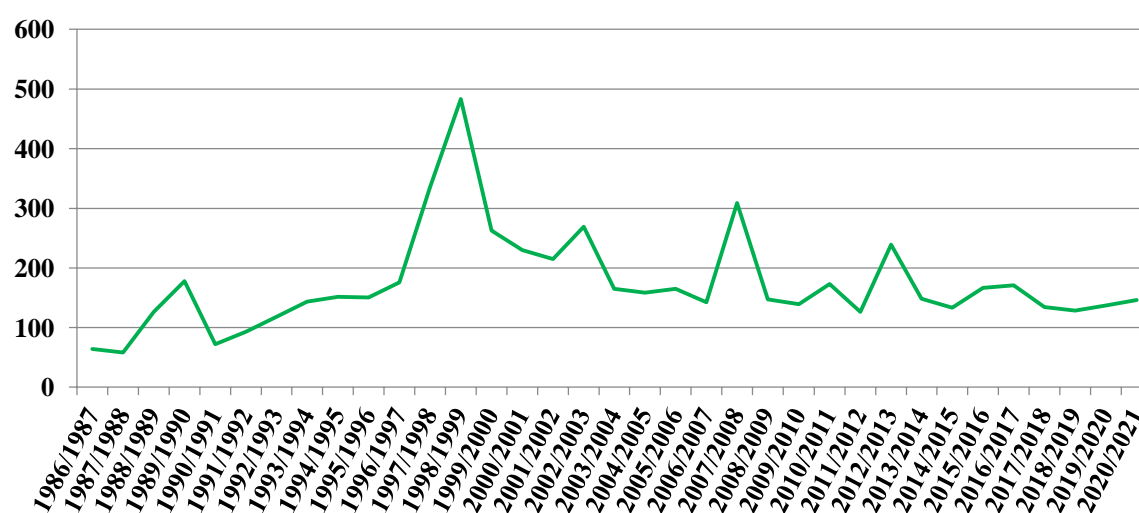
- PIS claims and related matters
- PIS seminars
- Contribution reduction
- The performance of the PIS Broker, Manager and panel solicitors
- Appointment of Broker and Manager of the PIS
- Investments of HKSIF
- Amendments to the SPI Rules
- Outstanding PIS documents and contributions from ceased firms
- The monthly management accounts and the audited accounts of HKSIF and HKSIFL
- Firms which failed to file the renewal documents by the statutory deadline of 15 August 2021
- Renewal of Directors' and Officers' liability and Professional Indemnity insurance for HKSIFL and the Directors
- Matters arising from the liquidation of HIH Casualty and General Insurance Ltd. and FAI General Insurance Company Ltd. and the provisional liquidation of FAI First Pacific Insurance Co. Ltd.
- PIS enquiries
- The updated wording of the gross fee income report following the implementation of HKSRS 4400 (Revised)
- Review of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of HKSIFL
- E-Platform for the PIS

- Review of the PIS Implications of Hong Kong solicitors obtaining Mainland practice qualifications to practise in the nine Pearl River Delta municipalities in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area, if any
- Applications for waiver of deductible

A total of 146 notifications of claims were received by the Manager of the PIS, ESSAR Insurance Services Ltd. ("ESSAR") during the 2020/2021 indemnity year, i.e. from 1 October 2020 to 30 September 2021 and the grace period from 1 October 2021 to 29 November 2021. As at 30 September 2021, 15 of the notifications resulted in proceedings, 7 were closed without payment and 131 (including those closed without payment) remained as notifications.

The number of claims for the last 35 indemnity years and the number of members holding Practising Certificates as at 31 December of each of those years are as follows:-

Figure 1: Number of Claims (1986/1987 – 2020/2021)



Indemnity Year	Number of Claims	Percentage Increase/Decrease from previous year	No of members with Practising Certificates (as of 31 December)
1986/1987	64	-	1,807
1987/1988	58	-9%	1,998
1988/1989	126	117%	2,152
1989/1990	178	41%	2,326
1990/1991	72	-60%	2,479
1991/1992	93	29%	2,721
1992/1993	118	27%	2,981
1993/1994	143	21%	3,307
1994/1995	151	6%	3,596
1995/1996	150	-1%	3,896
1996/1997	176	17%	4,309

Indemnity Year	Number of Claims	Percentage Increase/Decrease from previous year	No of members with Practising Certificates (as of 31 December)
1997/1998	336	91%	4,619
1998/1999	483	44%	4,720
1999/2000	263	-46%	4,890
2000/2001	230	-13%	5,070
2001/2002	215	-7%	5,173
2002/2003	269	25%	5,301
2003/2004	165	-39%	5,422
2004/2005	159	-4%	5,593
2005/2006	165	4%	5,757
2006/2007	142	-14%	5,925
2007/2008	309	118%	6,205
2008/2009	147	-52%	6,465
2009/2010	139	-5%	6,782
2010/2011	173	24%	7,149
2011/2012	126	-27%	7,483
2012/2013	239	90%	7,864
2013/2014	148	-38%	8,279
2014/2015	133	-10%	8,647
2015/2016	167	26%	9,076
2016/2017	171	2%	9,463
2017/2018	134	-22%	9,903
2018/2019	128	-4%	10,344
2019/2020	137	7%	10,790
2020/2021	146	7%	11,235

* Number of Claims includes claims notified within the grace period.

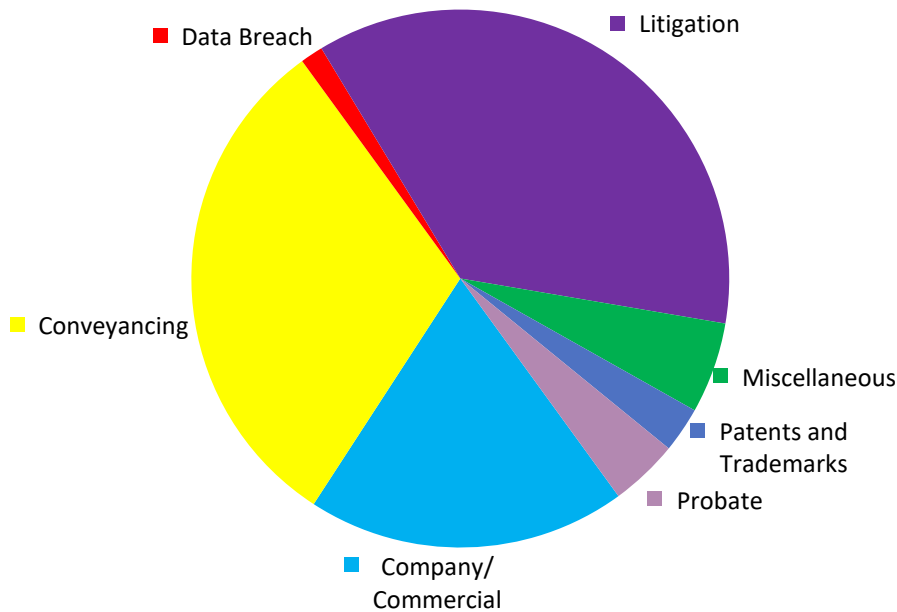
+ Percentage of increase or decrease has been calculated to the nearest decimal point.

Claims notified in the 2020/2021 indemnity year, categorised by area of practice:-

Company/Commercial	28
Conveyancing	45
Data Breach	2
Litigation	53
Miscellaneous	8
Patents and Trademarks	4
Probate	6

146

Figure 2: Types of Claims notified in 2021



9 fraud claims were notified to the PIS in the 2020/2021 indemnity year.

As at 30 September 2021, the total liability of the PIS for the 2020/2021 indemnity year, calculated on the basis of claims paid and claims reserved, was HK\$21,315,621 of which HK\$5,179,836 consisted of claims paid (including costs) and HK\$16,135,785 consisted of claims reserved.

The total amount of claims paid (including costs) since the inception of the self-insured PIS in 1986 amounts to HK\$2,194,462,174 and the amount reserved is HK\$152,260,592. The total claims paid and reserved is HK\$2,346,722,766.

A detailed account of the operation of the PIS and claims data as well as the audited accounts of the HKSIF as at 30 September 2021 will be published in the PIS Annual Report for the 2020/2021 indemnity year.

PIS CLAIMS COMMITTEE

Claims made under the SPI Rules are handled by the Claims Committee with the assistance of the Manager of the PIS, ESSAR. During the year, the Claims Committee held five meetings to consider and discuss ongoing claims, two knowledge-sharing sessions (joined by some of the Board directors) and one knowledge-sharing session with Panel Solicitors. It also considered a number of urgent claims-related matters by email circulation.

PIS INVESTMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

The PIS Investment Sub-Committee held four meetings during the year. At each meeting, the Subcommittee and HKSIFL’s investment consultant, Mercer Investment Consulting Limited met two of HKSIFL’s investment managers in person to discuss their performance and to provide their outlook on market trends. The Subcommittee also assists the Board of HKSIFL to review the cash flow position of the HKSIF.

In between meetings matters arising are considered by emails. These include the consideration of monthly performance and custodian reports, exchanging and discussing information and views and making decisions on relatively minor investment issues.

As of 31 December 2021, the investment managers of the HKSIF are as follows:

- AllianceBernstein Hong Kong Ltd. (“AllianceBernstein”)
- MFS Investment Management (“MFS”)
- Grantham Mayo van Otterloo (“GMO”)
- Ruffer LLP (“Ruffer”)
- PIMCO Asia Limited (“PIMCO”)
- Mercer Global Investments Europe Limited (“MGIE”)

HKSIF adopts a conservative investment strategy where the investments are predominantly placed in fixed income securities. The investment objectives are:

- to preserve capital and to maximize total return on the portfolio; and
- regarding the bond portfolio, to outperform the Barclays Capital Global Aggregate Index.

The net returns on the portfolios managed by the investment managers for the 12-month period ended 31 December 2020 and 2021 were as follows:

Investment Manager	Type of portfolio	Net Return		Portfolio Size (In USD)	
		2020	2021	As of 31 Dec 2020	As of 31 Dec 2021
AllianceBernstein	Bonds	5.0%	-1.3%	98,488,227	97,758,577
MFS	Equities	15.7%	19.3%	100,900,551	120,351,225
GMO	Equities	8.3%	13.6%	69,021,355	78,411,586
Ruffer	Multi-Asset (mainly equities and bonds)	14.4%	10.0%	85,582,148	94,179,519
PIMCO	Bonds	7.6%	-1.4%	98,716,993	97,301,305
MGIE	Bonds	6.0%	0.1%	100,095,054	125,059,171
Overall portfolio return		10.2%	6.5%	552,804,328	613,061,383

PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Committee is responsible for reviewing and advising on any issue referred to it by the Council, HKSIFL or the Claims Committee relating to professional indemnity cover under the PIS.

A Working Party of this Committee considered the bilingual amendments to the SPI Rules consequential to the introduction of Solicitors Corporation Rules during the year.

PIS PANEL SOLICITORS SELECTION BOARD

The Selection Board was established by the Council to resolve all matters relating to the tender for appointment as PIS Panel Solicitors, to consider the tender applications and to make recommendations to the Council on the appropriate firms to be appointed to the Panel. It also considers and approves any change to the Supervising Partner of an appointed Panel firm.

The retainer of the current Panel runs from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2023.

The firms which served as Panel Solicitors in 2021 were:

- Deacons
- Dentons Hong Kong LLP
- Fred Kan & Co.
- Howse Williams
- Mayer Brown
- Norton Rose Fulbright
- P.C. Woo & Co.
- Reynolds Porter Chamberlain

WORKING PARTY ON PIS GROSS FEE INCOME REPORTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

The Working Party is responsible for considering and making recommendations to the Council on the appropriate action to be taken against those firms which failed, in breach of the SPI Rules, to submit the application for indemnity and/or the gross fee income report on or before 15 August, or pay their annual contributions on or before 30 September in each year. The Working Party is also responsible for approving the applications for an extension of time to submit the application for indemnity and/or the gross fee income report.

During the year, the Working Party considered a number of defaults and applications for time extensions by email circulation.

BELT AND ROAD COMMITTEE (“BRC”)

The Belt and Road Initiative (“the Initiative”) was launched by the Chinese government in 2013. It aims to promote economic cooperation among more than 65 countries and regions along the Belt and Road routes. Now the Initiative embraces all countries anywhere that subscribe to the five principles of connectivity espoused under the Initiative.

The BRC was convened at the end of 2015 to explore opportunities for members arising from the Initiative. The BRC set up four Subgroups in March 2016 to take charge of different areas of its work, namely: (1) to update the Committee on government policy on the Initiative; (2) to reach out to overseas lawyers associations covered by the Initiative; (3) to consider possible initiatives to harmonise trade and business law; and (4) to organise joint conferences or events with overseas lawyers associations.

4th Belt and Road Conference

Since 2017, The Law Society has been organising an international Belt and Road Conference in Hong Kong dedicated to exploring opportunities and discussing solutions for challenges brought about by the Initiative for the legal profession.

As part of the Department of Justice’s Hong Kong Legal Week 2021, the 4th Belt and Road Conference (“the Conference”) was held on 4 November in hybrid format with tremendous success, attracting over 670 registrations from 24 jurisdictions. Under the theme “Global Recovery and Harmony through the Belt and Road Initiative”, the Conference explored how the Initiative speeds up worldwide collaboration and revival in light of the unprecedented changes happening around the world in recent years.

Apart from having the Hon Secretary for Justice Teresa Cheng, SC, to deliver the enlightening opening remarks, The Law Society was very honoured to have Mr. Liu Guangyuan, Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, as the keynote speaker sharing his views on the theme of the Conference; as well as Mr. Liu Chunhua, Director-General of Legal Affairs Department of the Liaison Office of the Central People’s Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, to be the Officiating Guest.

The Conference featured government, business and financial leaders from around the world who shared their insights on practical and forward-looking topics, ranging from the opportunities and challenges of ongoing initiatives and plans under the Initiative, practical guidance for lawyers on how to help businesses to navigate geo-political risks, to how best to strengthen effectiveness of dispute resolution mechanisms applicable in jurisdictions along the Belt and Road. The Organising Committee would like to express their sincere gratitude to the

Department of Justice, speakers, moderators and participants from all over the world for their support and participation to make the event a great success.

“Hong Kong - Cambodia Partnership” Webinar

As part of the government-to-government collaboration series by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (“HKSAR”) and its ASEAN partners, a webinar entitled “Hong Kong – Cambodia Partnership” was jointly organised by the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau of the HKSAR Government and the Consulate General of the Kingdom of Cambodia on 2 November, attracting more than 350 sign-ups.

Representing The Law Society, Vice-Chairman of the Belt and Road Committee Nick Chan joined the speaker panel to discuss how Hong Kong and Cambodia could join hands and provide opportunities to each other in such fields as trade, investment, professional services as well as innovation and technology under the new normalcy. In particular, the Vice-Chairman shared his invaluable insights and experience on how Cambodian and other overseas enterprises can make use of Hong Kong’s legal services in expanding into the Mainland and Belt and Road economies as well as the potential business opportunities for Hong Kong’s professional services sector, especially the legal sector.

CityU CSHK PASS Workshop Series – Opening Symposium

Entitled “Advancing Professional Development on Economic and Trade Cooperation Zones (“ETCZs”) along Belt and Road”, a one-year workshop series comprising of six professional training workshops and two symposia were held by the Research Centre for Sustainable Hong Kong (“CSHK”) of City University of Hong Kong (“CityU”) in 2021, with the support from the Professional Services Advancement Support Scheme (“PASS”).

In addition to being a Supporting Organisation of the series, on behalf of The Law Society, then-President Melissa Pang spoke at the Opening Symposium themed “Global Connectivity, Opportunities and Challenges: Hong Kong and ETCZs along Belt and Road” on 7 January. She highlighted the core competencies of Hong Kong legal services and shared her insightful views on what Hong Kong legal professionals can offer to the ETCZs’ markets so as to establish and strengthen the business partnership among jurisdictions along the Belt and Road. The Symposium attracted more than 210 participants from regions across the world.

Participation in Belt and Road activities

The Law Society grasped the golden opportunities in reaching out and promoting the Hong Kong legal system and legal profession to other legal professional bodies in countries covered by the Initiative through participating in the Initiative-related events. Below is a summary:

Date	Event Name	Location
7 January	CityU CSHK PASS Workshop Series – Opening Symposium	Hong Kong
16 – 17 April	The Hong Kong Institute of Architecture Belt and Road Forum 2021	Hong Kong

14 May	“Belt and Road: Hong Kong-IN” Mainland Enterprises Partnership Exchange and Interface Programme by the HKSAR Government	Hong Kong
1 – 2 September	HKTDC 6 th Belt and Road Summit	Hong Kong
3 September	HKTDC 4 th Belt and Road Global Forum Annual Roundtable	Hong Kong
2 November	“Hong Kong - Cambodia Partnership” Webinar by the HKSAR Government and the Consulate General of the Kingdom of Cambodia in Hong Kong	Hong Kong
4 November	4 th Belt and Road Conference by The Law Society	Hong Kong

Looking ahead, The Law Society will continue our efforts in exploring ways to foster collaboration with lawyers associations around the world in order to maximise the opportunities arising from the Initiative for our members.

GREATER CHINA LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The Greater China Legal Affairs Committee (“GCLAC”) is dedicated to promoting the image of Hong Kong’s legal industry in the Greater China region. During the pandemic, The Law Society remains committed to maintaining strong connections with counterparts in the region. In 2021, the GCLAC actively organised various events to facilitate the exchange and co-operation among members of the industry, promote Hong Kong legal services and explore business opportunities for members in Mainland China, Taiwan and Macau, particularly under the National 14th Five-Year Plan and the development of the Greater Bay Area (“GBA”).

In addition, The Law Society participated in conferences and seminars in Greater China through virtual platforms to reach out to lawyers associations and other legal professional bodies in the region. The annual *Cross Strait Four Regions Young Lawyers Forum* was also held to equip and nurture young lawyers.

Online Lectures for Peking University Law Students

In April 2019, The Law Society and the Peking University Law School signed a memorandum of understanding to strengthen collaboration and provide legal training to students of the Law School. Titled “An Introduction to Legal Services and Risk Management for Cross-border Transactions”, the 32-hour course was conducted in 2021, for the third year in a row.

During the pandemic, a group of lawyers shared their knowledge and experience through an e-learning platform in May and June. The lawyers included Mr. C. M. Chan, then-Vice-President, Ms. Careen Wong, Council Member, Mr. Ambrose Lam, Past President, Mrs. Cecilia Wong and Mr. Nick Chan, former Council Members, Mr. Henry Wai, Vice-Chairman of the GCLAC, Mr. William Ling, member of the GCLAC, Ms. Catherine Mun, then-member of the GCLAC, Ms. Heidi Chui, member of the Standing Committee on Standards and Development, and Mr. Chin Yeoh, member of Interest Group on Mergers and Acquisitions.

Joint Meetings for Lawyers Associations in the GBA

In December 2018, The Law Society and lawyers associations in the GBA established a joint meeting system to foster closer ties within the legal services industry and tap the potential of distinctive cluster advantages in the GBA, to be chaired by the Guangdong Lawyers Association (“GDLA”), The Law Society and the Macau Lawyers Association (“MLA”) on a rotational basis. During the year, the sixth, seventh and eighth meetings were held on 30 January, 17 April and 7 August respectively. In January, the mechanism of the “Secretariat for the Liaison Working Group for Lawyers Associations in the GBA” was confirmed. Under the mechanism, lawyers associations from the three regions would take turns to consolidate and disseminate information.

Topics discussed at the three joint meetings included mutual recognition of continuous professional trainings, the “Legal Buddies” Scheme in the GBA, mechanism for sharing laws and regulations of the legal industry in the three places, as well as the post-examination training and practice opportunities in the GBA’s nine cities after passing the GBA Legal Professional Examination.

The Law Society representatives who attended the three meetings included Ms. Melissa Pang, then-President; Mr. C. M. Chan, then-Vice-President and Chairman of the Greater China Legal Affairs Committee; Mr. Thomas So, Past President and Chairman of the GBA Sub-Committee; Mr. James Wong and Mr. Neville Cheng, Vice-Chairmen of the Greater China Legal Affairs Committee; and Ms. Heidi Chu, Secretary General of The Law Society.

Online Seminars for Lawyers in the GBA

In light of the growing demand for cross-border legal services, the GDLA, The Law Society and the MLA co-organised a series of online seminars, with speakers invited from Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau to share and exchange views on how legal practitioners in the three places can handle relevant legal matters.

On 9 January, The Law Society hosted the *Second Online Seminar for Lawyers in the Greater Bay Area on Intellectual Property Laws*, attracting more than 70 lawyers from the Greater China region. Separately, to promote the exchange of professional and practical legal experience among lawyers in the three places, the “*Laws in the GBA*” Seminar Series was launched as one of the initiatives under the Joint Meeting Systems for Lawyers Associations in the GBA. Hosted by The Law Society, the “*Laws in the Greater Bay Area*” Series (I) cum *Third Online Seminar for Lawyers in the Greater Bay Area on Real Estate Laws* was held on 8 May, attracting around 110 lawyers. On 6 November, the first seminar under the “*Seminar Series on Civil Code*” was launched, focusing on marriage and family Law. The seminar attracted over 150 participants.

Collaborations with the Department of Justice (“DOJ”)

During the year, The Law Society joined hands with the DOJ in organising two signature events to highlight the opportunities under national policies and encourage members to equip themselves to maintain the strength of Hong Kong’s legal profession.

Under the title “Policies, Strategies and Opportunities”, the webinar on opportunities for Hong Kong's legal industry under the 14th Five-Year Plan was held on 12 April. Supporting organisations included Invest Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Chinese Enterprises Association Legal Affairs Steering Committee. Prominent speakers were invited to share insights on commercial transactions and dispute resolution. They included Mr. C Y Leung, Vice-Chairman of the 13th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Ms. Maria Tam, Vice-Chairperson of the Committee for the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region under the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, as well as Secretary for Justice The Hon Teresa Cheng, SC. Aside from the 250 attendees joining the webinar virtually, the recording of the event attracted a viewership of over 87,000 from online media.

Meanwhile, the “Success through Synergy” seminar on opportunities for Hong Kong's legal industry in the GBA was held on 13 August. Invest Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Chinese Enterprises Association Legal Affairs Steering Committee acted as the promotion partners, while more than 20 organisations from the legal and business sectors joined as supporting organisations of the seminar. Secretary for Justice The Hon Teresa Cheng, SC, gave opening remarks at the event. At the two panel discussions, senior legal practitioners, as well as experts from the business fields shared their insights on topics related to the GBA development, including initiatives on arbitration and mediation, legal environment across the jurisdictions, China-appointed attesting services, partnership associations, Qianhai development and cross-border mutual recognition. The hybrid seminar attracted more than 500 registrations from different countries and regions, and recorded more than 31,000 views through live-streaming and media broadcast.

Events on the GBA Legal Professional Examination

Before the inaugural GBA Legal Professional Examination on 31 July, an online sharing session was held on 19 July to assist candidates in preparing for the examination. Mr. Thomas So, Past President, and Mr. James Wong, Vice-Chairman of the GCLAC, shared their experience and tips in preparing for the Mainland's legal examination. 155 members joined the event.

On 9 September, the Department of Law of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR and the Department of Justice co-organised a seminar under the title “Hong Kong Legal Professionals Practising in the GBA and Other Opportunities”. The Law Society was pleased to be the supporting organisation for the event. Topics discussed at the seminar included the latest updates on the rule of law in the Mainland and the policies on liberalising the Mainland's legal services market and supporting the development of Hong Kong's legal profession, such as the arrangements in relation to the GBA Legal Professional Examination, partnership associations in the GBA and the examination arrangements for China-appointed Attesting Officers. The seminar attracted over 570 registrations from different regions, as well as over 30,000 viewership on the day of the event through live-streaming and media broadcast.

Straits Law Forum

Since 2003, The Law Society has jointly organised the *Straits Law Forum* with a number of academic and professional bodies to promote legal exchanges among the Mainland, Taiwan,

Macau and Hong Kong. In 2021, the forum was held in Fuzhou on 18 August under the theme "Theory and Practice of Administrative Law Enforcement". Then-President Melissa Pang gave a congratulatory message for the opening ceremony in the form of a pre-recorded video.

Cross Strait Four Regions Young Lawyers Forum 2021

The *Cross Strait Four Regions Young Lawyers Forum* is an annual flagship event organised by The Law Society to provide a platform for lawyers from the Greater China region to exchange ideas. Under the theme "Scaling New Heights – Promoting Exchanges and Creating Cooperation Opportunities", the 11th *Cross Strait Four Regions Young Lawyers Forum* was held on 29 October in the form of webinar, attracting over 600 registrations from the Mainland, Taiwan, Macau and Hong Kong.

The forum featured a Main Forum and three sessions focusing on "Legal Cooperation under Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership", "Special Purpose Acquisition Company and Limited Partnership Funds" and "Dispute Resolution" respectively. Mr. Fang Jianming, Deputy Commissioner of the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, was invited to speak at a thematic presentation on the policies and prospects of the GBA.

A free-flow exchange session was also featured to spotlight GBA, Qianhai and Hengqin Cooperation Zones, as well as innovation and technology development. The Law Society also hosted the online Presidents' Roundtable on the day before the forum.

Rule of Law Forum (2021)

Under the theme "Persevering Comprehensive Law-based Governance; Striving to Advance Rule of Law in China", the *Rule of Law Forum (2021)* was held on 23 December in hybrid format in Shenzhen as one of the three flagship events of the China Law Society. At the invitation of the organiser, President C. M. Chan gave a speech at a Roundtable Meeting under the theme "Innovation of the Rule of Law Legal Systems in Hengqin and Qianhai Cooperation Zones" through a pre-recorded video. The event attracted an estimate of 250,000 online viewers through live streaming.

Organisation and Participation of Events in the Greater China Region

The following table outlines the events organised or co-organised by the GCLAC in 2021, in addition to the list of events that the delegates from The Law Society attended physically and virtually:

Date	Event
9 January	Second Online Seminar for Lawyers in the Greater Bay Area on Intellectual Property Laws
12 January	Joint Webinar by InvestHK and Chongqing Bar Association on "Hong Kong – Unparalleled Opportunities to Expand Your Global Business"
30 January	The Sixth Joint Meeting for Lawyers Associations in the Greater Bay Area

22 February	“Decoding Hong Kong Contract Law Series” Part I: Online Roundtable Meeting on “General Principles of Hong Kong Contract Law” organised by CIETAC Hong Kong Arbitration Centre and the International Dispute Resolution Academy
26 March	Online Exchange Session with Sichuan Lawyers
12 April	“Policies, Strategies and Opportunities” - Webinar on Opportunities for Hong Kong’s Legal Industry under the “14th Five-Year Plan” co-organised by The Law Society and the Department of Justice
17 April	The Seventh Joint Meeting for Lawyers Associations in the GBA
8 May	“Laws in the Greater Bay Area” Series (I) cum Third Online Seminar for Lawyers in the Greater Bay Area on Real Estate Laws
15, 22 & 29 May, 5 June	Online Lectures for Peking University Law School
20 May	“Decoding Hong Kong Contract Law Series” Part II: Online Roundtable Meeting on “Restatement of Hong Kong Contract Law on Negotiations and Competitive Bidding” organised by CIETAC Hong Kong Arbitration Centre and the International Dispute Resolution Academy
17 June	BritCham Greater Bay Area Summit 2021
28 June	Online Seminar on “Issues to Consider in International Family Cases” organised by the Hong Kong Legal Education Fund
9 July	Webinar by the University of Hong Kong on “In Search of New Economic Cooperation Models between Hong Kong and the Greater Bay Area”
19 July	Online Sharing Session on Greater Bay Area Legal Professional Examination
30 July	Webinar on “The Impacts of Artificial Intelligence on Laws and the Legal Industry” organised by the Hong Kong Legal Education Fund
7 August	Eighth Joint Meeting for Lawyers Associations in the Greater Bay Area
13 August	“Success through Synergy” – Seminar on Opportunities for Hong Kong’s Legal Industry in the Greater Bay Area co-organised by The Law Society and the Department of Justice
18 August	Straits Law Forum
18 August	“Decoding Hong Kong Contract Law Series” Part III: Online Roundtable Meeting on “Restatement of Hong Kong Contract Law on Misrepresentation, Non-Disclosure and Mistake” organised by CIETAC Hong Kong Arbitration Centre and the International Dispute Resolution Academy
9 September	Seminar on “Hong Kong Legal Professionals practising in the Greater Bay Area and other opportunities” co-hosted by the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government and the Department of Justice
18 September	Seminar on “Laws in the Greater Bay Area” Series (II) – Cross-Border Insolvency Laws
23 September	Webinar on Opportunities for Legal Profession in the Greater Bay Area
28 October	Cross Strait Four Regions Young Lawyers Forum – Presidents’ Roundtable Meeting
29 October	Cross Strait Four Regions Young Lawyers Forum
6 November	“Seminar Series on Civil Code” (I) – Marriage and Family Law

3 December	Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Hong Kong Coalition of Professional Services Seminar cum Luncheon
16 December	Seminar on “Hong Kong’s Legal Industry and Greater Bay Area Opportunities” under the “Youth Dream Seminar Series” organised by the Greater Bay Area Young Talents Association
23 December	Rule of Law Forum 2021

Meetings with Greater China and Local Counterparts

In 2021, virtual or physical meetings were conducted with Greater China and local counterparts to facilitate the exchange of ideas in relation to Greater China matters. The details are as follows:

Date	Organisation
16 January	Sichuan Lawyers Association
25 February	The British Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong
10 May	Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China in the HKSAR
21 December	China Resources (Holdings) Co. Ltd
22 December	Hong Kong Trade Development Council

WORKING PARTY ON REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS

The Working Party was convened by the Council to review the existing governance arrangements relating to the Council and Council members, including in the areas of confidentiality, transparency and accountability; collective responsibility and engagement with external parties; conflict of interest; and compliance and sanctions.

As the first stage of this review project, the Working Party looked into the existing governance arrangements on “confidentiality” and “transparency and accountability” with reference to comparable positions in overseas and other local organisations. The Working Party made a preliminary report to the Council and solicited Council’s direction on the approach to adopt in this part of the review.

The Working Party will continue its effort in the review exercise in 2022.

WORKING PARTY ON THE LAW SOCIETY EXAMINATION (“LSE”) AND RELATED TOPICS

The main terms of reference of the Working Party are to formulate proposals on the examination required, set or approved, including but not limited to the *Common Entrance Examination* (“CEE”) and the *LSE* under rule 7(a) of the *Trainee Solicitors Rules* to qualify for admission as a Hong Kong solicitor, to formulate proposals on all matters relating to such examinations, such as the examination standards, the syllabus, the vocational training programme leading to the examinations, to oversee and supervise the implementation of the *Protocol on the role of External Examiners, External Course Assessors and External Academic*

Advisors (together “External Examiners”) and other aspects of the Postgraduate Certificate in Laws Programmes (“Protocol”) and to report and make recommendations to the Council.

The Working Party convened five meetings. Matters considered by the Working Party in meetings and by paper circulation included:

- (a) The draft Paper on the *LSE* Syllabus and Outcomes and comments of potential preparatory course providers on the draft Paper;
- (b) Responses of the LSE/CEE Consultants on the comments of the preparatory course providers;
- (c) Consideration of the papers submitted by DOJ, the University of Hong Kong School of Professional and Continuing Education (“HKU SPACE”) and the Legislative Council Secretariat at the meeting of the Panel on Administration and Legal Services of the Legislative Council on 31 August;
- (d) Draft Report on the *LSE* Syllabus and Outcomes and consideration of the comments of an independent third party on the draft Report;
- (e) Composition of the Examination Board and Examination Panels of the *LSE*;
- (f) Change of name and formulation of the terms of reference of the Working Party;
- (g) Draft *Protocol*;
- (h) Steps to be taken to implement the *Protocol*;
- (i) Appointment of *PCLL* External Examiners and their alternates, and appointment of representatives of The Law Society to the different governing bodies of City University, the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the University of Hong Kong (“HKU”);
- (j) Conflict of interest to act as External Examiners at HKU;
- (k) Compilation of the explanation to SCLET on the implications of the *Protocol* on the CEE and LSE;
- (l) The 2020 Annual Report of the Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training (“SCLET”);
- (m) Nomination of representatives of The Law Society to sit on SCLET and formulation of the responses to the comments of the Department of Justice (“DOJ”) on the representatives nominated;
- (n) Advanced Diploma for Legal Executives (Graduate Level) proposed by HKU SPACE.

WORKING PARTY ON 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Working Party was convened by the Council in February to consider and make recommendations to the Council on the special arrangements for adoption for The Law Society's 2021 Annual General Meeting ("AGM") in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Working Party met on various occasions and also conducted its deliberations by email circulation on about ten occasions during the seven months between February and August before the AGM. There were also meetings and discussions with the Scrutineers and production house to discuss work arrangements related to the AGM.

Issues discussed by the Working Party included the appropriate venue arrangement for the AGM; appointment of Scrutineers, production house and legal assistance to support the work of the AGM; whether to include the Law Society's constitution amendment proposals in the AGM Agenda; how to manage the number of physical attendees of the AGM given the need to prevent mass gatherings and enhance social distancing whilst at the same time to also uphold members' right to attend and vote at the meeting; what practicable measures to put in place to ensure the safety of all attendees; the contingency arrangements to be adopted in case the AGM would need to be adjourned or abandoned where the situation of the COVID-19 pandemic make it inappropriate to hold the AGM as scheduled, etc. Having to face with many contingencies (e.g. what the COVID-19 situation and the government's restrictive measures for social distancing would be on the actual day of the AGM, whether there would be Council election and thus the actual turnout at the AGM, etc.) together with the change of Scrutineers for this year's AGM have made the Working Party's work in recommending the appropriate AGM arrangements to Council to be particularly challenging this year.

With the assistance of the Working Party, special measures were implemented for the 2021 AGM and members were informed of the special arrangements through the President's letters and circulars.