



THE
LAW SOCIETY
OF HONG KONG
香港律師會

115th
ANNIVERSARY

BUILDING RESILIENCE

ANNUAL REPORT
2022



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THE COUNCIL 2022



C. M. CHAN
President



Amirali B. NASIR
Vice-President



Roden M.L. TONG
Vice-President



Christopher K.K. YU
Vice-President



Melissa K. PANG



Warren P. GANESH



Brian W. GILCHRIST
(until August)



Careen H.Y. WONG



Calvin K. CHENG



Mark DALY
(until August)



Doreen Y.F. KONG
(until August)



Kenneth LAM



Janet H.Y. PANG



Michelle W.T. TSOI
(until October)



Davyd WONG



Jimmy K.H. CHAN



Tom K.M. FU



Ronald K.N. SUM



Justin H.Y. YUEN



Simon J.
McCONNELL



Pak Sun HAU
(from August)



Hin Han SHUM
(from August)



Vincent S.K. TSO
(from August)

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

The Council submit herewith its annual report together with the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022.

PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS

The Law Society of Hong Kong ("The Law Society") is a company limited by guarantee, and is incorporated and domiciled in Hong Kong and has its registered office and principal place of business at 3/F, Wing On House, 71 Des Voeux Road Central, Hong Kong.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY

The principal activity of The Law Society is to act as the professional and regulatory body for solicitors in Hong Kong. The principal activity and other particulars of The Law Society's subsidiary are set out in note 9 to the financial statements.

BUSINESS REVIEW

A review of The Law Society's operation and management, financial position and risks, environmental policies and performances and future direction of The Law Society are set out on pages 8 to 17 and 20 to 46 of the Annual Report.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The surplus of The Law Society for the year ended 31 December 2022 and the state of The Law Society's affairs as at that date are set out in the financial statements on pages 88 to 111.

MEMBERSHIP

As at 31 December 2022, there were 13,144 (2021: 12,795) members of The Law Society. The total number of Practising Certificates issued was 11,457 (2021: 11,235). There were 931 (2021: 942) firms of solicitors.

BANKERS

The bankers are The Bank of East Asia Limited, The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, Hang Seng Bank Limited, Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited, CMB Wing Lung Bank Limited, Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited, Bank of Communications Co., Limited and Dah Sing Bank.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Council Members during the financial year and up to the date of this report and their attendance at the Council Meetings are shown in the table on page 5.

In accordance with article 15(a) of The Law Society's articles of association, at the forthcoming annual general meeting the five members longest in office since election or re-election shall retire but shall be eligible for re-election.

At no time during the year was The Law Society, any of its subsidiary or any of its related companies a party to any arrangement to enable the Council Members of The Law Society to acquire benefits by means of the acquisition of an interest in The Law Society or any other body corporate.

Except for the related party transactions as disclosed in note 19(a) to the financial statements, no contract of significance to which The Law Society, any of its subsidiary or any of its related companies was a party, and in which the Council Members had a material interest, subsisted at the end of the year or at any time during the year.

INDEMNITY OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

A permitted indemnity provision (as defined in section 469 of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance) for the benefit of the Council Members of The Law Society is currently in force and was in force throughout this year.

AUDITORS

KPMG retire and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-appointment. A resolution for the re-appointment of KPMG as auditors of The Law Society is to be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

By order of the Council

C. M. Chan

President

Hong Kong, 28 February 2023

ATTENDANCE OF THE COUNCIL MEMBERS AT THE COUNCIL MEETINGS DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR AND UP TO 28 FEBRUARY 2023, THE DATE OF THIS REPORT:

	Regular Meetings	Unscheduled Meetings	Total	Official Duties
C. M. Chan, President (re-elected as President on 30 August 2022)	27	1	28	1
Amirali B. Nasir, Vice President (re-elected as Vice President on 30 August 2022)	27	1	28	0
Roden M. L. Tong, Vice President (re-elected as Vice President on 30 August 2022)	28	1	29	0
Christopher K. K. Yu, Vice President (re-elected as Vice President on 30 August 2022)	27	1	28	1
Melissa K. Pang (re-elected on 23 August 2022)	20	1	21	1
Warren P. Ganesh	28	1	29	0
Brian W. Gilchrist (retired on 23 August 2022)	12	0	12	0
Careen H. Y. Wong	28	1	29	0
Calvin K. Cheng (re-elected on 23 August 2022)	28	1	29	0
Mark Daly (retired on 23 August 2022)	9	0	9	0
Doreen Y. F. Kong (retired on 23 August 2022)	13	0	13	0
Kenneth Lam	25	1	26	0
Janet H. Y. Pang	23	1	24	0
Michelle W. T. Tsoi (resigned on 26 October 2022)	15	0	15	1
Davyd Wong	21	1	22	0
Jimmy K. H. Chan	26	1	27	0
Tom K. M. Fu	26	1	27	0
Ronald K. N. Sum	28	0	28	0
Justin H. Y. Yuen	28	1	29	0
Simon J. McConnell (re-elected on 23 August 2022)	28	1	29	0
Hau Pak Sun (elected on 23 August 2022)	13	1	14	0
Shum Hin Han (elected on 23 August 2022)	11	1	12	0
Vincent S. K. Tso (elected on 23 August 2022)	12	1	13	0

KEY METRICS IN 2022

(As of 31 December 2022)

MEMBERS

(with or without
Practising Certificate)

13,144

MEMBERS WITH PRACTISING CERTIFICATE

11,457

(out of whom 7,930 (69%) are
in private practice)

REGISTERED FOREIGN LAWYERS

1,442

(from 34 jurisdictions)

TRAINEE SOLICITORS

1,153

STUDENT MEMBERS

228

HONG KONG LAW FIRMS

931

(47% are sole proprietorships and 41% are firms with 2 to 5 partners, 55 are limited liability partnerships formed pursuant to the Legal Practitioners Ordinance)

REGISTERED ASSOCIATIONS BETWEEN HONG KONG LAW FIRMS AND REGISTERED FOREIGN LAW FIRMS

(including Mainland law firms)

36

REGISTERED FOREIGN LAW FIRMS

77

(from 20 jurisdictions, 15 are limited liability partnerships formed pursuant to the Legal Practitioners Ordinance)

CIVIL CELEBRANTS OF MARRIAGES

2,141

REVERSE MORTGAGE COUNSELLORS

403

SOLICITOR ADVOCATES

94

(88 in civil proceedings, 6 in criminal proceedings)

PRESIDENT'S & SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORTS



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It was an immense honour for me to have served my term of presidency in the year celebrating both the 25th Anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR as well as the 115th anniversary of The Law Society.

I am pleased to report on the work of The Law Society in 2022.

DEFEND THE RULE OF LAW AND JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE

Thanks to the tremendous work of my predecessors over the years, The Law Society has firmly established itself as a staunch defender of the rule of law and an important voice in society on matters of public concern regarding the practice of law and the development of our legal profession.

During the year, in addition to my responses to media enquiries as President, The Law Society issued two public statements, one jointly with the Hong Kong Bar Association ("HKBA") regarding the overseas non-permanent judges of the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal ("HKCFA") in April and the other in May in response to a call by US Congress representatives for sanctions against judges and prosecutors of Hong Kong. We reiterated that while legal issues may arise in context having a political dimension, politics has no part to play in the law or the administration of justice. Any attempt to exert pressure by implementing sanctions against a judge or prosecutor due to the type of cases that he or she is assigned to handle is an affront to the rule of law and judicial and prosecutorial integrity.

The rule of law and judicial independence are the pillars of success of Hong Kong. The hard-earned global reputation of the strength of Hong Kong to uphold the rule of law and judicial independence and integrity must not be allowed to be tarnished by misinformation or a lack of proper understanding of relevant facts and issues.

Whenever the need arises, The Law Society will not hesitate to correct any misunderstanding and provide proper information in a timely manner. For instance, to address misconceived concerns about our judicial independence following the resignation of the two serving British judges as non-permanent judges in the HKCFA on 30 March, I attended, within the subsequent week, six interviews by various media channels including Cable TV, Phoenix TV, Now TV and Commercial Radio 881 to clarify the position. Further, in response to a public statement issued by the Commonwealth Lawyers Association ("CLA") on 1 April, The Law Society wrote a letter to CLA on 4 April clarifying the misconceptions in its statement about our judicial system.

PROMOTE HONG KONG'S COMMON LAW SYSTEM

As a professional body of solicitors in Hong Kong, The Law Society has a paramount role in promoting and maintaining the common law system, thereby contributing to the success of "One Country, Two Systems".

In this regard, The Law Society took every opportunity during the year to promote Hong Kong's unique common law tradition under "One Country, Two Systems" including giving interviews to local and international media, speaking to international law organisations, overseas law societies and bar associations through webinars, meeting Consuls General and Chambers of Commerce in Hong Kong, and delivering talks at seminars organised by the Department of Justice and other law-related organisations. These events are set out in more detail in other sections of this Annual Report.

UNITE AND SUPPORT MEMBERS

The Law Society aims to build a strong organisation capable of making a difference in its work.

Unity is strength, and effective communication is the key to create unity. In April, The Law Society introduced social media platforms on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube to enhance communication with members and the public and increase transparency in the work of The Law Society. The President's Weekly Letter to members was presented in a new style to enhance transparency of the weekly activities of Council members as representatives of The Law Society.

Three members' forums were held respectively in March, June and October to engage members and understand their needs. As you can see from other sections in the Annual Report, much effort has been made to embrace members with diverse background including our junior members and in-house lawyers. The Law Society also set up a dedicated Diversity and Inclusion Committee during the year.

The first half of the year saw the fifth wave of the pandemic sweeping across the city. The Law Society was acutely aware of the tremendous challenges posed by this COVID-19 tsunami and worked hard in combating the pandemic in support of our members and the wider community.

In April, The Law Society administered a second round of the Legal Talent Recruitment Scheme (Trainee Solicitors) ("Scheme"), following the success of the Scheme in its first round in 2021. The Scheme was funded by the Anti-epidemic Fund to provide each eligible law firm with a monthly salary subsidy for one newly created job opening for a trainee solicitor. Applications are open until February 2023.

All hearings of the courts and tribunals were generally adjourned from 7 March to 11 April due to the upsurge of infected cases during the fifth wave. To manage the disruption to court operations which might impact access to justice, The Law Society liaised closely with the Judiciary Administration and urged it to make wider use of paper disposal and remote hearings for civil proceedings, to expedite legislative amendments to enable remote hearings for criminal cases where appropriate and the application of the integrated court case management system across all levels of court for handling court-related documents and making payments through electronic means, as well as to introduce more admission hearing sessions to clear the backlog for applicants who had otherwise completed all requirements for admission.

REASSERT THE PRESENCE OF THE HONG KONG LEGAL PROFESSION IN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND EXPLORE NEW OPPORTUNITIES

During the year, notwithstanding the pandemic, The Law Society continued remotely to strengthen the bonds with our international counterparts. The Law Society entered into memoranda of understanding ("MOUs") respectively with the Astana International Financial Centre Authority (in June) and LAWASIA (in November) and extended the existing MOU with the Seoul Bar Association (in November), bringing the total number of MOUs signed between The Law Society and overseas lawyers' associations to 40 from 24 jurisdictions around the world.

Remote connection via the grid screen, however, is no substitute for face-to-face interaction which enables far more effective communication and more open discussions.

With the easing of travel restrictions in the last quarter of the year, The Law Society gradually resumed physical participation in major international events that gathered bar leaders around the world, including my first presidential visit to London to attend the Opening of Legal Year of England and Wales in October, Vice President Mr Amirali Nasir's participation in the 66th Congress of the UIA International Association of Lawyers in his capacity as Regional Secretary of the UIA in Dakar, Senegal in October, Vice President Mr Christopher Yu's attendance at the International Conference of Legal Regulators 2022 in Chicago in October, and Secretary General Ms Heidi Chu's participation in the IILACE (International Institute of Law Association Chief Executives) Annual Conference 2022 in Washington DC in her capacity as President of IILACE in October.

It is important to ensure that the Hong Kong legal profession is well represented internationally to play its part in shaping the global future of the profession. Further, in recent years, the rule of law and judicial independence in Hong Kong has been under scrutiny by the world. The impact of written statements or remote discussions cannot compare with the effectiveness of spontaneous face-to-face interaction in addressing any queries or misunderstanding about the factual situation in Hong Kong.

The Law Society also continued to actively promote Hong Kong legal services to the Belt and Road jurisdictions and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area ("GBA"). The Law Society successfully concluded its 5th Belt and Road Conference in November in a hybrid format with a record-high of 1,400 participants from 37 jurisdictions. We also co-organised seminars with our GBA and overseas MOU counterparts, as well as the Peking University, throughout the year. The Law Society also assisted members in preparing for the GBA Legal Professional Examination and addressing practical issues encountered by Hong Kong lawyers in this novel qualification process. The Examination provides an avenue to enable eligible Hong Kong lawyers to qualify as Mainland lawyers to practise in the nine Pearl River Delta municipalities in the GBA on specified civil and commercial matters (including both contentious and non-contentious matters). It is a very important initiative to our members and helps strengthen their ability to expand their services into the GBA, a vast market with huge business potentials.

ENHANCE LEGAL AND REGULATORY INFRASTRUCTURE

To ensure the sustainability of our legal profession, The Law Society had continually lobbied and actively presented views on modernisation of the legal infrastructure. The Law Society made 14 public submissions proposing updates on, for example, the trust regime and the copyright regime, and contributing views on legislative proposals such as the *Outcome Related Fee Structures for Arbitration (Amendment) Ordinance* and the draft *Courts (Remote Hearing) Bill*.

As an international financial centre, Hong Kong attaches great importance to safeguarding the integrity of the financial system by implementing international standards on Anti-Money Laundering ("AML") and counter-terrorist financing. During the year, The Law Society conducted a sector-wide AML review (Phase 1 in January and Phase 2 in October) in order to identify gaps and challenges facing law firms in meeting their AML obligations and consider ways to proactively assist law firms (by way of further guidance and support) in effectively combating money laundering. The Law Society also made available to its members in September a number of AML tools including templates for client due diligence and AML procedures and policies, guidelines for alternative processes to verify a client's identity, answers to frequently asked questions, and an AML leaflet for clients. These efforts were acknowledged by the Security Bureau as well as the Financial Action Task Force ("FATF"), and contributed to the re-rating of Recommendation 28 (Supervision of DNFBPs (Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professionals)) in the Mutual Evaluation Report 2019 from "Partially Compliant" to "Largely Compliant".

To examine and address issues arising from conduct investigations and interventions into practices of problematic law firms, the Council had set up a dedicated committee, the Steering Committee on Compliance, which is responsible for making recommendations on necessary reforms to enhance the regulatory and compliance regime including proposing relevant legislative amendments.

GIVE BACK TO COMMUNITY

Through its active participation in pro bono and community work, The Law Society has established itself as a caring organisation committed to giving back to the community. During the year, The Law Society launched many initiatives aiming to make a difference in society through extensive sharing of legal knowledge with the wider public, including, among others, 62 talks to schools and the wider community, videos on legal tips and "Little Legal KOL" Competition for kindergarten and primary students as part of Law Week 2022, an online quiz and a sports and music carnival for secondary students as part of Teen Talk 2022, a legal forum for secondary and university students to address the issue of drug abuse, and the Free Legal Helpline which had handled over 10,000 cases since its launch in August 2013.

LOOKING AHEAD

Hong Kong's role, among others, as a centre for international legal and dispute resolution services in the Asia-Pacific region is expressly supported by the Central Government in the 14th Five-Year Plan which is the blueprint guiding the future national development of China to 2035. Coupled with the many opportunities offered by the Belt & Road Initiative and the GBA development, Hong Kong's legal services market shows promising prospects.

Further, Hong Kong lawyers' qualification as GBA lawyers through the GBA Legal Professional Examination will help facilitate the further development of multi-jurisdictional legal services on the Mainland. The Law Society has set up two sub-committees to monitor the development of the GBA and explore ways to capitalise on the GBA opportunities for the benefit of our members.

All these mean that there will be an increasing demand for our legal services and a steady supply of quality legal services has to be ensured. The Law Society has set up a Working Party on Retention of Talent which will consider ways to attract talent to the legal profession to fulfil the needs of the growing market. As always, we welcome legal talent from around the world to enrich our legal services market and tap into the huge potential of these future developments.

Exciting challenges lie ahead of us. The Law Society will continue its efforts in upholding the rule of law, promoting the legal profession, improving the practice environment, supporting its members, maintaining standards and giving back to the community. I also take this opportunity to extend my deepest gratitude to my fellow Council members, the Secretariat and all those who have been involved in the work of The Law Society for their unfailing support and valuable contributions.



C. M. CHAN

President



SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT

The COVID-19 pandemic started to plague Hong Kong at the beginning of 2020. Following three years of distress and affliction, 2022 finally revealed, to everyone's delight, a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel.

However, this came only after a difficult period when the fifth wave of the pandemic hit Hong Kong in the first half of the year. In December, having assessed that the risk posed by the pandemic to local public health had reduced with the increase of community immunity against COVID-19, the Government relaxed most of the preventive measures by, for instance, removing the Vaccine Pass requirement and lifting social distancing arrangements except mask-wearing.

The Law Society continued its operations with minimum disruption, adapting to the fluid public health situation during the year. We took advantage of technology to perform our functions remotely depending on the circumstances, while ensuring that the necessary infection control measures were in place to protect our staff and members. The Law Society has over 120 committees, working parties and sub-committees, and as some of them have regular scheduled meetings, telephone and video conferencing facilities were set up to enable members to attend those meetings remotely, where appropriate.

With the easing of COVID-19-related travel restrictions and social distancing measures in the last quarter, The Law Society representatives gradually resumed international travel to enhance The Law Society's presence and reassert its influence in the global legal community. Further, local events were increasingly organised in a hybrid format to create more face-to-face interactive opportunities both among members and with external parties.

2022 was a year of building resilience. While overcoming the difficulties presented by the prolonged pandemic, work was also being done to prepare for a full-scale post-pandemic bounce back.

The summary below sets out major quantifiable tasks we performed for members throughout the year, under the guidance of the Council and Committees:

- (a) organised over 47 social and networking events for members, including Family Fun Day (virtual), health talks and Virtual Law Fair, among many others;
- (b) coordinated eight community projects, including Law Week, Teen Talk, *Sing Tao Daily* "Legal Mailbox" column, school talks, community talks, legal forum and webinars on Mainland Legal System and cross-border property inheritance, which included 64 talks to schools and the wider community reaching out to over 16,000 participants, with "Teen Talk 2022: Sports and Music Carnival" in particular having attracted more than 600 student participants;
- (c) met with 12 local delegations and two Consuls General in Hong Kong, and organised 32 physical and virtual meetings with delegations from the Greater China region and other overseas jurisdictions;
- (d) coordinated and organised 22 events, including 20 physical, hybrid and virtual events for counterparts in the Greater China region and overseas jurisdictions and two law courses for the Peking University Law School and the School of Law of Shenzhen University;
- (e) attended 59 physical, hybrid and virtual events and meetings organised by counterparts in the Greater China region and overseas jurisdictions;
- (f) signed three MOUs with the Astana International Financial Centre Authority, LAWASIA and Seoul Bar Association respectively;
- (g) issued over 14 submissions on public consultations and 10 press statements on issues relevant to the legal profession;
- (h) organised 305 training courses, attended by 27,077 participants, under the Continuing Professional Development ("CPD") Scheme and the Risk Management Education ("RME") Programme;
- (i) administered the annual Overseas Lawyers Qualification Examination ("OLQE") for a total of 157 candidates;
- (j) coordinated over 280 activities of the 14 sports teams and nine recreational groups of The Law Society including competitions, classes and training sessions;
- (k) processed applications for (i) the subscription of 13,144 members, 17 associate members and 228 student members, (ii) the registration of 687 trainee solicitor contracts, (iii) the admission of 792 solicitors, (iv) the issue of 11,457 bilingual practising certificates, (v) the registration of 1,722 foreign lawyers and 77 foreign firms, (vi) the issue of 1,227 certificates of standing for solicitors/foreign lawyers and 15 for solicitors' firms and foreign law firms, and (vii) the issue of 217 letters regarding employment or training visas;

- (l) accredited 3,945 CPD training courses and 132 other CPD activities as well as 210 RME courses and one other RME activity;
- (m) reviewed 589 Statements of Compliance with CPD/RME requirements completed by solicitors and conducted CPD audits on 571 practitioners;
- (n) handled 876 complaints on practitioners and employees of law firms; and
- (o) visited 47 law firms on 78 occasions to provide assistance with their accounting procedures and to inspect documents to ensure compliance with the *Solicitors' Accounts Rules* (Cap.159F).

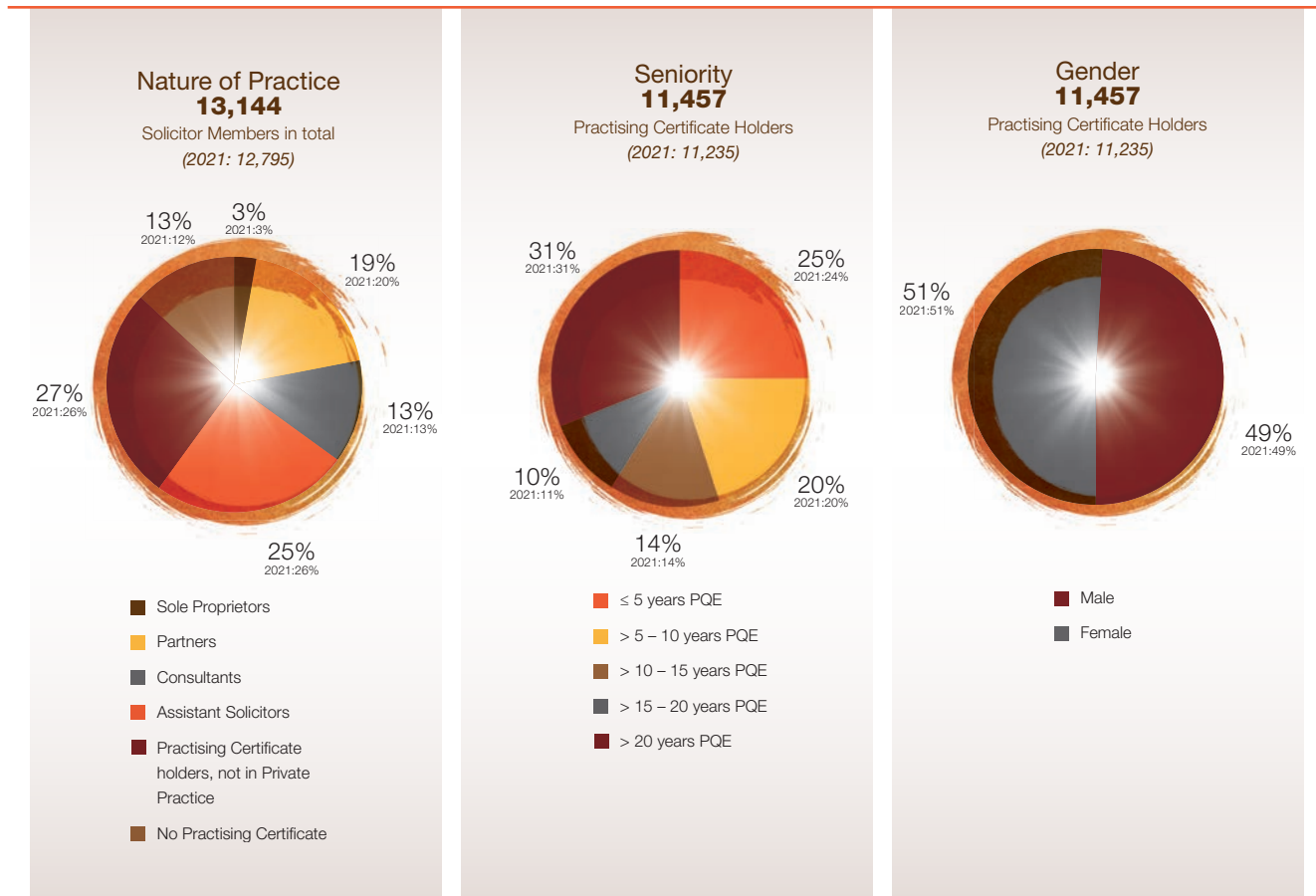
Much of our work, however, is less quantifiable. Thus, detailed explanations about other projects and initiatives we undertook in 2022 are set out in other sections of this Annual Report.

MEMBERSHIP MOVEMENTS AND BREAKDOWN

Our membership increased by 2.7% from 12,795 in 2021 to 13,144 as of the end of 2022. The growth rate was lower than the average rate of 4.3% for the five-year period from 2017 to 2021. Out of our 13,144 members, 11,457 held a practising certificate, representing a 2% increase from 11,235 in 2021.

The charts below show a snapshot of the distribution of our membership in terms of their practice, seniority and gender as at the end of 2022:

Historically, the number of male practising certificate holders had always exceeded that of female holders. In 2021, the ratio reversed for the first time with 51% of female practising certificate holders and 49% of male holders, and the same ratio was maintained in 2022.



During the year, 20 new Hong Kong law firms (29 in 2021) and two new foreign law firms (four in 2021) commenced practice. On the other hand, 31 Hong Kong law firms (29 in 2021) and nine foreign law firms (six in 2021) ceased practice. Out of the nine foreign firms that were closed, three became Hong Kong law firms, same as in 2021.

The number of foreign lawyers decreased by 1.6% from 1,465 (from 34 jurisdictions) in 2021 to 1,442 (also from 34 jurisdictions) in 2022. The top three jurisdictions where the most foreign lawyers registered as being their home jurisdictions in 2022 were the United States (39%), Mainland China (19.2%) and England and Wales (15.5%). Compared to 2021, there was a slight increase of 0.4% in the share of US firms and 0.9% for Mainland firms but a drop of 1.2% in the share of English firms in 2022.

The number of foreign law firms decreased by 8.3% from 84 (from 22 jurisdictions) in 2021 to 77 (from 20 jurisdictions) in 2022. The top three jurisdictions where the most foreign law firms registered as their home jurisdictions in 2022 were Mainland China (34.5%, compared to 33.3% in 2021), the British Virgin Islands (10.3%, compared to 11.8% in 2021) and the Cayman Islands (9.2%, compared to 8.6% in 2021). Firms with the United States as home jurisdiction, which was second place representing 11.8% of the total number of foreign law firms in 2021, dropped to fourth place with a 8% share in 2022.

With the implementation of the *Legal Practitioners (Amendment) Ordinance 2012* introducing limited liability partnerships ("LLPs") for law firms in Hong Kong since 1 March 2016 up to the end of 2022, a total of 84 law firms took advantage of the provisions and became LLPs, out of which 8 were formed during 2022. Of these 84 LLPs, ten ceased practice between 2017 and 2021 and four in 2022. Of the remaining 70 LLPs as of the end of 2022 (representing 7% of the total number of local and foreign law firms), 15 were foreign firms and 55 were local firms. LLPs afford limited liability protection to innocent partners pursuant to the provisions in the Ordinance.

The jurisdiction of The Law Society Council extends to the conduct not only of a person who is, or was at the relevant time, a solicitor, a foreign lawyer or a trainee solicitor, but also of an employee of a solicitor or foreign lawyer. As of the end of 2022, 15,215 unqualified persons were employed by Hong Kong law firms and 672 by foreign law firms, decreasing by 2% for Hong Kong law firms and decreasing by 0.6% for foreign law firms compared to 2021.

FINANCIAL POSITION

The Law Society recorded a surplus after tax of HK\$31.4 million for 2022, compared to a deficit after tax of HK\$52.1 million in 2021.

The major sources of income included fees for membership, solicitors' practising certificates, foreign lawyers' registration and miscellaneous applications such as applications for certificates of good standing. The income for the year was about HK\$150 million, representing an increase of about 70% from HK\$88.3 million in 2021.

Considering the substantial financial deficit in 2021 and to ensure that The Law Society is in a financially viable position to carry on its functions under the *LPO* and its Memorandum and Articles of Association, The Law Society was not able to continue for 2022 the special financial relief measures applied in 2021. The 2022 practising certificate fee was adjusted back to its 2020 level from HK\$1,950 to HK\$6,500, and a 50% upward adjustment was made to the fees for registration of foreign lawyer and foreign firm, i.e. back to their 2020/2021 level, from 1 July 2022. The 2022 membership fee was also adjusted upwards to \$2,500.

The increase in income for 2022 was therefore mainly attributable to the fee adjustments back to the 2020 fee level.

With respect to expenditure, it decreased by 15.4% from about HK\$140.2 million in 2021 to approximately HK\$118.6 million in 2022.

The decrease in expenditure was mainly due to the substantial reduction in intervention costs, compared to those in 2021.

The Law Society is empowered under the *LPO* to intervene in the practice of a law firm for protection of the interests of the clients of the firm and the public. The Law Society exercised its statutory power to intervene in the practice of one Hong Kong law firm in 2022, compared to three in 2021. Through its intervention agent, The Law Society took control of the office and clients' money of the intervened firm, made arrangements for clients of the intervened firm to engage alternative solicitors and took possession of the intervened firm's documents. Subject to any court order for the payment of costs, any intervention costs incurred by The Law Society shall be paid by the solicitors whose practice is intervened. To ensure that The Law Society had sufficient reserve to meet the necessary costs that might be incurred in carrying out its statutory regulatory functions, the Council resolved to set aside a sum every year to build up a special reserve for regulatory costs. In 2022, the Council set aside HK\$10 million for the reserve.

Taking into account the surplus of HK\$31.4 million for the year, the accumulated surplus (inclusive of the reserve) was HK\$233.6 million with net current assets of about HK\$124.2 million.

Compared to 2021, our cash position at the end of 2022 increased by 17% from about HK\$211 million in 2021 to about HK\$246.9 million at the end of 2022. The Law Society managed its cash reserves prudently and maintained them in fixed deposits spread among eight banks with no more than 22% of the total cash reserves in any one bank.

Liquidity is closely monitored to ensure sufficient resources to meet the operating needs of The Law Society and to maximise interest earnings. As of the end of 2022, about 89% of the total cash reserves were maintained with banks with maturity within three months. The details of the exposure to financial risks including credit, liquidity and interest rate risks and the policies and practices adopted to manage these risks are set out in Notes 16(a) to (c) of the Financial Statements on page 109.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The Law Society is committed to ensuring that its services and internal operations are carried out in an environmentally responsible manner.

The Law Society publishes a monthly journal, *Hong Kong Lawyer*. The journal is freely available in digital format. Members are notified of the journal's publication by weekly Circulars with the provision of a link to the online journal. For other publications such as our weekly Circulars and the *Law List*, only electronic versions are available. For The Law Society's *Annual Report*, an opt-in mechanism is adopted. A member who wishes to receive a printed version of the *Annual Report* may change the default option from "No" to "Yes" in the Members' Zone of The Law Society website.

Further, to facilitate electronic communication with all members, The Law Society has installed a webmail system by which every solicitor, trainee solicitor, registered foreign lawyer, associate member and student member is assigned a Law Society email account. The Law Society actively encourages members to take advantage of this facility. Communications from The Law Society to the general membership including surveys are all sent electronically to our members' Law Society email accounts.

Internally, measures to protect the environment are stipulated in The Law Society's staff manual. Staff are reminded to:

- (a) think carefully whether there is a need to copy or print a document, and if there is, it should be done in the double-sided mode;
- (b) recycle and reuse envelopes and draft paper; and
- (c) switch off all lights, electrical equipment and appliances before leaving the office.

Staff are urged to recycle and reuse wherever possible and reminders to that effect are sent to staff by email regularly. There is a system in place to collect plastic and paper materials as well as toner and ink cartridges for recycling. Used envelopes are centrally stored for the staff to reuse.

Further, a column on "Love our Offices" has been introduced in the quarterly Staff Newsletter to remind colleagues to make efficient use of resources and energy and to minimise consumption of energy and paper. Comparison tables on paper consumption, electricity consumption and meter reading on print and copy for the past six months with the same period in the preceding two years are included in the column as a constant reminder of how the office has been doing in saving electricity and paper.

We fully support energy saving. We have participated in the "Energy Saving Charter" of the Environment and Ecology Bureau and received the Awards for Environmental Excellence by the Environmental Campaign Committee. We have renewed our pledge for 2022/2023 to maintain average indoor temperature between 24°C to 26°C between June and September, switch off electrical appliances and systems when not in use, and procure energy-efficient electrical appliances and systems.

We successfully saved consumption of electricity and paper by 4% and 22% respectively during the year, compared to the consumption in 2021.

Besides, we signed the "Green Event Pledge" of the Environmental Protection Department in 2022 to promote green events.

ABOUT OUR TEAM

Excellence, transparency, empathy and fairness are the guiding values embraced by our team in the Secretariat in every task we undertake and every service we offer. We implement the policies approved by the Council and provide support to the work of the committees.

To cope with the heavy workload in the Secretariat, four headcounts were added during 2022 and our total headcount for permanent staff stood at 116 at the end of the year. On personnel movement, the Secretariat had an overall turnover rate of 21.6% in 2022, compared to 24.6% in 2021. Mr T.Y. Lee joined us as Director of Standards and Development, Ms Belinda Pui as Assistant Director, Communications and External Affairs and Ms Vivian Ng as Assistant Director, Professional Indemnity Scheme. Mr Kenneth Fok, Director of Practitioners Affairs and Ms Wendy Lee, Director of Member Services were both promoted to Deputy Secretary General while remaining as Director of Practitioners Affairs and Member Services respectively. Human capital is the most valuable asset of an organisation and we care a lot about retaining talent. During the year, eight members of our staff received long service awards in appreciation of their loyalty to The Law Society. Their years of service with us ranged from 10 to 35 years.

Because of the pandemic, some staff functions like the Spring Dinner had to be cancelled to comply with the social distancing requirements. Nevertheless, as far as practicable, staff activities were continued in an alternative format. Staff webinars on a wide range of topics including personal health, medical scheme, MPF updates and legislation in relation to personal data privacy and discrimination were held, and when the public health situation permitted, staff recreational workshops on art, health and wellness were organised. As the COVID-19 preventive measures were further relaxed towards the end of the year, we were pleased to have been able to have our first physical Christmas Party since 2018. An annual budget was also set aside to sponsor staff training to enhance work-related knowledge and skills.

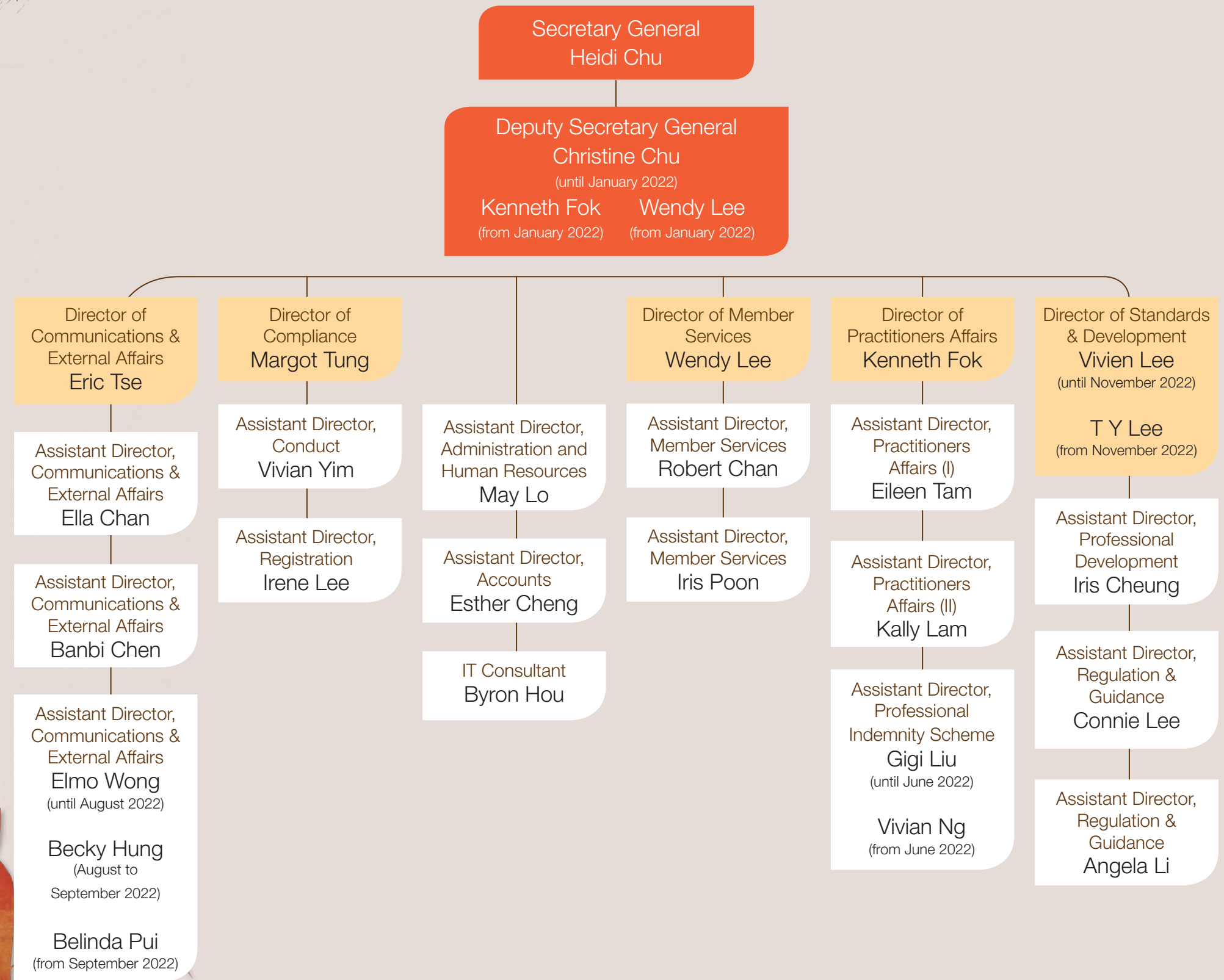
Our team is proud to serve the legal profession. With our members' trust and support, we will continue to excel in what we do in the coming year.



Heidi Chu
Secretary General



LAW SOCIETY SECRETARIAT







SAFEGUARDING THE RULE OF LAW

One of the most important roles of The Law Society is to safeguard the rule of law and uphold the principles on which this core value is founded.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE

Judicial independence is a fundamental attribute of Hong Kong which is governed by the rule of law. The constitutional role of our judges and judicial officers is to apply only the law. Article 84 of the Basic Law of the HKSAR expressly states that judges and judicial officers shall adjudicate cases in accordance with the law. Article 85 states that the courts of the HKSAR shall exercise judicial power independently, free from any interference. The Judicial Oath taken by all judges and judicial officers requires adherence to the law and safeguarding of the law without fear or favour.

The Law Society has full trust and confidence in the strength of our Judiciary in preserving its independence under “One Country, Two Systems” in accordance with the Basic Law. Our judges discharge their duties in full accordance with the law, honestly and

with integrity, safeguard the law and administer justice without fear, favour, self-interest or deceit. Whilst rational and healthy criticisms are welcome, we see it as our duty to defend our judges when they are subject to unfair and unfounded based solely on outcomes and political views.

A proper understanding of the administration of justice and the duties and responsibilities of the judges will help the public understand and appreciate more the meaning and value of the rule of law and the importance of judicial independence. The Law Society therefore issues public statements from time to time to defend judicial integrity, call for respect for the rule of law and remind the public about the proper ways to handle dissatisfaction with the outcome of a judgment.

In April, following the resignation of two serving UK judges as non-permanent judges (“NPJs”) of the HKCFA and the indication by five British NPJs, three Australian NPJs and one Canadian NPJ that they will continue to serve on our highest court, The Law Society issued a public statement jointly with the HKBA expressing our gratitude to the current and former NPJs for their faithful and

fearless discharge of their important role in the administration of justice in accordance with the law. The statement further reiterated that while legal issues may arise in context having a political dimension, politics has no part to play in the law or the administration of justice.

In May, noting media reports about a letter dated 3 May 2022 to the President of the United States, apparently sent by seven US Congress representatives, calling for sanctions against Hong Kong judges and prosecutors designated to handle national security cases, The Law Society issued a public statement condemning any attempt to interfere with the administration of justice or challenge the rule of law, judicial independence or prosecutorial integrity.

In explaining the governance system under “One Country, Two Systems” in his address at the Meeting Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Hong Kong’s return to the Motherland and the Inaugural Ceremony of the Sixth Term Government of the HKSAR on 1 July (“1 July Address”), President Xi Jinping reiterated the independent exercise of power by the Judiciary.

ADHERENCE TO “ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS”

Article 5 of the Basic Law provides that “The socialist system and policies shall not be practised in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and the previous capitalist system and way of life shall remain unchanged for 50 years.”

Different interpretations in connection with the 50-year timeframe in Article 5 have posed questions on what is to happen after 2047. These questions have created a sense of uncertainty about the future of the HKSAR.

In the 1 July Address, President Xi explained the success of the innovative concept of “One Country, Two Systems”. It serves the interests not only of Hong Kong, but also of the whole nation. It is supported not only by the entire population of China, but also by the international community. It is reassuring to note President Xi’s conclusion that there is no reason to change such a good policy and that it must be adhered to in the long run.

MAINTENANCE OF THE COMMON LAW SYSTEM

Article 84 of the Basic Law provides that the courts in Hong Kong may refer to the precedents of other common law jurisdictions. In addition, the HKCFA may as required invite judges from other common law jurisdictions to participate in the judicial processes.

President Xi acknowledged in the 1 July Address that Hong Kong’s “previous laws including the practice of the common law have been maintained and developed”. He expressed full support of

Hong Kong’s efforts to “improve its presence as an international financial, shipping and trading centre, to keep its business environment free, open, and regulated and to maintain the common law, so as to expand and facilitate its exchanges with the world”.

DISSEMINATING PROPER INFORMATION

The Law of the People’s Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the HKSAR (“NSL”) was passed by the National People’s Congress Standing Committee (“NPCSC”) and was added to the list of national laws in Annex III to the Basic Law pursuant to Article 18 of the Basic Law on 30 June 2019. It took effect in Hong Kong on the same day upon gazettal of the government promulgation. The NSL is an important piece of legislation for Hong Kong and has stimulated mixed reactions and heated discussions both locally and internationally.

The Law Society approached the discussions from a legal perspective based on facts. Diversity in views and free discussions are encouraged. However, for debates to be meaningful and constructive, the views, however different, must all be formed on a common basis, namely accurate information.

Whenever a suitable opportunity arises in local and international events, The Law Society would offer information from the primary source to ensure that discussions proceed properly on the basis of an accurate understanding of the NSL based on the primary source, that is, the provisions in the NSL and not second-hand impressions or comments on the effect of the NSL.

On 30 December, upon request of the Chief Executive of the HKSAR, the NPCSC issued a legislative interpretation relating to the NSL on issues arising out of an application for admission of an overseas counsel for a case involving the NSL. In his speech at the Ceremonial Opening of the Legal Year on 16 January 2023, the President of The Law Society took the opportunity to convey a proper understanding of the relevant legal provisions. In his speech, he noted that “*The Basic Law is enacted by the National People’s Congress in accordance with the Constitution of the People’s Republic of China and Article 67(4) of the Constitution states that the NPCSC has power to interpret laws. Further, under Article 67(1), the NPCSC is charged with the duty and function to interpret the Constitution and oversee its enforcement. Legislative interpretation is an interpretation of the law by the law maker. In China, it is a constitutionally entrenched concept which, however, is novel to the common law system being practised in Hong Kong. For those who are not familiar with the concept, any misunderstanding of how it fits in the judicial process in a common law system may cause confusions. Article 65 of the NSL provides that the power of interpretation of the NSL vests in the NPCSC.... This sixth interpretation provided procedural guidance on existing provisions in the NSL. The adjudication of the relevant case itself based on the facts and evidence adduced before the court has been left entirely in the remit of the Judiciary.*”

The Law Society will continue its tireless efforts to safeguard the rule of law and judicial independence, which are the keys to the social stability, economic success and overall well-being of Hong Kong.



IMPROVING PRACTICE ENVIRONMENT

The fiercely competitive legal services market continues to put solicitors in practice to severe test. The continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic in the first half of the year presented yet an additional challenge for practitioners. A key role of The Law Society is to ensure the sustainable development of the local practice environment so that our legal profession will remain strong, independent and effective and continue to thrive.

REDUCTION OF OVERHEADS

Implementing measures to reduce overheads for law firms was a top priority of The Law Society this year.

One of the substantial overhead costs for operating a law firm is the mandatory contributions payable by the firm to the Hong Kong Solicitors Indemnity Fund ("Fund"). The amount of contribution is calculated in accordance with a statutory formula stipulated in the *Solicitors (Professional Indemnity) Rules* (Cap.159M) ("*PIS Rules*"). The Council had no discretion to deviate from the statutory formula until 2010 when the *PIS Rules* were amended to enable the Council to reduce the total amount of contributions due for the next indemnity year. Since then, with the assistance of professional actuarial projections, the Council had annually considered the projected Fund surplus for the following five years under different economic scenarios in

conjunction with the Fund's loss history and investment returns and decided if an adjustment to the contribution can be made. The PIS contributions payable by law firms were reduced by one-third in the indemnity years 2010/11, 2011/12, 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2021/22, by 50% in the indemnity year 2016/17 and 2019/2020, and by 80% in the indemnity year 2020/21. In 2022, on the basis of the projections and particularly the impact of the pandemic, the Council decided to exercise its power to reduce the contributions for the indemnity year 2022/23 by one-third. The amount of reduction provided to the profession over these 12 indemnity years totalled about HK\$2.14 billion.

EFFORT TO COMBAT COVID-19

Following the success of the Legal Talent Recruitment Scheme (Trainee Solicitors) in 2021, The Law Society continued to support the Scheme by assisting the Government in processing the applications for the Legal Talent Recruitment Scheme (Trainee Solicitors) 2022 which provides subsidy to members to create new job openings for trainee solicitors. The application period commenced on 11 April and will end on 28 February 2023.

The Law Society kept a close dialogue with the Judiciary Administration, urging it to expedite the transaction of court business by electronic means and make greater use of remote hearings to address the disruptions brought to court operations by the pandemic.

Admission proceedings were another area that suffered adverse impact. The admission hearings, already scheduled with a long queue, were further delayed by court closure during the General Adjournment Period ("GAP") in the first quarter of the year, adding anxiety to those who had already been waiting months for their admission to take place. The Law Society conveyed the predicament the would-be solicitors were in. With a long delay, their income was affected as they were not yet formally qualified and hence unable to

take on tasks as qualified practitioners although they were in substance capable of doing so, and their career prospects were also at stake because employers might not want to wait indefinitely for them to be admitted. The Judiciary Administration subsequently introduced more admission hearing sessions when GAP was over to speed up clearance of the backlog.

To address members' difficulties, The Law Society developed online forms through which members could raise concerns and seek assistance in various areas such as "work from home" arrangements, issues arising from the implementation of GAP, staff shortage arising from staff being infected or quarantined, arrangements for remote operations and wellness support for staff.

Further, the exemption and extension of time granted in 2020 to solicitor-mediators on the Panel of General Mediators, Panel of Family Mediators and Panel of Family Mediation Supervisors of The Law Society to comply with their CPD requirements in mediation training, which was further extended in December 2021, continued to cover all solicitor-mediators whose term of membership would expire at the end of the CPD year in 2022 and 2023 (as Panel membership is renewable on a 4-year basis).

In March, the Council granted waivers from specific legal/regulatory requirements in relation to "work from home" arrangements that Hong Kong firms and registered foreign firms had put in place as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The relevant waivers had been extended from time to time since then, depending on the public health condition.

The entry fee for joining the Recreation and Sports Programme 2022 was frozen and entitlement to 2022 membership was extended at no cost to those who had joined the 2021 Programme to encourage members to stay fit and healthy during the pandemic.

Further, two online Members' Forums themed "Stronger Strides Towards Stability, Sustainability & Vitality" and "Stronger Strides Towards Stability, Sustainability & Vitality TOGETHER" were organized in March and October respectively to enable members to share their views on the challenges faced by the legal industry in the rapidly changing environment.

A new Members' Forum series entitled "Embrace a Diverse Community" has also been introduced. The first Forum under the series was held in June in a physical format for members from the Mainland.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO LAW REFORM

The Law Society, through the valuable input of the various specialist committees under the Standing Committee on Practitioners Affairs, reflects the views of the solicitors' profession in consultations on law reform.

In 2022, a total of 14 public submissions were made on a wide range of reform proposals, which are set out below:

- (1) Recommendations and Proposals on Review of the Trust Regime in the HKSAR;
- (2) Government Budget 2022–23;
- (3) Consultation on the *Mainland Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters (Reciprocal Enforcement) Bill* and the *Mainland Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters (Reciprocal Enforcement) Rules*;
- (4) Public Consultation Paper on Updating Hong Kong's Copyright Regime;
- (5) Consultation on the Proposed Construction of a District Court Building at Caroline Hill Road;
- (6) The *Arbitration and Legal Practitioners Legislation (Outcome Related Fee Structures for Arbitration) (Amendment) Bill 2022*;
- (7) Consultation on Draft *Family Procedure Bill* on Procedural Reforms for the Family Justice System;
- (8) Consultation on proposed changes to the *Securities and Futures (Contracts Limits and Reportable Positions) Rules* and the Guidance Note on Position Limits and Large Open Position Reporting Requirements;
- (9) The *Copyright (Amendment) Bill 2022*;
- (10) Consultation Paper on Proposed Amendments to Enforcement-related Provisions of the *Securities and Futures Ordinance*;
- (11) Remote Hearing: Draft *Courts (Remote Hearing) Bill*, Practice Directions and Operational Guidelines;
- (12) Law Reform Commission Consultation: Cyber-Dependent Crimes and Jurisdictional Issues;
- (13) 2022 Policy Address; and
- (14) Consultation Paper on Listing Regime for Specialist Technology Companies.

MAINTAINING THE HIGHEST STANDARDS

The solicitors' profession is self-regulatory. The Council of The Law Society is obliged to ensure the establishment and promotion of high standards of work within the profession, which includes encouraging legal practitioners to continue to study and acquire legal knowledge and skills.

NURTURING LIFE-LONG LEARNING

The Law Society has implemented the CPD Scheme since 1998 and the RME Programme since 2004. The CPD Scheme aims at providing a convenient framework for legal professionals to acquire new legal knowledge and skills so that the profession as a whole can continue to meet the ever-increasing demands of clients and society. The RME Programme aims at raising awareness of risk issues and promoting good risk management practices among legal practitioners.

The CPD Scheme provides a wide variety of courses to cater for the different needs of practitioners. In 2022 the following categories of courses were organised under the Scheme:

- (a) Courses on new or amended legislation and legal developments,

for example, the *Personal Data (Privacy) (Amendment) Ordinance 2021* – Criminalisation of Doxxing Acts; Enforcing a Matrimonial or Family Case Judgment in Hong Kong or in the Mainland; Outcome Related Fee Structures for Arbitration — A Practitioner's Perspective; Consultation Paper on the Copyright Regime in Hong Kong;

- (b) Updates on existing law and practice, for example, Professional Practice 2022; Update on Conveyancing Cases 2022; Update on Contract Cases 2022; Property Law Cases 2022; Update on Hong Kong Competition Law; Update on the Legal Aid Schemes; Update on Intestate Succession; Update on Testate Succession; The Latest Trends and Developments of Dispute Resolution in the GBA; Negligence 2022; An Examination of the Latest Developments in Cross-border Restructuring Case Law and What it Means for the Future; An Update on the Latest Asian Shareholder Disputes;

- (c) General courses on various areas of practice.

For the RME Programme, apart from the standard courses in the core programmes for principals, non-principals, trainees and registered foreign lawyers and a wide range of electives regularly offered throughout the year, some special courses on RME were also organised from time to time during the year. They included, for example, Claims Handling Process under the Professional Indemnity Scheme; Professional Indemnity Scheme and Risk Management Issues; Data Protection & Direct Marketing; and Clients & Third Party Engagement.

In 2022, The Law Society accredited 3,945 CPD courses, of which 53 courses were provided by The Law Society and 295 by the Academy of Law and 210 were also RME accredited.



Webinar on *Personal Data (Privacy) (Amendment) Ordinance 2021* — Criminalisation of Doxxing Acts in January

Knowing the need for busy practitioners to have a variety of means by which they can comply with the CPD requirements, The Law Society permits and encourages methods of learning other than attendance at traditional lecture-based courses. During the year, The Law Society accredited 17 legal journals and books and 115 legal research projects for CPD purposes.

There were 62 accredited CPD providers under The Law Society's Provider Accreditation Scheme at the end of 2022. The Law Society monitors the standard of accredited CPD courses by reviewing course evaluation records and attending selected accredited courses. 15 courses were monitored during the year.

To broaden members' exposure to legal developments around the world, The Law Society invited eminent speakers from overseas to participate in seminars and conferences hosted by The Law Society for the benefit of its members. In November, renowned speakers from lawyers' associations and business sectors around the world (including Mainland China, Egypt, Malaysia, Singapore and Russia) were invited to share their insights in our Belt and Road Conference under the theme of "Metaverse and Money on the Belt and Road".

GATEKEEPER OF ADMISSION STANDARDS

The Law Society is empowered under section 4 of the *LPO* to prescribe the

requirements for admission as solicitors of Hong Kong. Solicitors are the backbone of society tasked with the important responsibility of ensuring the fair administration of justice, and The Law Society has a statutory duty to prescribe admission requirements to ensure those who enter the solicitors' profession are of the highest standards.

There are two routes to admission as a solicitor of Hong Kong, via the trainee solicitor route and the overseas lawyers qualification route.

In respect of the overseas lawyers qualification route, The Law Society is responsible for administering the OLQE which is held annually since its launch in 1995. In 2022, The Law Society administered the 28th OLQE. 157 candidates from 20 jurisdictions including Hong Kong (11 were common law jurisdictions and nine were non-common law jurisdictions) sat the OLQE. Five candidates were Hong Kong barristers. The overall pass rate was 20%.

For the trainee solicitor route, prior to entering into a trainee solicitor contract, a person is currently required to complete the Postgraduate Certificate in Laws ("PCLL") programme provided by one of the three law schools in Hong Kong. Under rule 7 of the *Trainee Solicitors Rules* (Cap.159J), The Law Society is also empowered to set and/or approve an examination, as an alternative to PCLL, for anyone wishing to enter into a trainee solicitor contract.

During the year, The Law Society considered proposals on the examinations required, set or approved under rule 7(a) of the *Trainee Solicitors Rules* and liaised with the stakeholders on the Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training and the Judiciary on its proposals to introduce these qualifying examinations. The Law Society continued to monitor the implementation of the Protocol on the role of External Examiners and other aspects of the PCLL introduced in July 2021. The same External Examiners on the same or similar subjects across all three law schools and the same representatives on the different governing bodies of the three law schools have been appointed.

ENSURING COMPLIANCE WITH RULES AND REGULATIONS

As a legal service hub in Asia, Hong Kong is blessed with legal talent from around the world. As of the end of 2022, there were 77 foreign law firms and 1,442 registered foreign lawyers from 34 overseas jurisdictions. For the protection of the public, foreign law firms and foreign lawyers who are qualified to practise the laws of their overseas jurisdictions of admission are prohibited from practising Hong Kong law.

The Investigation Counsel conducted seven visits to five law firms during the year. In addition, 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* (Cap.159H) and to monitor the proper completion of court attendance forms.



Joint Seminar with ICAC on Professional Ethics in Practice in August



Joint Webinar with German Federal Bar in December

The Monitoring Accountants visit law firms to assist them in improving their accounting procedures/systems, give advice on the best use of the Manual on Solicitors' Accounting, and inspect their books and accounts to ensure their compliance with the rules relating to solicitors' accounting. In 2022, 78 visits were made to 47 solicitors' firms and foreign law firms; some firms required more than one visit.

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 are responsible for appointing 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 complaints on a summary basis.

In 2022, a total of six matters were submitted to the Tribunal Convenor and four disciplinary proceedings were determined by the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal.

The Law Society is empowered under the *LPO* to intervene in the practice of a law firm to protect the interests of the firm's clients and the public. The Law Society exercised its statutory power to intervene in the practice of one Hong Kong law firm in 2022.

ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING EFFORT

The FATF is one of the most prominent international bodies devoted to combatting money laundering. The FATF conducts peer reviews ("Mutual Evaluation") of each member on an ongoing basis to assess how each jurisdiction is performing in preventing criminal abuse of the financial system. The assessment result is

considered an important factor in evaluating a jurisdiction's international reputation as a financial centre as it reflects the level of integrity of the jurisdiction's financial system.

The Mutual Evaluation of Hong Kong took place in 2018 and the Report was published on 4 September 2019. Hong Kong was rated overall compliant by the FATF.

Whilst the FATF acknowledged The Law Society's efforts in raising the awareness of members in money laundering, it suggested that The Law Society should take a proactive and robust approach in monitoring and enforcing the AML and counter-terrorist financing ("CTF") obligations applicable to solicitors.

The Law Society conducted a sector-wide AML Review. In May, The Law Society completed Phase I of the AML Review involving an initial sample set of 50 member firms. Phase II of the AML Review was rolled out to all law firms, including foreign law firms, in October. The exercise entailed completion of an AML Risk Assessment Questionnaire designed in accordance with FATF and market practice standards, as well as submission of the firm's written AML policy. 82% of law firms participated in this exercise.

An AML Toolkit, comprising the following, was also developed during the year for the benefit of our members:

- (a) an AML Policy Template;
- (b) Guidance on Alternative Processes to Verify a Client's Identity;
- (c) an AML Leaflet for Clients;
- (d) Client Due Diligence Forms (full version for Legal Persons and Individual Clients respectively);
- (e) Client Due Diligence Forms (short version for Legal Persons and Individual Clients respectively); and
- (f) Answers to Frequently Asked Questions.

A new AML webpage was launched in September on The Law Society's website to keep legal professionals up-to-date with the latest regulatory developments and learning resources, including the AML Toolkit.

All these efforts were acknowledged by the Security Bureau and the FATF and contributed to re-rating of Recommendation 28 (Regulation and Supervision of Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions) from "Partially Compliant" in the Mutual Evaluation Report 2019 to "Largely Compliant".

The Law Society further enhanced its outreach capacity by sharing AML/CTF related news and updates impacting legal professionals on its social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube.

Two AML seminars for legal practitioners were conducted on 8 July and 21 November, attended by a total of 1,112 participants. The core AML/CTF three-hour RME programme was updated in September to include practical application of the AML/CTF requirements.

Further, an AML Forum was held on 30 September to assist law firms in preparing for the AML Review. It was well attended by 705 participants. In addition, four experience sharing AML/CTF workshops were organised from October to December focusing on practical application of the AML/CTF requirements and the AML Toolkit guidance materials. The workshops attracted 616 participants in total.

In addition, a joint webinar with the German Federal Bar on AML regulations was held on 19 December, attracting over 100 members from the two associations.



EXPLORING NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Exploring new business opportunities for members is one of The Law Society's important tasks.

The Law Society seizes every possible opportunity to promote legal and dispute resolution services of Hong Kong to the local and international communities. Whilst international travel and large gatherings remained restricted in the first three quarters of 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, The Law Society made good use of technology to ensure that our work in promoting the Hong Kong legal profession could continue with minimum disruption. In 2022, we continued to offer a series of webinars and virtual conferences to the local and international communities, most of which were offered free of charge in order to attract and benefit a wider audience. Besides organising our own events, The Law Society also maintained a prominent presence in the international legal arena by virtually participating in international events, including the following:

PROMOTION THROUGH VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

- (a) Opening of the Legal Year 2022 in Malaysia in January;
- (b) Virtual Dialogue Series co-organised by the ABA Rule of Law Initiative and Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales in March;
- (c) California International Arbitration Week in March;
- (d) Opening of the Legal Year 2022 in Brunei in March;
- (e) 2022 Macau Lawyers' Day in May;
- (f) Astana Finance Days 2022 in June;
- (g) Symposium on Foreign-related Legal Affairs Commemorating the 25th Anniversary of Hong Kong's Return to the Motherland in June;
- (h) Qianhai Shenzhen-Hong Kong International Legal Services District Policy Introduction Session in June;
- (i) 3rd LAWASIA Human Rights Conference in August;
- (j) Straits Law Forum in August;
- (k) HKTDC 7th Belt and Road Summit in late August to early September;
- (l) HKTDC 5th Belt and Road Global Forum Annual Roundtable in September;
- (m) 4th Union of Beijing Business Services (UBBS) Business Festival & 9th Nine Ring Summit in September;
- (n) Seminar on GBA Professional Legal Examination and Cross-border Legal Services in September;
- (o) LAWASIA Belt and Road Webinar in September;
- (p) International Conference on AI & Cybersecurity in October;
- (q) Seminar on promoting collaboration in overseas Economic and Trade Co-operation Zones in November;
- (r) 2022 GBA Rule of Law Forum in November; and
- (s) Inaugural Shenzhen University GBA Forum in November.

PROMOTION THROUGH PHYSICAL PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Since August, in view of the easing of the pandemic situation and hence the gradual resumption of social and



Opening of the Legal Year 2022
in England and Wales in October



32nd POLA Conference
in Singapore in September

economic activities globally, The Law Society has resumed sending delegates to physically attend international events, which marked a major step forward for the Hong Kong legal community in its effort to resume post-pandemic normalcy. These included:

- (a) 60th AIJA Congress in Singapore in August;
- (b) 32nd POLA Conference in Singapore in September;
- (c) Opening of the Legal Year 2022 in England and Wales in October;
- (d) 24th ILLACE Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. in October;
- (e) International Conference of Legal Regulators in Chicago in October;
- (f) 66th UIA Congress in Dakar in October;
- (g) 35th LAWASIA Conference in Sydney in November; and
- (h) Opening of the Legal Year 2022 in Paris in November.

These overseas duty visits have not only enabled us to keep abreast of the latest developments in the global legal arena, but have also presented opportunities for Law Society representatives to update the international community on the legal landscape of Hong Kong. It is important for us to reach out and provide an objective first-hand factual account of the Hong Kong situation in respect of the continuous upholding of the rule of law and judicial independence as well as the safeguards of rights and freedoms.

PROMOTION THROUGH ORGANISATION OF INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

During 2022, The Law Society continued its work in enhancing the role of Hong Kong legal professionals under the Belt and Road Initiative and the development of the GBA.

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

In celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR and the 115th Anniversary of The Law Society, the 5th Belt and Road Conference was successfully held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre in a hybrid format on 10 November. As part of “Hong Kong Legal Week 2022”, the Conference received a record-high registration of over 1,400 participants from 37 jurisdictions. Entitled “Metaverse and Money on the Belt and Road”, the Conference featured government leaders as well as experts and academics from the legal, technological and financial sectors across the world, exploring the vast opportunities brought to the legal industry by the rise of metaverse and the

increasing use of digital currency. Active discussions were held on how to identify and overcome the legal, regulatory and geopolitical barriers hindering growth.

COLLABORATIONS IN THE GREATER CHINA REGION

Representatives from The Law Society also actively promoted Belt and Road opportunities within the Greater China region through a number of hybrid events, including the 2022 Macau Lawyers’ Day hosted by the Macau Lawyers Association from 21 to 22 May, as well as the Symposium on Foreign-

related Legal Affairs commemorating the 25th Anniversary of Hong Kong’s Return to the Motherland, organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the PRC and Shenzhen University on 9 June.

Amidst and despite the pandemic, The Law Society remains committed in maintaining close collaboration with its Mainland counterparts, particularly on fostering cross-border collaborations in the GBA. Under the joint meeting system established by The Law Society and the lawyers’ associations in the GBA in 2018, The Law Society took part in the ninth and tenth joint meetings in January and July respectively. Meanwhile, the Guangdong Lawyers Association, The



International Conference of Legal Regulators in Chicago in October



LAWASIA Executive Committee Meeting in Sydney in November



5th Belt and Road
Conferenc in November



Tenth Joint Meeting
for Lawyers Associations in
the GBA in July

Law Society and the Macau Lawyers Association co-organised a number of webinars under the “Laws in the GBA Seminar Series” and the “Seminar Series on Civil Code” throughout the year to promote professional exchange among lawyers in the three jurisdictions.

Following the implementation of the GBA Legal Professional Examination, which allows qualified lawyers to provide legal services in the nine municipalities in the GBA on specified civil and commercial legal matters, the 2nd GBA Legal Professional Examination took place on 11 June. To assist members in preparing for the examination, The Law Society organised a sharing session on 1 June.

During the year, The Law Society stepped up its efforts in collaborating with Mainland law schools. Aside from the collaboration with Peking University Law School on co-organising a 32-hour course under the title “An Introduction to Legal Services and Risk Management for Cross-border Transactions” in a virtual format, The Law Society hosted a series of lectures for the Law School of the Shenzhen University and the Center for Basic Laws of Hong Kong and Macau Special Administrative Regions of the Shenzhen University under the title “Hong Kong Common Law & Experience Sharing on Legal Practice” in December.

EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES UNDER RCEP AND BEYOND

Another huge opportunity that awaits us is the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (“RCEP”) Agreement, the world’s largest free trade agreement which came into force on 1 January. Although Hong Kong is yet to enter RCEP, its impact will become significant as more and more Mainland companies will seize the opportunity to set up trading subsidiaries in Hong Kong to make use of Hong Kong’s low tax environment, common law system and absence of restrictions on capital outflow.



Seminar on "Refactoring and Updates of Guarantee Rules under the Civil Code" in July

Online briefing session for volunteer lecturers of the law course for Peking University Law School



In light of the importance of RCEP to Hong Kong and to better prepare members of the legal profession for it, The Law Society formed a Committee on RCEP in January 2021 to study the initiative and monitor its latest development. Six Working Parties have also been formed under the Committee on RCEP to look into and report on salient parts of the Agreement. The Committee on RCEP is planning a number of activities for members, including a series of seminars to be rolled out in 2023.

Islamic finance is another area that The Law Society has been actively exploring for the benefit of our members. In celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR, a webinar on the theme of the development of Islamic finance in Hong Kong was conducted on 14 December to give an overview of the development of Islamic finance in Hong Kong since 1997 and the opportunities in the area arising from the latest national development.

BONDING WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS THROUGH MOUS

Through networking with law societies and bar associations around the world, The Law Society has established extensive connections with legal professional organisations in overseas jurisdictions, laying a good foundation for us to collaborate on future activities for the benefit of our members.

The Law Society signed a MOU with Astana International Financial Centre Authority and LAWASIA in June and November respectively, and renewed the MOU with Seoul Bar Association in November. As at the end of 2022, The Law Society signed 52 MOUs with lawyers' associations or organisations in the Greater China region and 40 MOUs with overseas lawyers' associations and international legal organisations.

To foster collaboration and strengthen exchanges between The Law Society and overseas lawyers' associations amidst the pandemic, the second joint webinar series covering a wide spectrum

of topics was successfully held from March to December with our MOU counterparts from Spain, Georgia, the United States, Italy and Germany:

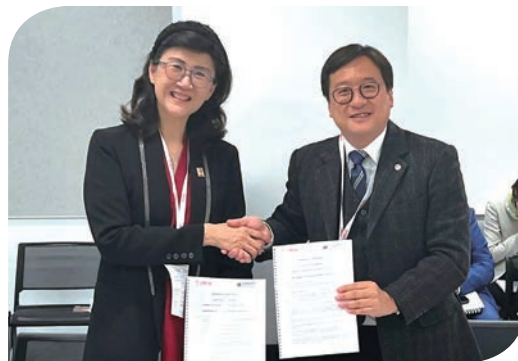
- Joint Webinar with the Madrid Bar Association in March (Topic: "Doing Business in Hong Kong and Spain")
- Joint Webinar with the Georgian Bar Association in March (Topic: "Doing Business in Hong Kong and Georgia")
- Joint Webinar with The Florida Bar International Law Section in April (Topic: "Hong Kong Gateway to China — Miami Gateway to Latin America")
- Joint Webinar with the Milan Bar Association in July (Topic: "Ensuring effective capital market access: Hong Kong and Italy")
- Joint Webinar with the German Federal Bar in December (Topic: "Anti-Money Laundering Regulation and the Supervision of Advocacy in Germany and Hong Kong")

The Law Society will continue to secure more opportunities for our members and maintain the healthy and sustainable development of our profession.



Webinar on "Development of Islamic Finance and Community in Hong Kong after Handover" in December

MOU signing with LAWASIA in November



MOU signing with Astana International Financial Centre Authority in June

THE LAW SOCIETY'S GLOBAL NETWORK

OVERSEAS



(I) MOUs signed with overseas organisations prior to 2022:

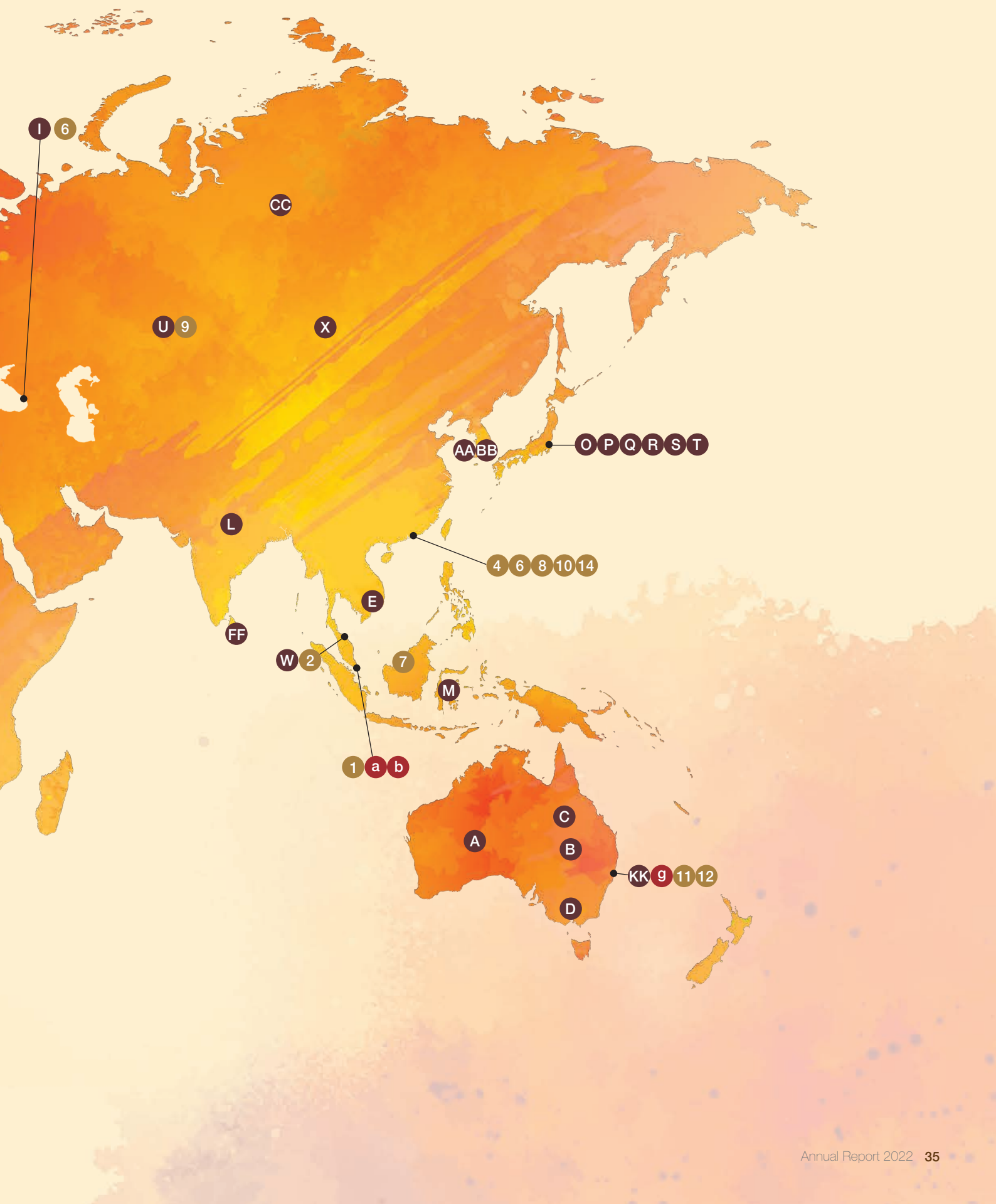
- A. Australia — The Law Council of Australia
- B. Australia (New South Wales) — The Law Society of New South Wales
- C. Australia (Queensland) — Queensland Law Society
- D. Australia (Victoria) — Law Institute of Victoria
- E. Cambodia — The Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia
- F. Croatia — Croatian Bar Association
- G. Czech Republic — Czech Bar Association
- H. France — French National Bar Council
- I. Georgia — Georgian Bar Association
- J. Germany — The German Federal Bar
- K. Hungary — Hungarian Bar Association
- L. India — Bar Association of India
- M. Indonesia — Indonesian Advocates Association
- N. Italy (Milan) — Milan Bar Association
- O. Japan — The Japan Federation of Bar Associations
- P. Japan (Hyogo prefecture) — Hyogo-Ken Bar Association
- Q. Japan (Okinawa) — Okinawa Bar Association
- R. Japan (Osaka) — Osaka Bar Association
- S. Japan (Tokyo) — Tokyo Bar Association
- T. Japan (Tokyo) — Daini Tokyo Bar Association
- U. Kazakhstan — Astana International Financial Centre Authority
- V. Luxembourg — Le Barreau de Luxembourg
- W. Malaysia — Malaysian Bar
- X. Mongolia — Mongolian Bar Association
- Y. Poland — The Polish National Bar of Attorneys
- Z. Poland (Gdańsk) — Gdańsk Bar Association of Attorneys-at law
- AA. Republic of Korea — Korean Bar Association
- BB. Republic of Korea (Seoul) — Seoul Bar Association
- CC. Russia — Federal Chamber of Lawyers of the Russian Federation
- DD. Slovenia — Slovenian Bar Association
- EE. Spain (Madrid) — Madrid Bar Association
- FF. Sri Lanka — Bar Association of Sri Lanka
- GG. United Kingdom (England and Wales) — The Law Society of England and Wales
- HH. United States (California) — California Lawyers Association (International Law and Immigration Section)
- II. United States (Florida) — The Florida Bar International Law Section
- JJ. International Association of Young Lawyers (AIJA) (Based in Brussels, Belgium)
- KK. LAWASIA (Based in Sydney, Australia)

(II) International conferences and events attended in 2022 physically:

- a. 60th AIJA Congress, Singapore (22–27 Aug)
- b. 32nd POLA Conference, Singapore (22–23 Sep)
- c. Opening of the Legal Year 2022 in England & Wales (2–3 Oct)
- d. ILLACE 2022 Annual Conference, Washington, D.C. (25–29 Oct)
- e. 66th UIA Congress, Dakar (26–30 Oct)
- f. International Conference of Legal Regulators, Chicago (26–28 Oct)
- g. 35th LAWASIA Conference, Sydney (18–21 Nov)
- h. Opening of the Legal Year 2022 in Paris (23–25 Nov)

(II) International conferences and events attended in 2022 virtually:

- 1. Opening of the Legal Year 2022 in Singapore (10 Jan)
- 2. Opening of the Legal Year 2022 in Malaysia (13–14 Jan)
- 3. Virtual Dialogue series co-organised by the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative and Bar Human Rights Committee of England & Wales — Final Dialogue: Judicial Independence, the Rule of Law and the Role of the Legal Profession, based in Chicago and London (2 Mar)
- 4. Joint Webinar of The Law Society of Hong Kong and Madrid Bar Association, based in Hong Kong and Madrid (9 Mar)
- 5. California International Arbitration Week, based in California (14–18 Mar)
- 6. Joint Webinar of The Law Society of Hong Kong and Georgian Bar Association, based in Hong Kong and Georgia (17 Mar)
- 7. Opening of the Legal Year 2022 in Brunei (31 Mar)
- 8. Joint Webinar of The Law Society of Hong Kong and the Florida Bar, based in Hong Kong and Florida (22 Apr)
- 9. Astana Finance Days 2022, Nur-Sultan (27–29 Jun)
- 10. Joint Webinar of The Law Society of Hong Kong and Milan Bar Association, based in Hong Kong and Milan (7 Jul)
- 11. 3rd LAWASIA Human Rights Conference, based in Sydney (20 Aug)
- 12. LAWASIA Belt and Road Webinar, based in Sydney (17 Sep)
- 13. International Conference on AI & Cybersecurity, based in Gdańsk (13–14 Oct)
- 14. Joint webinar of The Law Society of Hong Kong and German Federal Bar, based in Hong Kong and Berlin (19 Dec)



GREATER CHINA REGION

42

MOUs signed with the following organisations in the Greater China region

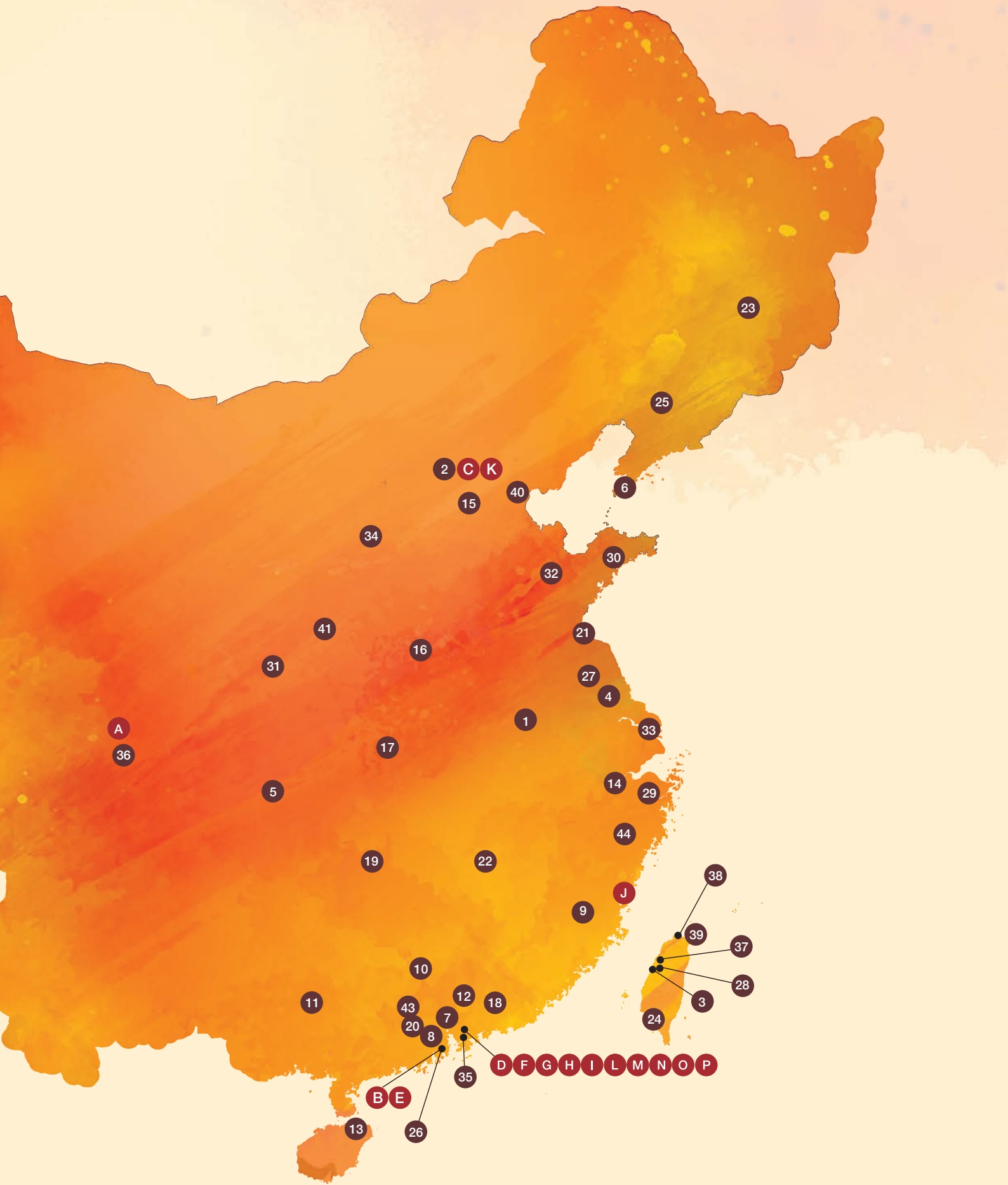
The Law Society signed an MOU with All China Lawyers Association in 2013 (lawyers' association on national level)

1. Anhui Lawyers Association
2. Beijing Lawyers Association
3. Changhua Bar Association
4. Changzhou Lawyers Association
5. Chongqing Lawyers Association
6. Dalian Lawyers Association
7. Dongguan Lawyers Association
8. Foshan Lawyers Association
9. Fujian Lawyers Association
10. Guangdong Lawyers Association
11. Guangxi Lawyers Association
12. Guangzhou Lawyers Association
13. Hainan Lawyers Association
14. Hangzhou Lawyers Association
15. Hebei Lawyers Association
16. Henan Lawyers Association
17. Hubei Lawyers Association
18. Huizhou Lawyers Association
19. Hunan Lawyers Association
20. Jiangmen Lawyers Association
21. Jiangsu Lawyers Association
22. Jiangxi Lawyers Association
23. Jilin Lawyers Association
24. Kaohsiung Bar Association
25. Liaoning Lawyers Association
26. Macau Lawyers Association
27. Nanjing Lawyers Association
28. Nantou Bar Association
29. Ningbo Lawyers Association
30. Qingdao Lawyers Association
31. Shaanxi Lawyers Association
32. Shandong Lawyers Association

33. Shanghai Bar Association
34. Shanxi Lawyers Association
35. Shenzhen Lawyers Association
36. Sichuan Lawyers Association
37. Taichung Bar Association
38. Taipei Bar Association
39. Taiwan Bar Association
40. Tianjin Lawyers Association
41. Xi'an Lawyers Association
42. Xinjiang Lawyers Association
43. Zhaoqing Lawyers Association
44. Zhejiang Lawyers Association

Conferences and events attended in 2022 virtually

- A. Sichuan, Hong Kong and Macau Roundtable Meeting (12 Jan)
- B. The 9th Joint Meeting for Lawyers Associations in the GBA (17 Jan)
- C. Online Course for Peking University Law School (April to June)
- D. "Laws in the GBA" Seminar Series (III) — Arbitration (7 May)
- E. 2022 Macau Lawyers' Day Conference (21–22 May)
- F. Symposium on Foreign-related Legal Affairs Commemorating the 25th Anniversary of Hong Kong's Return to the Motherland (9 June)
- G. Qianhai Shenzhen Hong Kong International Legal Services District Policy Introduction Session (30 June)
- H. 10th Joint Meeting for Lawyers Associations in the GBA (9 Jul)
- I. "Seminar Series on Civil Code" (II) — Restructuring and Updates of Guarantee Requirements under the Civil Code" (16 Jul)
- J. Straits Law Forum 2022 (18 Aug)
- K. The 4th UBBS Business Festival & The 9th Nine Ring Summit (1 Sep)
- L. "Laws in the GBA" Seminar Series (IV) — Trust & Wealth Inheritance (23 Sep)
- M. Academic Webinar on Legal Practice and Cross-border Legal Services in the GBA (24 Sep)
- N. 2022 GBA (Shenzhen) Rule of Law Forum (11 Nov)
- O. Inaugural Shenzhen University GBA Forum (19 Nov)
- P. Lecture Series for Law Schools in the GBA — Shenzhen University Law School (11, 18, 19 Dec)





PROVIDING RELEVANT AND EFFECTIVE SUPPORT TO MEMBERS

The Law Society is dedicated to providing relevant and effective support to our members, which includes professional development and sector-specific initiatives, as well as programmes and activities designed to ensure the well-being of individual members.

PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

Law

The Law Society and the Academy of Law regularly organise seminars to update members on imminent changes to the law and their practices. In 2022, we organised 348 CPD and RME courses on a diverse range of topics.

Ethics

The Law Society handles daily enquiries from members on matters relating to the *LPO* and its subsidiary legislation, The Law Society's *Practice Directions* and the *Conduct Guide*. An Online Enquiry Service platform is available to assist members, who can simply log in to the Members' Zone to access the platform.

All necessary personal information of the member making the enquiry is embedded in the enquiry form and the member only needs to write the query and click "Send". All enquiries will be forwarded to the responsible Secretariat staff for timely handling. Enquiries involving more complicated matters are referred to The Law Society's Guidance Committee for consideration.

In 2022, the Guidance Committee considered 12 enquiries on professional conduct issues that were raised by members or referred from other Law Society committees.

Practice management

The following initiatives were implemented during the year to assist members in enhancing their practice management skills:

- (a) two practice management webinars entitled respectively "Design Thinking for Law Firms — Meeting Your Clients' Needs" and "Developing Legal Talent in Hybrid Working Environments" were held on 26 September and 10 November respectively;

- (b) to promote the client engagement letter as an essential tool for managing the risks of a law firm, preliminary drafts of a Practice Note and Client Engagement Letter Templates in respect of three practice areas have been prepared for publication in 2023;
- (c) three articles on practice management were published in The Law Society's official journal, *Hong Kong Lawyer*.

Accounts

One of the roles of The Law Society's Monitoring Accountants is to pay routine visits to newly established law firms, both local and foreign, to provide guidance on how to ensure their compliance with the *Solicitors' Accounts Rules* (Cap.159F). In 2022, a total of 78 visits to 47 Hong Kong and foreign law firms were conducted.

Technology

To raise awareness among members of the effective application of technology and to assist them in keeping abreast with tools, platforms and other technology that are relevant to their practices, The Law Society actively engaged members in the following ways during the year:

- (a) a webinar on the development of Lawtech in Hong Kong over the past 25 years was organised jointly with eBRAM upon the launch of the Hong Kong Legal Cloud in March;
- (b) a new guidance note on digitisation of documents and conversion of electronic documents/records from one format to another was introduced in September;
- (c) a webinar on digitising documents in the context of The Law Society's *Guidance Note on Storage and Destruction of Old Files* was held in October;
- (d) three webinars with various themes related to the use of Lawtech were organized in July, November and December respectively;



Webinar on the Development of Lawtech in Hong Kong in the Past 25 Years in March

- (e) three articles on technology were contributed for publication in, respectively, the April, June and December issues of *Hong Kong Lawyer*.

Further, enhancements were made to The Law Society App. As of the end of the year, there were 28,736 cumulated downloads since its launch in 2013.

Legal development updates via *Hong Kong Lawyer*

The Law Society's official journal, *Hong Kong Lawyer*, is a monthly publication which contains analysis of recent law and legal practice-specific advice, with priority given to matters affecting legal practitioners in Hong Kong. With the digital version of *Hong Kong Lawyer* available on both The Law Society App and the *Hong Kong Lawyer* website, members can read it online via a computer, smart phone, tablet or other mobile device. The online content is also searchable with hyperlinked sources. The E-journal thus serves as a good source of reference materials for research. Individual stories (or the entire journal) can also be conveniently shared with others via social media and email.

SUPPORT FOR MEMBERS' WELL-BEING

Maintaining a work-life balance is important to the well-being of our members. The Law Society provides a framework for members to participate in a wide range of sports, recreational and social activities and to have some fun in between busy work schedules.

In 2022, The Law Society continued to administer 14 sports teams and nine recreational groups, who held practice sessions for members throughout the year.

Whilst some activities had to be held virtually because of the COVID-19 pandemic, a variety of members' functions were organised during the year, including:

- the virtual Members' and Family Fun Day under the theme of "Keep Calm and Stay Positive", attracting around 200 members and their children;
- two Recreation and Sports Open Days were held respectively on 19 May and 14 September in Southern Stadium to allow members to participate in the practice sessions of the badminton, basketball, table tennis and volleyball teams, attracting around 150 participants.

A range of products and services under the categories of Culture & Lifestyle, Dine & Wine, Education & Learning, Health & Leisure, Household & Living and IT Products & Services sourced for the benefit of members continued to be made available and were posted on The Law Society website and The Law Society App. Further, four online health talks for members were organised in May, August, September and November respectively. Other member benefits included the offer of free Chinese New Year red packets.



Recreation and Sports Open Day in May

SUPPORT FOR SECTOR-SPECIFIC NEEDS

In-house lawyers

An increasing number of our members work as in-house lawyers (“IHLs”). As of the end of 2022, around 30.8% of our members holding a practising certificate were not in private practice.

The Law Society set up the In-House Lawyers Committee (“IHLC”) in February 2011 to provide a platform for IHLs to share their experiences and resources and exchange views and ideas, as well as to strengthen communication between IHLs and private legal practitioners. The IHLC organised and also co-organised with other organisations or law firms a variety of activities on topics relevant to in-house solicitors throughout the year, including:

- (a) a webinar entitled “Opportunities to Hong Kong’s legal and dispute resolution sectors under the 14th Five-Year Plan and the GBA development” and featuring the then Secretary for Justice Ms Teresa Cheng was held on 12 May;
- (b) a seminar, in hybrid mode, entitled “A New Chapter to Arbitration in Hong Kong: Outcome Related Fee Structures for Arbitration” was co-organised with the Department of Justice, the Hong Kong Chinese Enterprises Association Legal Affairs Steering Committee and China Legal Service (H.K.) Ltd. on 19 May;
- (c) a webinar under the series entitled “Sweat & Glory” was held on 27 July where representatives of various divisions of Department of Justice shared their experience as Government Counsel and provided useful information about developing a legal career in the public sector;
- (d) the 2022 Annual Conference of In-House Lawyers with the theme “The Corporate Connector” was held in hybrid mode on 6 September where participants attending in person were joined by a record-breaking number of over 800 members and guests participating remotely including delegates from the Greater China region;
- (e) four webinars were held in collaboration with law firms under the “In-House Lawyers Training Programme”.

In light of the increasing number of members working in-house, starting from 2022, non-law firm users of the “Situations Vacant” service under the Yellow Pages for recruitment of legal staff will enjoy the same benefit as law firms with one free additional posting.

Small to medium law firms

As of 31 December, about 47% of law firms in Hong Kong were sole proprietorships and 41% were firms with up to five partners. The Law Society has set up a dedicated working party to consider issues relevant to small to medium law firms (“SME firms”). In April, to help SME firms cope with challenges brought by the fifth wave of the pandemic, a seminar for SME firms was held to facilitate sharing of experiences and solutions.

Senior members

The Law Society treasures the invaluable experiences of its very senior and significant members. The Working Party on Historical Archive launched the Oral History Project in 2020 to invite senior members to be interviewed with the aim of establishing an archive that documents the inspirational stories of notable figures of our local profession.

During the year, five notable figures in the legal community were interviewed under the Oral History Project to share their unique insights and wealth of experience. They were Dr Anthony Wing-kin Chow, Ms Therese Pei-fong Chow, Mr Maurice Mui-sang Lee, Mr William Paul John Munro and Mr Wong Kwai-huen. The video and/or audio recordings of the interviews are posted on a webpage dedicated to the Project in The Law Society website.



2022 Annual Conference of In-House Lawyers in September

Roll of Honour

According to The Law Society's Articles of Association, the Council may as a special honour admit to membership of the Roll of Honour any solicitor whose name remains on the roll of solicitors and who, in the opinion of the Council, has made such distinguished contribution to The Law Society or its Council, the development of the legal profession in Hong Kong or the practice of law as to warrant recognition by The Law Society.

A member of the Roll of Honour shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of a member of The Law Society without being required to pay any membership fee.

Mr Huen Wong, President of The Law Society for two terms from 2019 to 2021, and Professor Albert Hung-yee Chen, Dean of Faculty of Law of The University of Hong Kong from 1996 to 2002 and currently Cheng Chan Lan Yue Professor and Chair of Constitutional Law in the Department of Law, were admitted to The Law Society's Roll of Honour on 23 August on the occasion of The Law Society's 2022 Annual General Meeting.

Pursuant to The Law Society's Articles of Association, the Council may also admit any person it deems fit as an Honorary Member for Life of The Law Society. At the Annual General Meeting on 23 August, the Council admitted the Hon Mr Justice Patrick Chan Siu-oi as an Honorary Member for Life of The Law Society. Mr Justice Chan served as a Permanent Judge of the CFA from 2000 to 2013 when he became a Non-Permanent Judge of the CFA.

Mr Wong, Professor Chen and Mr Justice Chan are highly respected members of the profession whose distinguished contributions to The Law Society, the practice of law and the development of the legal profession in Hong Kong as a whole have set a role model for us all. There were 37 members and four members respectively on The Law Society's Roll of Honour and Honorary Membership List as of the end of the year.

Young solicitors, trainee solicitors and student members

As of 31 December, about 17.6% of our members were admitted on or after 1 January 2018 (i.e. with five years or less post-admission experience). The Law Society's Young Solicitors' Group ("YSG") was set up to support the needs of this segment of our members. In addition to organising activities to encourage young members to network with other solicitors and events to reach out to law students and trainee solicitors, The Law Society also helps promote the culture of sharing in the profession.

Two new initiatives were introduced during the year: the YSG Think Tank and "Questions for Solicitors Admitted in 1997".

The YSG Think Tank is a competition where participants work in teams to propose solutions to a selected theme and present their proposals to a judging panel. "Questions for Solicitors Admitted in 1997 ("1997 Solicitors")" creates fun opportunities for members of the public to raise questions with the 1997 Solicitors about the development of the legal profession over the past 25 years.



Formal ceremony at the 2022 Annual General Meeting to admit Mr Huen Wong and Professor Albert Hung-yee Chen to the Roll of Honour, and the Hon Mr Justice Patrick Chan Siu-oi as Honorary Member for Life.

The CONNECTED Programme continued for the 12th year notwithstanding the COVID-19 pandemic. The purpose of the Programme is to provide trainee solicitors with opportunities to interact with both younger members (their “buddies”) and senior members (their “mentors”) of The Law Society with a view to fostering mutual understanding among members with diverse backgrounds. Given the public health situation, mentors, buddies and mentees were encouraged to connect with each other safely by electronic means. Two virtual events under the CONNECTED Mentor and Buddy Scheme were organised to keep mentors, buddies and mentees connected during the year.

The pilot “Sit-In Programme for Members of the YSG” entered its second phase in 2022 to provide a platform for junior practitioners to transition from YSG to other Law Society committees by affording them an opportunity to participate in other Law Society committees as observers.

The Tool Kits for Form AA (Application for Registration of Trainee Solicitor Contract), Form A (Prescribed Form of

Trainee Solicitor Contract for trainees trained in private practice), Form B (Prescribed Form of Trainee Solicitor Contract for trainees trained in the Departments of HKSAR Government), Form C (Prescribed Form of Contract for trainees trained in corporations), Form BB (Application for Registration of New Trainee Solicitor Contract) and Form CC (Release) were updated with fields for trainees to select, and with specific reminders and guidelines to assist trainees in properly completing the Forms.

Further, on behalf of Hong Kong solicitors seeking admission as solicitors in England and Wales, The Law Society applied to the Solicitors Regulation Authority for a block exemption from taking Stage 1 of the Solicitors Qualifying Examination.

In September, as a result of the arrangement of The Law Society, the Hong Kong Advocacy Training Council agreed to open its training programme on “Prosecution on Fiat” (“Training Programme”) to members of The Law Society with at least one year of post-qualification experience. Those who complete the Training Programme may

apply for an assessment by the Department of Justice. Upon satisfactory completion of the assessment, the members’ names will be considered for inclusion on the Prosecutions Division Magistrates’ Courts “B” Fiat List.

Student members

As of the end of December, there were 228 student members.

The Law Society organised the Joint University Virtual Law Fair on 24 November, at which law students of the three local law schools learnt from YSG members about the various practice areas in the legal profession.

The Law Society also conducted four career talks for law students of local law schools.

The Law Society will continue its efforts to identify the needs of all members and provide relevant and effective support to them.



Tribute to Our Senior Members — Oral History Project



YSG CONNECTED 2022 Second Event



GIVING BACK TO COMMUNITY

Our members have been actively participating in pro bono and community work, often quietly fulfilling their social responsibilities in meaningful ways. The Law Society helps members do so by providing structured opportunities. To that end, The Law Society organised a number of projects both new and ongoing, including:

- Free Legal Helpline – the panel solicitors serving on the Helpline provide up to 45 minutes of free consultation in five areas of law, namely, personal injury, matrimonial law, criminal law, wills & probate and employment law, and since December 2014 a Pilot Scheme on Mediation has been in place to provide free telephone sessions on mediation. Up to the end of December 2022, the Helpline had handled over 10,000 cases since its launch in August 2013;
- Free Legal Advice Service on Building Management – Organised in collaboration with the Home Affairs Department, the Free Legal Advice Service provides one-stop referral service to owners and concerned bodies seeking free

professional advice on issues in relation to building management. 151 cases were handled in 2022;

- Free Outreach Legal Advice Service on Building Management – Organised in collaboration with the Home Affairs Department, the Free Outreach Legal Advice Service strengthens legal support to Owners' Corporations in conducting general meetings. Four cases were handled in 2022 with seven other cases in progress;
- Law Week – Law Week 2022 featured a wide variety of activities to reach out and disseminate legal knowledge to the public:
 - between October and November, 18 videos on legal tips and a mini-drama series, made up of five episodes explaining legal issues encountered in daily life were produced for public viewing;
 - in November, a two-day Free Legal Advice programme was held in the Open Piazza of Hopewell Centre in Wanchai,

where a team of about 30 voluntary solicitors answered 250 enquiries from the public, spending over 3,700 minutes in aggregate;

- between November and December, five free community talks on common legal issues were organised in a hybrid mode, attracting more than 2,800 participants;
- between November and December, the “Little Legal KOL” Competition was organised for kindergarten and primary students. Through activities such as creative painting, drawing and video production, the Competition aimed at raising awareness among participants of the importance of abiding by the law. The Competition attracted an overwhelming response of over 400 entries;
- Teen Talk – Teen Talk 2022 carried the themes of “Sports, Law & Discipline” and “Together ‘Beat



Teen Talk 2022 – Sports, Law & Discipline’
Sports and Music Carnival cum Law Week
2022 Opening Ceremony in December

Law Week 2022 – Legal Tips and
Mini-Drama Video Shooting



Law Week 2022 – Free Legal
Advice Programme in November



Drugs with Sports’”, with various activities organised jointly with the disciplined services departments:

- between November and December, an online quiz was held that aimed at promoting the messages of beating drugs and abiding by the law, attracting more than 3,000 student participants;
- in December, the “Sports and Music Carnival”, featuring discussions and debriefings led by over 60 solicitor-

facilitators with students on topics relating to the event’s themes and game booths designed with similar themes, was held attracting more than 600 students;

- in the first quarter of 2023, the “Leadership Winter Camp Award Programme” which also formed part of Teen Talk 2022 will be held in the facilities of various disciplined services departments;

- In September, “Abide by the Law Legal Forum: Drug Traps” was held as part of The Law Society’s effort to raise awareness of law and order among youngsters in the context of addressing the problem of drug abuse. The event attracted more than 300 secondary and university students;
- Throughout the year, a total of 62 talks were held for schools and the wider community, and articles disseminating basic legal knowledge were contributed

through online media and in newspaper columns (e.g. the weekly “Legal Mailbox” column in *Sing Tao Daily*);

- Short videos on legal information needed to cope with issues arising from the pandemic including employment, personal injuries, the *Temporary Protection Measures for*

Business Tenants (COVID-19 Pandemic) Ordinance and arrangements for court proceedings of criminal cases under COVID-19 were produced in collaboration with the Agency for Volunteer Service. The videos were made available on The Law Society’s social media platforms.

To further promote pro bono service, The Law Society organised a webinar on “Reasons and Ways for Lawyers and Law Firms to Engage in Pro Bono” on 20 October to discuss the importance of pro bono work in Hong Kong and how lawyers and law firms could set up sustainable pro bono programmes.



Teen Talk 2022 – Sports, Law & Discipline’ Sports and Music Carnival in December



Teen Talk 2022 “Leadership Winter Camp Award Programme”



Abide by the Law Legal Forum – Drug Traps in September



Webinar on Mainland's Legal System and Legal Affairs in August



Seminar for School Principals in May



2022 Pro Bono and Community Service Award Presentation Ceremony in December



Judging Panels for 2022 Pro Bono and Community Work Recognition Programme

The Law Society organises an annual Pro Bono and Community Work Recognition Programme to honour our members who have selflessly contributed their time and expertise for the benefit of the community. The 2022 Pro Bono and Community Service Recognition Programme ("2022 Programme") was well received by members and law firms with over 300 applications. A total of 36 law firms and 251 lawyers received awards under the 2022 Programme. Apart from Individual Awards and Law

Firm Awards, a number of Distinguished Awards were presented. To celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR, the "Distinguished Achievement Award for Promoting the 'One Country, Two Systems' Concept, the Basic Law and the Rule of Law" was introduced. Three community projects were awarded for their outstanding achievements in enhancing the public's understanding and awareness of the "One Country, Two Systems" concept, the Basic Law and the rule of law.

MEMBERSHIP OF STANDING COMMITTEES, COMMITTEES, WORKING PARTIES AND ORGANISING COMMITTEES

Committees and Working Parties Reporting Directly to the Council

Honours Committee

Melissa K. PANG	(Chair from February)
Huen WONG	(Chair until January, resigned in January)
Warren P. GANESH	
Anson K.C. KAN	
Frederick K.C. KAN	(joined in February)
Amy Y.K. LIU	
S H LEUNG	(joined in February)
Amirali B. NASIR	
Paul C.Y. TAN	(resigned in January)
Roden M.L. TONG	
Herbert H.K. TSOI	

Secretary: Secretary General

LegCo Liaison Group

C. M. CHAN	(Chair)
Heidi K.P. CHU	
Ambrose S.K. LAM	
Amirali B. NASIR	
Melissa K. PANG	
Roden M.L. TONG	
Christopher K.K. YU	

Secretary: Deputy Secretary General and Director of Practitioners Affairs

Hong Kong Solicitors Indemnity Fund Ltd

Amirali B. NASIR	(Chair)
Colin B. COHEN	
Brian W. GILCHRIST	
Christopher G. HOWSE	
Richard KEADY	
Alexander H.Y. LEUNG	
Peter C.L. LO	
Patrick R. MOSS	
Andrew W.Y. NG	
David G. SMYTH	
Norris H.C. YANG	

Secretary: Essar Insurance Services Ltd.

PIS Claims Committee

Brian W. GILCHRIST	(Chair)
Colin B. COHEN	(Vice-Chair)
Simon P. CLARKE	
Johnny C.M. FEE	
Olivia H.Y. KUNG	
George D. LAMPLOUGH	
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Gareth H. THOMAS	
Ronald W.T. TONG	
Careen H.Y. WONG	
Felix K.Y. YAU	

Secretary: Essar Insurance Services Ltd.

PIS Investment Sub-Committee

Peter C.L. LO	(Chair)
John S. GALE	
IP Shing Hing	
Elen LAU	
LEE Kher Sheng	
Kevin C.K. SHUM	
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Secretary: Assistant Director, Professional Indemnity Scheme

PIS Panel Solicitors Selection Board

Amirali B. NASIR	(Chair)
Brian W. GILCHRIST	
Stephen W.S. HUNG	
Roden M.L. TONG	

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Professional Indemnity Advisory Committee

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Susan P.S.K. LIANG	(resigned in July)
Amirali B. NASIR	
Andrew W.Y. NG	
Peter K.H. NGAI	
Thomas S.T. SO	
Fiona J. STEWART	(resigned in June)
Gareth H. THOMAS	

Secretary: Assistant Director, Professional Indemnity Scheme

**Working Party on PIS Gross Fee Income Reports
and Contributors**

Andrew W.Y. NG (Chair)
Amirali B. NASIR
Thomas S.T. SO
Huen WONG

Secretary: Assistant Director, Professional Indemnity Scheme

Belt and Road Committee

Thomas S.T. SO (Chair)
Nick CHAN (Vice-Chair)
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Elaine Y.M. LO
Amirali B. NASIR
Melissa K. PANG
Robert C. RHODA
Careen H.Y. WONG
Huen WONG (retired in March)

Secretary: Director of Communications and External Affairs

**5th Belt and Road Conference Organising
Committee**

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Nick CHAN (Vice-Chair)

Rico W.K. CHAN
Joyce C. CHENG
Neville C.H. CHENG
Heidi H.Y. CHUI
Julianne P. DOE
Raphael Y. HUI
Stephen W.S. HUNG
Olivia H.Y. KUNG
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Daniel N.C. LEUNG
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Daphne F.Y. LO
David Y.C. LUK
Amirali B. NASIR
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Melissa K. PANG
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Roden M.L. TONG
William W.L. TONG
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Careen H.Y. WONG
James K.T. WONG
Louise K.F. WONG
Philip W.C. WONG
Ann M.S. YEUNG

Secretary: Assistant Director, Communications and External
Affairs

Committee on Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement

Frederick K.C. KAN	(Chair)
Bonita B.Y. CHAN	(Vice-Chair)
Arthur C.Y. CHAN	(joined in October)
C. M. CHAN	
Nick CHAN	
Neville C.H. CHENG	
Heidi H.Y. CHUI	
Julianne P. DOE	
Deborah S.W. FONG	
Olivia H.Y. KUNG	
Jonathan T.W. LEE	
Daniel N.C. LEUNG	
David Y.C. LUK	
Patrick K.W. MAK	
Melissa K. PANG	
David N. TIANG	
Henry Y.H. WAI	
Careen H.Y. WONG	
Louise K.F. WONG	

Secretary: Director of Communications and External Affairs

Greater China Legal Affairs Committee

Roden M.L. TONG	(Chair)
Neville C.H. CHENG	(Vice-Chair)
Henry Y.H. WAI	(Vice-Chair)
James K.T. WONG	(Vice-Chair)
C. M. CHAN	
Rico W.K. CHAN	
Natalia K.Y. CHEUNG	
Heidi H.Y. CHUI	
Brian P.C. HO	
Stephen W.S. HUNG	
Frederick K.C. KAN	
Ronald Y.H. KAN	
Ambrose S.K. LAM	(resigned in January)
Karen LAM	
Alan Y.K. LAU	
Jonathan T.W. LEE	
Daniel N.C. LEUNG	
William W.S. LING	
Eric C.H. LUI	
Patrick K.W. MAK	
Melissa K. PANG	
Anthony W.S. POON	(joined in November)
Thomas S.T. SO	
David N. TIANG	
Careen H.Y. WONG	
Lawrence S.H. YEUNG	
Gary S.K. YIN	

Secretary: Assistant Director, Communications and External Affairs

Greater Bay Area Sub-Committee

Thomas S.T. SO (Chair)
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Rico W.K. CHAN
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Natalia K.Y. CHEUNG
Brian P.C. HO
Stephen W.S. HUNG
Frederick K.C. KAN
Ronald Y.H. KAN
Ambrose S.K. LAM (resigned in January)
Karen LAM
Alan Y.K. LAU
Jonathan T.W. LEE
Eric C.H. LUI
Patrick K.W. MAK
Melissa K. PANG
Henry Y.H. WAI
Careen H.Y. WONG
James K.T. WONG
Lawrence S.H. YEUNG

Secretary: Assistant Director, Communications and External Affairs

Working Party on the Promotion of Law Society Courses and Initiatives in Greater China Region

Stephen W.S. HUNG (Chair)
C. M. CHAN
Neville C.H. CHENG
Natalia K.Y. CHEUNG
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William W.S. LING
Melissa K. PANG
Thomas S.T. SO
Henry Y.H. WAI
Careen H.Y. WONG
James K.T. WONG
Lawrence S.H. YEUNG

Secretary: Assistant Director, Communications and External Affairs

Working Party on Research on Greater Bay Area

Neville C.H. CHENG (Chair)
James K.T. WONG (Vice-Chair)
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Natalia K.Y. CHEUNG
Heidi H.Y. CHUI
Brian P.C. HO
Ronald Y.H. KAN
Daniel N.C. LEUNG
Henry Y.P. WAI

Secretary: Assistant Director, Communications and External Affairs

Cross Strait Four Regions Young Lawyers Forum 2022 Organising Committee

James K.T. WONG (Chair)
Heidi H.Y. CHUI (Vice-Chair)
Roden M.L. TONG (Advisor)
Patrick K.W. MAK (Advisor)
Bronco M.T. BUT
Do Do CHAN
Neville C.H. CHENG
Sidney K.C. HO
Raphael Y. HUI
S.H. HUI
Olivia H.Y. KUNG
Victor N. LAU
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William W.S. LING
Daphne F.Y. LO
William W.L. TONG
Ina H.T. TSUI
Henry Y.H. WAI
Kenneth K.H. WAN
Winnie W.L. LEE WONG

Secretary: Assistant Director, Communications and External Affairs

Greater China Legal Affairs Young Solicitors Sub-Committee

Sharon S.Y. TAM (Chair)
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Ricky W.K. IP
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Leonard Y.L. LAW
LIU Tianqi
Kerri K.L. TANG
Kayla WAN
Kenneth K.H. WAN
WU Hao

Secretary: Assistant Director, Communications and External Affairs

Greater China Interest Group

Neville C.H. CHENG (Chair)
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Vincent W.H. CHAN
Julianne P. DOE
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Steven K. LEE
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Anny C.L. LO
Daphne F.Y. LO
David Y.C. LUK
SAUW Yim
Sharon S.Y. TAM
TAN Luhua
Wilfred K.P. TSUI
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Jean H.C. WONG
Joanne N.W. WONG
WONG Lai Ming
William W.K. WONG
Evan Y. XIAN
Bob X. YAN
YAU Chi Keung
Ann M.S. YEUNG
Simon S.M. YEUNG
Ernest K.L. YUEN
Anthea H. ZHANG

Secretary: Assistant Director, Communications and External Affairs

**Working Party for the Celebration of the 25th
Anniversary of HKSAR and the 115th Anniversary of
the Law Society**

Roden M.L. TONG (Chair)
CHAN Tze Chin
Eliza L.S. CHANG
Heidi H.Y. CHUI
Doreen Y.F. KONG (resigned in October)
Karen LAM
Melissa K. PANG
Careen H.Y. WONG

Secretary: Director of Communications and External Affairs

Steering Committee on Compliance Reform

Christopher K.K. YU (Chair)
Jimmy K.H. CHAN
Calvin K. CHENG
Pak Sun HAU (joined in August)
Doreen Y.F. KONG (retired in August)
Simon J. MCCONNELL
Hin Han SHUM (joined in August)
Ronald K.N. SUM (joined in August)
Vincent S.K. TSO (joined in August)
Careen H.Y. WONG
Davyd WONG
Justin H.Y. YUEN (joined in August)

Secretary: Director of Compliance

Working Party on Dreamvar's Case

Amirali B. NASIR (Chair)
C. M. CHAN
Debbie F. CHEUNG
Doreen Y.F. KONG
Simon S.C. LAI
Billy W.Y. MA
Fiona J. STEWART (resigned in June)
Roden M.L. TONG

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (I)

Working Party on Review of Standing Orders

C. M. CHAN (Chair)
Heidi K.P. CHU
Mark DALY (resigned in August)
Pak Sun HAU (joined in November)
Doreen Y.K. KONG (resigned in August)
Kenneth LAM
Simon J. MCCONNELL
Janet H.Y. PANG
Melissa K. PANG
Hin Han SHUM (joined in November)
Vincent S.K. TSO (joined in November)
Michelle W.T. TSOI (resigned in October)
Careen H.Y. WONG
Christopher K.K. YU

Secretary: Deputy Secretary General and Director of
Practitioners Affairs

Working Party on Law Society Examination and Related Topics

Stephen W.S. HUNG (Chair)
Nick H.F. CHAN
Heidi K.P. CHU
Brian W. GILCHRIST
Simon S.C. LAI
Melissa K. PANG
Thomas S.T. SO
Dieter L.T. YIH

Secretary: Director of Standards and Development

Working Party on Compliance Related Legislative Amendments

Christopher K.K. YU (Chair)
Stephen W.S. HUNG
Simon J. MCCONNELL
Kevin K.W. NG
Janet H.Y. PANG

Secretary: Assistant Director, Regulation and Guidance (II)

Working Party on Review of Intervention

Calvin K. CHENG (Chair)
C. M. CHAN
Warren P. GANESH
Pak Sun HAU (joined in August)
Doreen Y.F. KONG (retired in August)
Kenneth LAM
Amirali B. NASIR
Janet H.Y. PANG
Melissa K. PANG
Christopher K.K. YU

Secretary: Director of Compliance

Standing Committee on Compliance

Christopher K.K. YU	(Chair)	(12/12)
Jimmy K.H. CHAN	(Vice-Chair)	(10/12)
Nick CHAN	(retired in September)	(5/9)
Serina K.S. CHAN	(retired in September)	(3/9)
Paul K.Y. CHOW		(8/12)
Warren P. GANESH		(12/12)
Pak Sun HAU	(joined in September)	(3/3)
Arthur K.H. HONG		(9/12)
Stephen W.S. HUNG		(10/12)
Anthony T.C. LAM	(joined in March)	(9/9)
Henson LAM		(6/12)
Stephanie W.Y. LAU	(resigned in January)	(0/0)
Andrew Y.B. LEE		(12/12)
Simon J. MCCONNELL	(joined in January)	(10/12)
Amirali B. NASIR		(12/12)
Robert C. RHODA	(retired in September)	(3/9)
Jonathan ROSS	(retired in September)	(6/9)
Hin Han SHUM	(joined in September)	(1/3)
Roden M.L. TONG	(joined in September)	(2/3)
Michelle W.T. TSOI		(9/12)
Annie P.Y. WONG		(10/12)
Davyd WONG		(9/12)
Euphemia M.S. WONG	(joined in March)	(8/9)
Justin H.Y. YUEN		(12/12)

Secretary: Director of Compliance

Consents Committee

Amirali B. NASIR	(Chair)
Melissa K. PANG	
Vincent CHIN	(resigned in May)
IP Shing Hing	
Raymond M.S. KWOK	
Henry H.W. LAI	
Billy Y.C. LAM	
Henson LAM	
Karen LAM	
Jonathan T.W. LEE	
Eddie K.F. LOOK	
Kelvin K.W. NG	
Hin Han SHUM	(joined in December)
Ronald K.N. SUM	(joined in December)
Roden M.L. TONG	
Vincent S.K. TSO	(joined in December)
Annie P.Y. WONG	
Careen H.Y. WONG	(joined in December)
Li Chien WONG	
Ann M.S. YEUNG	

Secretary: Director of Compliance

Investigation Committees

[Note: These Committees are Subcommittees of the Standing Committee on Compliance, consisting of three members, and consider agendas by circulation. Members are selected by the Compliance Department from members of the Standing Committee on an ad hoc basis to consider individual agendas.]

Working Party to Review the Status of Compliance Letters and Delegation of Powers

Nick CHAN (Chair)
Warren P. GANESH
Amirali B. NASIR
Robert C. RHODA
Davyd WONG

Secretary: Director of Compliance

Compliance Department



Standing Committee on External Affairs

Roden M.L. TONG	(Chair)	(10/10)
Ronald K.N. SUM	(Vice-Chair)	(9/10)
Denis D. BROCK	(retired in October)	(2/8)
C. M. CHAN		(8/10)
Jimmy K.H. CHAN		(8/10)
Joyce C. CHENG	(joined in December)	(1/1)
Mark DALY		(4/10)
Tom K.M. FU		(6/10)
Stephen W.S. HUNG		(8/10)
Frederick K.C. KAN		(8/10)
Olivia H.Y. KUNG		(10/10)
Simon S.C. LAI	(retired in October)	(3/8)
Arthur Y.Y. LAW	(joined in December)	(1/1)
Simon MCCONNELL		(9/10)
Amirali B. NASIR		(6/10)
Melissa K. PANG		(3/10)
Robert C. RHODA		(5/10)
Jonathan ROSS	(retired in October)	(4/8)
Hin Han SHUM		(9/10)
Thomas S.T. SO		(2/10)
Michelle W.T. TSOI	(resigned in November)	(1/9)
Richard K.C. TSUN	(joined in December)	(1/1)
Karen H.L. WONG	(joined in December)	(1/1)
Louise K.F. WONG		(8/10)
Nathan S.K. WONG		(10/10)
Ann M.S. YEUNG		(9/10)

Secretary: Director of Communications and External Affairs

Law Week 2022 Organising Committee

William W.L. TONG	(Chair)
Do Do CHAN	(Vice-Chair)
George K.H. CHAN	
Rico W.H. CHAN	
Sharon S.M. HUEN	
Raphael Y. HUI	
William C.Y. KONG	
Nadine LAI	
Martin C.H. LEONG	
Daphne F.Y. LO	
David Y.C. LUK	
Simon MCCONNELL	
Sharon S.Y. TAM	
Benjamin W.S. WAN	
Catherine K.Y. WONG	
Cecilia Grace L.A. WONG	
James K.T. WONG	
Louise K.F. WONG	
Natalie S.W. WONG	
Nathan S.K. WONG	
Patricia WONG	
William W.K. WONG	
Florence X.F. YAN	
Ann M.S. YEUNG	
Jackie N.M. YEUNG	
Sherman S.M. YEUNG	
Vanessa Y.Y. YOUNG	

Secretary: Assistant Director, Communications and External Affairs

Teen Talk 2022 Organising Committee

Sharon S.Y. TAM	(Chair)
Matthew W.L. NG	(Vice-Chair)
Andy Y.C. CHAN	
Bella K.Y. CHAN	
Fiona H.T. CHAN	
Nick CHAN	
Henry C.L. CHENG	
Neville C.H. CHENG	
Zoe S.Y. CHUNG	
Raphael Y. HUI	
LAM Wing	
Charmaine C.P. NG	
May NG	
Hin Han SHUM	
Robert T.Y. SIT	
Richard K.C. TSUN	
Daniel C.L. WAI	
Euphemia M.S. WONG	
James K.T. WONG	
Simon C.M. WONG	
William W.K. WONG	
Winnie W.L. WONG	
Sherman S.M. YEUNG	
Vanessa Y.Y. YOUNG	

Secretary: Assistant Director, Communications and External Affairs

Sub-Committee on Legal “Fact Check”

C. M. CHAN	(Chair)
Philip W.C. WONG	(Vice-Chair)
Nick CHAN	
T.C. CHAN	
Wendy CHAN	
Mark DALY	
Olivia H.Y. KUNG	
Melissa K. PANG	
Robert C. RHODA	
Roden M.L. TONG	
James K.T. WONG	
Eric H.Y. WOO	
Ann M.S. YEUNG	

Secretary: Assistant Director, Communications and External Affairs

Community Relations Committee

Ann M.S. YEUNG	(Chair)
Joyce C. CHENG	(Vice-Chair from November)
James K.T. WONG	(Vice-Chair until November; retired in November)
George K.H. CHAN	
Gilbert K.S. CHAN	(joined in November)
Neville C.H. CHENG	
Raphael Y. HUI	
Arthur Y.Y. LAW	
Anita P.F. LEUNG	
William W.S. LING	
John C.Y. LO	(joined in November)
Charmaine C.P. NG	(joined in November)
Carmen S.M. NG	
Sharon S.Y. TAM	
William W.L. TONG	
Winnie TSE	
Michelle W.T. TSOI	(resigned in November)
Maggie Y.T. TSUI	(joined in November)
Patricia WIJAYA	(retired in November)
Jackie N.M. YEUNG	

Secretary: Assistant Director, Communications and External Affairs

Sub-Committee on Abide by the Law Education

Joyce C. CHENG	(Chair)
William W.L. TONG	(Vice-Chair)
Francis M.B. AU YEUNG	
Isabella W.H. CHAN	
Raphael Y. HUI	
John C.Y. LO	
Anita P.F. LEUNG	(joined in November)
Carmen S.M. NG	
Charmaine C.P. NG	
SAUW Yim	
Hin Han SHUM	
Sharon S.Y. TAM	
James K.T. WONG	
Jackie N.M. YEUNG	
Sherman S.M. YEUNG	(joined in December)

Secretary: Communications and External Affairs Officer

**Sub-Committee on Law and New Generation
Programme and School Talks**

William W.S. LING	(Chair from November)
Patricia WIJAYA	(Chair until November)
Raphael Y. HUI	(Vice-Chair from November)
Joyce C. CHENG	(Vice-Chair until November)
George K.H. CHAN	
Nick CHAN	
Hilda LAM	
Carmen S.M. NG	
Hin Han SHUM	
William W.L. TONG	
Gordon H.Y. TSANG	(joined in November)
Winnie TSE	
Maggie Y.T. TSUI	(joined in November)
James K.T. WONG	

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Sub-Committee on “Sing Tao Legal Mailbox”

Arthur Y.Y. LAW	(Chair from November; joined in November)
James K.T. WONG	(Chair until November)
Jackie N.M. YEUNG	(Vice-Chair from November; joined in November)
William W.L. TONG	(Vice-Chair until October)
Francis M.B. AU YEUNG	
Isabella W.H. CHAN	
MAK Hon Ming	
SAUW Yim	
Hin Han SHUM	
Albert M.K. SO	
Sharon S.Y. TAM	
Gordon H.Y. TSANG	
Michelle W.T. TSOI	(resigned in September)
Sander L.S. TING	(joined in November)
Nathan S.K. WONG	

Secretary: Communications and External Affairs Officer

Sub-Committee on Community Talks and Services

George K.H. CHAN	(Vice-Chair until November; Chair from November)
Michelle W.T. TSOI	(Chair until November; resigned in November)
Jackie N.M. YEUNG	(Vice-Chair from November)
Gilbert K.S. CHAN	
Neville C.H. CHENG	
Alex M.K. CHEUNG	
Raphael Y. HUI	
Stephanie W.Y. LAU	
William W.S. LING	
Charmaine C.P. NG	
SAUW Yim	
Hin Han SHUM	
William W.L. TONG	
Maggie Y.T. TSUI	
Patricia WIJAYA	
James K.T. WONG	
Weijing WU	
Sherman S.M. YEUNG	(joined in June)

Secretary: Communications and External Affairs Officer

**Sub-Committee on “Legal Pioneer” Mentorship
Programme**

Arthur Y.Y. LAW	(Chair)
William W.L. TONG	(Vice-Chair)
Adam I.K. AU	
Alex M.K. CHEUNG	
Ronald Y.H. KAN	
Leonard Y.L. LAW	
Anita P.F. LEUNG	
John C.Y. LO	
SAUW Yim	
Hin Han SHUM	
Sharon S.Y. TAM	
Winnie TSE	
Nathan S.K. WONG	
Judy W.C. YAM	

Secretary: Communications and External Affairs Officer

Sing Tao Smartbook 2022 Working Group

James K.T. WONG (Chair)
William W.L. TONG (Vice-Chair)
Francis M.B. AU YEUNG
Isabella W.H. CHAN
Nick CHAN
SAUW Yim
Hin Han SHUM
Sharon S.Y. TAM
Jackie N.M. YEUNG

Secretary: Communications and External Affairs Officer

International Legal Affairs Committee

Amirali B. NASIR (Chair)
Stephen W.S. HUNG (Vice-Chair)
Neville C.H. CHENG
Heidi H.Y. CHUI
Deborah S.W. FONG (retired in October)
Tom K.M. FU (joined in February)
Munenori KAKU
Frederick K.C. KAN
Olivia H.Y. KUNG
Karen LAM
Winnie W.L. LEE (joined in January)
David Y.C. LUK
Charmaine C.P. NG (joined in November)
Alison K.W. TSOI
Caren H.Y. WONG (joined in February)
Louise K.F. WONG (retired in October)
William W.K. WONG (joined in November)
Ernest T.M. YANG (joined in January)
Maggie M.Y. YIM

Secretary: Assistant Director, Communications and External Affairs

Communications and External Affairs Department



Standing Committee on Member Services

Calvin K. CHENG	(Vice-Chair until September; Chair from September)	(10/10)
Doreen Y.F. KONG	(Chair until August)	(5/10)
Hin Han SHUM	(Vice-Chair from September; joined in September)	(2/3)
Bonita B.Y. CHAN		(8/10)
Nick CHAN		(4/9)
Eliza L.S. CHANG		(8/10)
IP Shing Hing	(retired in October)	(6/8)
Karen LAM		(8/10)
Nancy B.Y. LEUNG		(4/10)
Elaine Y.M. LO		(6/10)
Melissa K. PANG		(4/10)
Sharon S.Y. TAM		(7/10)
Roden M.L. TONG		(9/10)
Vincent S.K. TSO	(joined in September)	(3/3)
Adamas K.S. WONG		(9/10)
Careen H.Y. WONG		(9/10)
Cecilia K.W. WONG		(9/10)
Davyd WONG		(7/10)

Secretary: Deputy Secretary General and Director of Member Services

Diversity and Inclusion Committee

Melissa K. PANG	(Chair)
Bonita B.Y. CHAN	
Doreen Y.F. KONG	
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Diana W.L. HUI	(resigned in June)
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Irene W.K. SIU	
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Winston S.Q. YU
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Doreen Y.F. KONG	(resigned in January)
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Roden M.L. TONG	(joined in July)
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Gillian E. MELLER
Robert C. RHODA
TSUI Kwok Sum
Jason H. WEBBER
Eric H.Y. WOO

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (II)

Working Party on Charities and Trust

E. John DAVISON (Chair)
C. M. CHAN
Lester G. HUANG
Jacqueline Y.M. SHEK
Stephen M. VINE (resigned in February)
WONG Tak Shing
Ian H.C. YEUNG

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (II)

Working Party on Review of Non-Consent Scheme Forms

Amanda L.Y. LIU (Chair)
CHENG Kwok Wai (joined in June)
Doreen Y.F. KONG (resigned in January)
LUI Yiu Fai
WAN Shiu Man (joined in June)
WONG Man Wa

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (I)

Working Party on Enduring Powers of Attorney

Billy W.Y. MA (Chair)
E. John DAVISON
Angelina LUK
Herbert H.K. TSOI
Cecilia K.W. WONG
Natalie S.W. WONG
Ian H.C. YEUNG

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Working Party on Revised DMC Guidelines

Amanda L.Y. LIU (Chair from March; joined in March)
Doreen Y.F. KONG (Chair until January; resigned in January)
Maggie K.K. CHEUNG
Diana P.Y. HO
WAN Shiu Man

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Working Party on Enforcement in Civil Proceedings

Thomas S.T. SO (Chair)
D. Nigel FRANCIS (resigned in August)
Dennis C.K. HO
Rebecca V.I. HO
Barbara A. HUNG
Brenda F. LEE
Ludwig S.W. NG
Catherine K.G. POR
TONG Wui Tung
King K.L. WONG

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D. Nigel FRANCIS (resigned in August)
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Joseph S.M. KWAN
Karen LAM

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Paul R. HASWELL
Crystal K. M. KONG (joined in October)
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Chloe Y.F. LEE
Mark LIN
Rebecca M.C. LO
Eric TANG
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Practitioners Affairs

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Richard KEADY
Sebastian Y.F. KO
Philip Z.F. Kwok
Kane K.F. MAK
SIM Sze Kuan
Lisa W.Y. WONG
Kenneth K.S. YUNG

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Practitioners Affairs Department



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Stephen W.S. HUNG		(12/12)
IP Shing Hing		(10/12)
Simon S.C. LAI		(4/12)
Kenneth LAM		(10/12)
Simon J. MCCONNELL		(12/12)
Catherine L.M. MUN		(7/12)
Janet H.Y. PANG		(8/12)
Thomas S.T. SO	(retired in January)	(0/0)
Ronald K.N. SUM		(8/12)
Simon S.P. TANG		(5/12)
Vincent S.K. TSO	(joined in September)	(2/3)
Adamus K.S. WONG		(12/12)
Christopher K.K. YU	(resigned in September)	(8/9)

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Stephanie W.Y. LAU	
Charmaine C.P. NG	(joined in April)
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Gerald H.C. LAM	
Stephen W.K. LAU	
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WAN Charn Wing	
Sarah S.N. WONG	

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LO Chung Yun
SIN Ping Kwan
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Maëva L. SLOTINE
WONG Wai Keung

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Donny S.K. CHIU
Benjamin S.F. CHOI (joined in October)
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Guidance Sub-committee to Review Rule 5AA of the Solicitors' Practice Rules

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Careen H.Y. WONG
Kenneth LAM (joined in October)

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Felix K.Y. YAU
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CHAN Bing Woon (Vice-Chair)
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Dr. PANG Kin-kee (Co-Chief Examiner)

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Wilson W.S. CHOW
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Alexander H.S. LEUNG
George S.K. NGAI
Simon J. REID-KAY

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Amanda WHITFORT (Convenor until March)
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William M. P. CHUA
William S. CLARKE
Louis K.L. FUNG
Arthur K.H. HONG (joined in November)
Julienne JEN
LEE Hung Sang (joined in November)
Nancy B.Y. LEUNG
Simon D. POWELL (resigned in May)
John R. READING, S.C. (resigned in March)
Martin D. ROGERS
Bernard K.F. SIU

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Dr. Felix W.H. CHAN
Dr. Peter C.H. CHAN
Nicholas C.A. COOK
Shirley S.L. CHUA
Professor Dennis H.F. HIE
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Michelle P.Y. LIU
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NGAN Chun Yat

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Hin Han SHUM (joined in April)
Peter K.P. SIT (resigned in March)

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Symon Y.W. WONG (Convenor from April)
Professor Peter F. RHODES (Convenor until February)
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Professor Kevin CHENG
Shirley S.L. CHUA
William M. P. CHUA
Colin B. COHEN
Louis K.L. FUNG
Anthony F. NEOH, S.C.
Andrew J. RAFFELL
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Professor Normann WITZLEB (joined in April)

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Dr. Jimmy Y.T. MA (joined in April)
Stefano MARIANI (joined in April)
Professor Luke MARSH (resigned in March)
Professor Michael RAMSDEN
Dr. Stephen THOMSON
Professor ZHU Guobin

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Stephen W.S. HUNG
Hilda LAM
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Evelyn S.M. YAN

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Christopher KNIGHT
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Serina K.S. CHAN (Chair until May; retired in October)

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Karen S.K. LAM
Daphne F.Y. LO
David Y.C. LUK
Charmaine C.P. NG

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Solicitors' Accounts Rules Committee

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Anny T.C. WU

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Melissa E.L. CHIM
HUI Ka Wai
LEE Yuen Chuen
Patrick R. MOSS
Hin Han SHUM
Sharon S.Y. TAM

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Warren P. GANESH
Stephen W.S. HUNG
IP Shing Hing
Henson LAM
Thomas S.T. SO
Margot TUNG

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Junius K.Y. HO (Chair)
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IP Shing Hing
Christopher E.M. LAMBERT
Daphne F.Y. LO
Amirali B. NASIR
Melissa K. PANG
Cecilia K.W. WONG
William C.F. WOO

Secretary: Assistant Director, Regulation and Guidance (II)

Working Party on Solicitors' Practice Rules

Amirali B. NASIR (Chair)
Annette S.J. BEASHEL
Ian C.M. CHENG
Colin B. COHEN
IP Shing Hing
Patrick R. MOSS
NG Ching Wo
Harmony H.M. NG
Careen H.Y. WONG

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PANG Kam-wing (Chair)
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Vincent CHIN (resigned in June)
CHUNG Suet Yee
Mark DALY
Darcy L. DAVISON-ROBERTS
Sebastian Y.F. KO
LAU Man Ting
LEE Tin Yan (joined in November)
Vivien LEE (resigned in November)
LI Chun Hei
LIAO Haiyan
LO Chung Yun
Rendy K.M. NG
Hin Han SHUM
TAM Wai Choi
TONG Wai Lun
Aron WONG
Leo L.P. YAU
Edmond M.Y. YEUNG
YU Pui Hang
YUEN Tat Tong

Secretary: Assistant Director, Regulation and Guidance (II)

**Sub-Committee on Proactive Management Based
Regulation**

Thomas S.T. SO (Chair)
Rossana C.M. CHU
Antony M. DAPIRAN
Rosetta Y.S. KWOK
Stephanie W.Y. LAU
Eviana B.Y. LEUNG
Careen H.Y. WONG
YU Pui Hang

Secretary: Assistant Director, Regulation and Guidance (II)

**Working Party on Exemption Guidelines for the
Mandatory Practice Management Course**

IP Shing Hing (Chair)
Kenneth LAM
Stephen W.S. HUNG

Secretary: Assistant Director, Regulation and Guidance (I)

Standards and Development Department



LAW SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES ON STATUTORY OR OFFICIAL COMMITTEES

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Amirali B. NASIR

Advisory Committee on Legal Advice for Unrepresented Litigants

Mark DALY

Advisory Group on Modernisation of Corporate Insolvency Law

Keith M.K. HO

Business of Intellectual Property Asia Steering Committee

Kenny K.S. WONG

City University of Hong Kong – Law School Board

Nick CHAN

City University of Hong Kong – PCLL Academic Board

Bonita B.Y. CHAN	(until August)
Nick CHAN	
Serina K. S. CHAN	(until January)
Brian W. GILCHRIST	(from January)
Huen WONG	
Christopher K.K. YU	

Commonwealth Lawyers Association – Council

Melissa K. PANG	(until January)
Amirali B. NASIR	(from February)

Commonwealth Lawyers Association – Young Commonwealth Lawyers Association Committee

Sharon S.Y. TAM	(from July)
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Companies Registry Customer Liaison Group

Jane M.S. NG

Costs Committee

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Karen LAM
Amirali B. NASIR
Robert C. RHODA

Court of Final Appeal Rules Committee

Brian W. GILCHRIST
Amirali B. NASIR

Criminal Procedure Rules Committee

Eric T.M. CHEUNG

Working Group on The Review of Criminal Legal Aid Fees System

Stephen W.S. HUNG
Kenneth H. S NG

District Court Rules Committee

Calvin K. CHENG

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Bonita B.Y. CHAN	
Stephen W.S. HUNG	
Kenneth H.S. NG	(until August)
Michelle W.T. TSOI	(from August)
Cecilia K.W. WONG	

eBRAM International Online Dispute Resolution Limited

Amirali B. NASIR	(from June)
Robert C. RHODA	(until June)

High Court Rules Committee

Brian W. GILCHRIST
Amirali B. NASIR

Higher Rights Assessment Board

Denis G. BROCK	(until July)
Bonita B.Y. CHAN	(until July)
Jimmy K.H. CHAN	(from July)
Tom K.M. FU	(from July)
Melissa K. PANG	(until July)
Ronald K.N. SUM	(from July)

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Calvin K. CHENG

Hong Kong Building Rehabilitation Facilitation Services Limited – Service Providers Committee

Doreen Y.F. KONG	(until January)
Tommy K.K. CHUNG	(from March)

Hong Kong Building Rehabilitation Facilitation Services Limited – Promotion Committee

Doreen Y.F. KONG	(until January)
Tommy K.K. CHUNG	(from March)

Hong Kong Coalition of Professional Services Limited

Melissa K. PANG

Hong Kong Council of Volunteering

Roden M.L. TONG

Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants – Disciplinary Panel A

C. M. CHAN

Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants – Ethics Committee

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Amirali B. NASIR

Hong Kong Mediation Accreditation Association Limited

Melissa K. PANG

Hong Kong Mediation Accreditation Association Limited – Mediation Accreditation Committee

Sylvia W.Y. SIU

Hong Kong Mediation Accreditation Association Limited – Communications and Publicity Committee

Sylvia W.Y. SIU

Hong Kong Trade Development Council – Belt and Road and Greater Bay Area Committee

Thomas S.T. SO

Intellectual Property Department – Focus Group on Review of the Patent System in Hong Kong

Henry J.H. WHEARE
Kenny K.S. WONG

International Association of Young Lawyers

Louise K.F. WONG

International Bar Association – Bar Issues Commission

C. M. CHAN
Heidi K.P. CHU
Amirali B. NASIR

International Bar Association – Council

C. M. CHAN
Amirali B. NASIR

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Melissa K. PANG
Cecilia K.W. WONG

Judicial Officers Recommendation Commission

Melissa K. PANG

**Land Registry Customer Liaison Group
(Private Sector)**

AU Kin Man
Alson CHAI
Doreen Y.F. KONG (until January)
Tommy K.K. CHUNG (from March)
LEONG Chi Wai
LEUNG Chi Yin Charlie
LEUNG Tsz Hang Courtney

Land Registry Joint Standing Committee

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Emily Y.M. LAM
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**Land Survey Ordinance (CH.473) Disciplinary
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Land Titles Ordinance Review Committee

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Doreen Y.F. KONG (until January)
WONG Man Wa
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Land Titles Ordinance Steering Committee

Lilian S.F. CHIANG

**Land Title Ordinance – Title Registration
Education Committee**

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Doreen Y.F. KONG (until January)
LUI Yiu Fai
WONG Man Wa

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C. M. CHAN
Melissa K. PANG

LAWASIA – Executive Committee

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Melissa K. PANG

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Friendly Employers Award Scheme**

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MPFA Guidelines Committee

Sophia W.Y. MAN

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The Joint Professional Centre Limited

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Careen H.Y. WONG

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Brian W. Gilchrist	(from January)
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Nick CHAN

Union Internationale Des Advocats

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Doreen Y.F. KONG

**Urban Renewal Authority — Appeal Panel of
Building Rehabilitation Company Registration
Scheme (BRCRS)**

Doreen Y.F. KONG
Justin H.Y. YUEN

**Working Group on Maritime Services Traineeship
SCHEME**

Steven J. WISE (from April)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF HONG KONG

OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of The Law Society of Hong Kong ("The Law Society") set out on pages 88 to 111, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2022, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the cash flow statement for the year then ended and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of The Law Society as at 31 December 2022 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the applicable Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards ("HKFRSs") issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("HKICPA") that are relevant to these financial statements and have been properly prepared in compliance with the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance.

BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with Hong Kong Standards on Auditing ("HKSAs") issued by the HKICPA. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of The Law Society in accordance with the HKICPA's *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* ("the Code") and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

INFORMATION OTHER THAN THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND AUDITOR'S REPORT THEREON

The Council Members are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises all the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Council Members are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with applicable HKFRSs issued by the HKICPA that are relevant to these financial statements and the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance and for such internal control as the Council Members determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Council Members are responsible for assessing The Law Society's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Council Members either intend to liquidate The Law Society or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. This report is made solely to you, as a body, in accordance with section 405 of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance, and for no other purpose. We do not assume responsibility towards or accept liability to any other person for the contents of this report.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with HKSAAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with HKSAAs, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of The Law Society's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Council Members.

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Council Members' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on The Law Society's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause The Law Society to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Council Members regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

KPMG
Certified Public Accountants

8th Floor, Prince's Building
10 Chater Road
Central, Hong Kong

28 February 2023

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the year ended 31 December 2022 (Expressed in Hong Kong dollars)

	Note	2022	2021
Income	3	\$ 149,967,710	\$ 88,337,583
Staff costs	4(a)	(75,175,193)	(70,482,291)
Office expenses	4(b)	(5,631,241)	(6,007,903)
Depreciation	7	(5,137,360)	(4,793,442)
Amortisation	8	(564,299)	(233,006)
Members' expenses	4(c)	(5,896,970)	(6,459,832)
Other operating expenses	4(d)	(26,158,677)	(52,182,669)
Surplus/(deficit) before taxation	4	\$ 31,403,970	\$ (51,821,560)
Income tax	6(a)	(21,177)	(232,733)
Surplus/(deficit) and total comprehensive income for the year		\$ 31,382,793	\$ (52,054,293)

The notes on pages 92 to 111 form part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

At 31 December 2022 (Expressed in Hong Kong dollars)

	Note	2022	2021
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	7	\$ 105,685,744	\$ 109,024,374
Intangible assets	8	2,029,270	2,563,069
Investment in a subsidiary	9	20	20
Deposits	10	2,153,625	636,600
		\$ 109,868,659	\$ 112,224,063
Current assets			
Deposits, prepayments and other receivables	10	\$ 6,159,297	\$ 5,385,013
Amount due from a related company	11	375,443	706,827
Cash and deposits with banks	12(a)	246,857,222	211,026,075
		\$ 253,391,962	\$ 217,117,915
Current liabilities			
Membership, practising certificate and other fees received in advance	13(a)	\$ 110,095,669	\$ 104,146,167
Creditors and accrued charges	13	19,084,082	22,518,911
		\$ 129,179,751	\$ 126,665,078
Net current assets		\$ 124,212,211	\$ 90,452,837
Total assets less current liabilities		\$ 234,080,870	\$ 202,676,900
Non-current liability			
Deferred tax liabilities	14	485,676	464,499
Net assets		\$ 233,595,194	\$ 202,212,401
Representing:			
Accumulated surpluses and reserves		\$ 233,595,194	\$ 202,212,401

Approved and authorised for issue by the Council on 28 February 2023.

Council Members		Secretary General
C. M. Chan	Amirali B. Nasir	Heidi K. P. Chu

The notes on pages 92 to 111 form part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

For the year ended 31 December 2022 (Expressed in Hong Kong dollars)

	Accumulated Surplus	Reserve for regulatory costs (Note)	Total
Balance at 1 January 2021:	\$ 204,266,694	\$ 50,000,000	\$ 254,266,694
Changes in equity for 2021:			
Deficit and total comprehensive income	(52,054,293)	–	(52,054,293)
Release from reserve for regulatory costs to accumulated surplus	35,000,000	(35,000,000)	–
Transfer from accumulated surplus to reserve for regulatory costs	(35,000,000)	35,000,000	–
Balance at 31 December 2021 and 1 January 2022	\$ 152,212,401	\$ 50,000,000	\$202,212,401
Changes in equity for 2022:			
Surplus and total comprehensive income	31,382,793	–	31,382,793
Transfer from accumulated surplus to reserve for regulatory costs	(10,000,000)	10,000,000	–
Balance at 31 December 2022	\$ 173,595,194	\$ 60,000,000	\$ 233,595,194

Note: The Law Society has built up a special reserve for regulatory costs from its accumulated surplus to ensure that it has available financial resources to fulfil its statutory regulatory functions.

The Council resolved on 8 June 2021 that a sum of HK\$35 million be released from the reserve for regulatory costs to The Law Society's accumulated surplus for anticipated regulatory costs to be incurred.

The Council resolved on 6 December 2022 (2021: 7 December 2021) that a sum of HK\$10 million (2021: HK\$35 million) be transferred from The Law Society's accumulated surplus to the reserve for regulatory costs.

The notes on pages 92 to 111 form part of these financial statements.

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

For the year ended 31 December 2022 (Expressed in Hong Kong dollars)

	Note	2022	2021
Operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	12(b)	\$ 36,725,172	\$ 13,846,491
Hong Kong Profits Tax paid		–	(1,324,719)
Net cash generated from operating activities		\$ 36,725,172	\$ 12,521,772
Investing activities			
Decrease/(increase) in deposits with banks with maturity of more than three months at acquisition		\$ 36,727,849	\$ (31,047,254)
Interest received		2,452,230	563,664
Payment for the purchase of property, plant and equipment and related deposits		(1,798,730)	(3,583,051)
Payment for the intangible assets and related deposits		(1,547,525)	(1,430,500)
Net cash generated from/(used in) investing activities		\$ 35,833,824	\$ (35,497,141)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		\$ 72,558,996	\$ (22,975,369)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January		148,191,297	171,166,666
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December	12(a)	\$ 220,750,293	\$ 148,191,297

The notes on pages 92 to 111 form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Expressed in Hong Kong dollars)

1 STATUS OF THE LAW SOCIETY

The Law Society is a company limited by guarantee with no share capital. The liability of each member is limited to an amount not exceeding \$50. As at 31 December 2022, The Law Society had 13,144 (2021: 12,795) members.

2 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Statement of compliance

For the purposes of compliance with section 379 and 380 of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance (Cap. 622), these financial statements have been prepared to present a true and fair view of the financial position and financial performance of The Law Society only. Consequently, they have been prepared in accordance with all applicable Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards ("HKFRSs", which term collectively includes all applicable individual Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards, Hong Kong Accounting Standards ("HKASs") and Interpretations) issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("HKICPA"), accounting principles generally accepted in Hong Kong and the requirements of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance (Cap. 622) that are relevant to the preparation of company level financial statements by a parent company.

The Law Society is a holding company as it has one subsidiary. However, The Law Society regards this subsidiary as immaterial and therefore, in accordance with section 381(3) of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance (Cap. 622), is not required to prepare consolidated financial statements.

Given the above, these financial statements are not prepared for the purposes of compliance with HKFRS 10, *Consolidated financial statements*, so far as the preparation of consolidated financial statements of a holding company is concerned. As a consequence, the financial statements do not give all the information required by HKFRS 10 about the economic activities of the group of which The Law Society is the parent. Furthermore, as these financial statements are prepared in respect of The Law Society only, disclosures required by HKFRS 12, *Disclosures of interests in other entities*, does not apply to the financial statements.

A summary of the significant accounting policies adopted by The Law Society is set out below.

The HKICPA has issued certain amendments to HKFRSs that are first effective or available for early adoption for the current accounting period of The Law Society. Note 2(c) provides information on any changes in accounting policies resulting from initial application of these developments to the extent that they are relevant to The Law Society for the current accounting period reflected in these financial statements.

2 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(b) Basis of preparation of the financial statements

The measurement basis used in the preparation of the financial statements is the historical cost basis.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with HKFRSs requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis of making the judgements about carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

(c) Changes in accounting policies

The HKICPA has issued a number of amendments to HKFRSs that are first effective for the current accounting period of The Law Society.

None of these developments have had a material effect on how The Law Society's results and financial position for the current or prior periods have been prepared or presented. The Law Society has not applied any new standard or interpretation that is not yet effective for the current accounting period.

(d) Subsidiaries

Subsidiaries are entities controlled by The Law Society. The Law Society controls an entity when it is exposed or has rights to variable returns from its involvement with the entity and has the ability to affect those returns through its power over the entity. When assessing whether The Law Society has power, only substantive rights (held by The Law Society and other parties) are considered.

In The Law Society's statement of financial position, an investment in a subsidiary is stated at cost less impairment losses (see note 2(h)).

(e) Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment, including right-of-use assets arising from leases of underlying property, plant and equipment (see note 2(g)), are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses (see note 2(h)).

2 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(e) Property, plant and equipment (continued)

Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost of items of property, plant and equipment, less their estimated residual value, if any, using the straight line method over their estimated useful lives as follows:

- Leasehold land is depreciated over the unexpired terms of lease;
- Buildings situated on leasehold land are depreciated over the shorter of their estimated useful lives, being 25 years from the date of purchase, and the unexpired terms of lease;
- Leasehold improvements 5 years
- Furniture, fixtures and equipment 3–5 years

Both the useful life of an asset and its residual value, if any, are reviewed annually.

Gains or losses arising from the retirement or disposal of an item of property, plant and equipment are determined as the difference between the net disposal proceeds and the carrying amount of the item and are recognised in profit or loss on the date of retirement or disposal.

(f) Intangible assets

Intangible assets that are acquired by The Law Society are stated at cost less accumulated amortisation (where the estimated useful life is finite) and impairment losses (see note 2(h)).

Amortisation of intangible assets with finite useful life is charged to profit or loss on a straight-line basis over the assets' estimated useful lives. The following intangible assets with finite useful lives are amortised from the date they are available for use and their estimated useful lives are as follows:

- Website costs 5 years

Both the period and method of amortisation are reviewed annually.

(g) Leased assets

At inception of a contract, The Law Society assesses whether the contract is, or contains, a lease. A contract is, or contains, a lease if the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration. Control is conveyed where the customer has both the right to direct the use of the identified asset and to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from that use.

At the lease commencement date, The Law Society recognises a right-of-use asset and a lease liability, except for short-term leases that have a lease term of 12 months or less and leases of low-value assets. When The Law Society enters into a lease in respect of a low-value asset, The Law Society decides whether to capitalise the lease on a lease-by-lease basis. The lease payments associated with those leases which are not capitalised are recognised as an expense on a systematic basis over the lease term.

2 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(g) Leased assets (continued)

Where the lease is capitalised, the lease liability is initially recognised at the present value of the lease payments payable over the lease term, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease or, if that rate cannot be readily determined, using a relevant incremental borrowing rate. After initial recognition, the lease liability is measured at amortised cost and interest expense is calculated using the effective interest method. Variable lease payments that do not depend on an index or rate are not included in the measurement of the lease liability and hence are charged to profit or loss in the accounting period in which they are incurred.

The right-of-use asset recognised when a lease is capitalised is initially measured at cost, which comprises the initial amount of the lease liability plus any lease payments made at or before the commencement date, and any initial direct costs incurred. Where applicable, the cost of the right-of-use assets also includes an estimate of costs to dismantle and remove the underlying asset or to restore the underlying asset or the site on which it is located, discounted to their present value, less any lease incentives received. The right-of-use asset is subsequently stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses (see note 2(h)).

The lease liability is remeasured when there is a change in future lease payments arising from a change in an index or rate, or there is a change in The Law Society's estimate of the amount expected to be payable under a residual value guarantee, or there is a change arising from the reassessment of whether The Law Society will be reasonably certain to exercise a purchase, extension or termination option. When the lease liability is remeasured in this way, a corresponding adjustment is made to the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset, or is recorded in profit or loss if the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset has been reduced to zero.

(h) Impairment of non-current assets

Internal and external sources of information are reviewed at the end of each reporting period to identify indications that the following assets may be impaired or an impairment loss previously recognised no longer exists or may have decreased:

- property, plant and equipment including right-of-use assets (other than property carried at revalued amounts);
- intangible assets; and
- investments in subsidiaries.

If any such indication exists, the asset's recoverable amount is estimated.

(i) Calculation of recoverable amount

The recoverable amount of an asset is the greater of its fair value less cost of disposal and value in use. In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset. Where an asset does not generate cash inflows largely independent of those from other assets, the recoverable amount is determined for the smallest group of assets that generates cash inflows independently (i.e. a cash-generating unit).

2 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(h) Impairment of non-current assets (continued)

(ii) Recognition of impairment losses

An impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss if the carrying amount of an asset, or the cash-generating unit to which it belongs, exceeds its recoverable amount. Impairment losses are recognised to reduce the carrying amount of the asset or assets in the cash-generating unit on a pro rata basis, except that the carrying value of an asset will not be reduced below its individual fair value less costs of disposal (if measurable) or value in use (if determinable).

(iii) Reversal of impairment losses

An impairment loss is reversed if there has been a favourable change in the estimates used to determine the recoverable amount.

A reversal of an impairment loss is limited to the asset's carrying amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised in prior years. Reversals of impairment losses are credited to profit or loss in the year in which the reversals are recognised.

(i) Disciplinary proceedings and ancillary costs

Disciplinary proceedings and ancillary costs are recognised in profit or loss in the year in which they are incurred. Whilst every effort is made by The Law Society to secure reimbursement of such amounts, due to the uncertainty as to whether such costs will be recovered by reference to the provisions of section 25(1) of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance, reimbursements of such costs are recognised in profit or loss only to the extent that they have been received. Also included in the financial statements under this heading are the costs incurred in respect of interventions within solicitors' practices. Such costs are only recoverable from the solicitors concerned and, in view of their nature, such costs are unlikely to be recovered in full.

(j) Deposits, prepayments and other receivables

A receivable is recognised when The Law Society has an unconditional right to receive consideration. A right to receive consideration is unconditional if only the passage of time is required before payment of that consideration is due. If revenue has been recognised before The Law Society has an unconditional right to receive consideration, the amount is presented as a contract asset.

Receivables are stated at amortised cost using the effective interest method less allowance for credit losses as determined below:

The loss allowance is measured at an amount equal to lifetime expected credit losses (ECLs), which are those losses that are expected to occur over the expected life of the trade receivables. The loss allowance is estimated using a provision matrix based on The Law Society's historical credit loss experience, adjusted for factors that are specific to the debtors and an assessment of both the current and forecast general economic conditions at the reporting date.

2 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(j) Deposits, prepayments and other receivables (continued)

ECLs are remeasured at each reporting date with any changes recognised as an impairment gain or loss in profit or loss. The Law Society recognises an impairment gain or loss with a corresponding adjustment to the carrying amount of trade and other receivables through a loss allowance account.

The gross carrying amount of a trade debtor or other receivable is written off (either partially or in full) to the extent that there is no realistic prospect of recovery. This is generally the case when The Law Society determines that the debtor does not have assets or sources of income that could generate sufficient cash flows to repay the amounts subject to the write-off.

(k) Creditors and accrued charges

Membership, practising certificate and other fees received in advance

Creditors and accrued charges and membership, practising certificate and other fees received in advance are initially recognised at fair value and subsequently stated at amortised cost unless the effect of discounting would be immaterial, in which case they are stated at cost.

A contract liability is recognised when the customer pays non-refundable consideration before The Law Society recognises the related revenue (see note 2(p)). A contract liability would also be recognised if The Law Society has an unconditional right to receive non-refundable consideration before The Law Society recognises the related revenue. In such cases, a corresponding receivable would also be recognised.

(l) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at bank and on hand, demand deposits with banks and other financial institutions, and short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible into known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value, having been within three months of maturity at acquisition.

(m) Employee benefits

Salaries, annual bonuses, paid annual leave, contributions to defined contribution retirement plans and the cost of non-monetary benefits are accrued in the year in which the associated services are rendered by employees. Where payment or settlement is deferred and the effect would be material, these amounts are stated at their present values.

2 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(n) Income tax

Income tax for the year comprises current tax and movements in deferred tax assets and liabilities. Current tax and movements in deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognised in profit or loss except to the extent that they relate to items recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity, in which case the relevant amounts of tax are recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity, respectively.

Current tax is the expected tax payable on the taxable income for the year, using tax rates enacted or substantively enacted at the end of the reporting period, and any adjustment to tax payable in respect of previous years.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities arise from deductible and taxable temporary differences respectively, being the differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities for financial reporting purposes and their tax bases. Deferred tax assets also arise from unused tax losses and unused tax credits. Apart from differences which arise on initial recognition of assets and liabilities, all deferred tax liabilities and all deferred tax assets, to the extent that it is probable that future taxable profits will be available against which the asset can be utilised, are recognised.

The amount of deferred tax recognised is measured based on the expected manner of realisation or settlement of the carrying amount of the assets and liabilities, using tax rates enacted or substantively enacted at the end of the reporting period. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are not discounted.

(o) Provisions and contingent liabilities

Provisions are recognised for liabilities when The Law Society has a legal or constructive obligation arising as a result of a past event, it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation and a reliable estimate can be made. Where the time value of money is material, provisions are stated at the present value of the expenditure expected to settle the obligation.

Where it is not probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required, or the amount cannot be estimated reliably, the obligation is disclosed as a contingent liability, unless the probability of outflow of economic benefits is remote. Possible obligations, whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more future events are also disclosed as contingent liabilities unless the probability of outflow of economic benefits is remote.

(p) Revenue recognition

Income is classified by The Law Society as revenue when it arises from the sale of goods or the provision of services in the ordinary course of Law Society's business.

Revenue is recognised when control over a product or service is transferred to the customer, at the amount of promised consideration to which The Law Society is expected to be entitled, excluding those amounts collected on behalf of third parties. Revenue excludes value added tax or other sales taxes and is after deduction of any trade discounts.

2 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(p) Revenue recognition (continued)

Further details of The Law Society's revenue recognition policies are as follows:

- (i) Annual membership subscriptions, practising certificate fees, registration fees and other fees are recognised ratably over the period to which they relate.
- (ii) Tuition fees for continuing professional development are recognised over the period of instruction.
- (iii) Interest income from bank deposits is recognised as it accrues using the effective interest method.

(q) Related parties

- (a) A person, or a close member of that person's family, is related to The Law Society if that person:
 - (i) has control or joint control over The Law Society;
 - (ii) has significant influence over The Law Society; or
 - (iii) is a member of the key management personnel of The Law Society or The Law Society's parent.
- (b) An entity is related to The Law Society if any of the following conditions applies:
 - (i) The entity and The Law Society are members of the same group (which means that each parent, subsidiary and fellow subsidiary is related to the others).
 - (ii) One entity is an associate or joint venture of the other entity (or an associate or joint venture of a member of a group of which the other entity is a member).
 - (iii) Both entities are joint ventures of the same third party.
 - (iv) One entity is a joint venture of a third entity and the other entity is an associate of the third entity.
 - (v) The entity is a post-employment benefit plan for the benefit of employees of either The Law Society or an entity related to The Law Society.
 - (vi) The entity is controlled or jointly-controlled by a person identified in (a).
 - (vii) A person identified in (a)(i) has significant influence over the entity or is a member of the key management personnel of the entity (or of a parent of the entity).
 - (viii) The entity, or any member of a group of which it is a part, provides key management personnel services to The Law Society or to The Law Society's parent.

Close members of the family of a person are those family members who may be expected to influence, or be influenced by, that person in their dealings with the entity.

3 INCOME

The principal activity of The Law Society is to act as the professional and regulatory body for solicitors in Hong Kong.

Income consists of:

	Note	2022	2021
Income from contracts with customers within the scope of HKFRS 15			
Annual membership fees		\$ 31,417,500	\$ 1,252,200
Practising certificate fees		74,129,250	21,809,775
Foreign lawyer registration fees		11,614,500	12,678,750
Foreign law firm registration fees		863,750	903,500
Other fees	3(a)	18,907,916	18,819,447
Continuing professional development		2,600,468	2,680,498
Miscellaneous income	3(b)	5,678,001	5,006,301
		\$ 145,211,385	\$ 63,150,471
Income from other sources			
Disciplinary proceedings and ancillary costs reimbursed		2,304,095	15,425,871
Bank interest income	12(b)	2,452,230	563,664
Reversal of accrued intervention cost		–	9,197,577
		\$ 4,756,325	\$ 25,187,112
		\$ 149,967,710	\$ 88,337,583

- (a) Other fees include fees received for applications for waivers from compliance with guidelines on drafting Deeds of Mutual Covenant, applications and registration for examinations and applications for certificates of standing.
- (b) Miscellaneous income comprises principally income from advertisements in The Law Society's circulars, recharges to the Professional Indemnity Scheme for The Law Society's salaries and overheads incurred during the year in administering the Scheme.

4 SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) BEFORE TAXATION

Surplus/(deficit) before taxation is arrived at after charging/(crediting):

	2022	2021
(a) Staff costs		
Salaries and allowances [#]	\$ 66,125,176	\$ 61,930,504
Contributions to defined contribution retirement plan	7,877,316	7,214,180
Provident fund contribution forfeitures	(566,038)	(835,565)
Recruitment and training	1,738,739	2,173,172
	\$ 75,175,193	\$ 70,482,291
(b) Office expenses		
Rates and service charges	\$ 1,585,607	\$ 1,569,522
Electricity and telephone	548,272	486,386
Postage	140,355	225,239
Printing and stationery	2,009,636	2,097,652
Repairs and maintenance	566,234	1,003,393
Office cleaning and others	781,137	625,711
	\$ 5,631,241	\$ 6,007,903
(c) Members' expenses		
Issue of membership cards	\$ 109,600	\$ 107,700
Functions	1,978,177	1,649,927
Meetings	2,940,274	3,561,992
Facilities	868,919	1,140,213
	\$ 5,896,970	\$ 6,459,832
(d) Other operating expenses		
Disciplinary proceedings and ancillary costs*	\$ 10,613,834	\$ 40,062,910
Professional and consultancy fees	962,488	1,758,125
Professional development	5,556,047	2,821,261
Auditor's remuneration	166,000	161,000
Insurance and medical	4,391,394	3,791,000
Sundry	4,468,914	3,588,373
	\$ 26,158,677	\$ 52,182,669

[#] Salaries and allowances includes \$2,628,000 (2021: \$Nil) related to Employment Support Scheme under the Anti-epidemic Fund of the Government of Hong Kong SAR.

* \$5,915,779 (2021: \$31,421,448) was incurred in respect of interventions within solicitors' practices, and \$1,352,520 (2021: \$3,042,316) was incurred in respect of litigation cases.

5 REMUNERATION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Remuneration of Council Members disclosed pursuant to section 383(1) of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance and Part 2 of the Companies (Disclosure of Information about Benefits of Directors) Regulation are as follows:

	2022	2021
Council Members' fees	\$ –	\$ –
Salaries, allowances and benefits in kind	–	–
Discretionary bonuses	–	–
Retirement scheme contributions	–	–
	\$ –	\$ –

6 INCOME TAX IN THE STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

(a) Taxation charged to profit or loss:

	2022	2021
Current tax – Hong Kong Profits Tax		
Under-provision in respect of prior years	\$ –	\$ 3,029
Deferred tax		
Origination and reversal of temporary differences	21,177	229,704
	\$ 21,177	\$ 232,733

In March 2018, the Hong Kong Government introduced a two-tiered profits tax rate regime by enacting the Inland Revenue (Amendment) (No. 3) Ordinance 2018 (the "Ordinance"). Under the two-tiered profits tax rate regime, the first HK\$2 million of assessable profits of qualifying corporations are taxed at 8.25% and the remaining assessable profits are taxed at 16.5%. The provision for Hong Kong Profits Tax for the Law Society was calculated at the basis.

No provision for Hong Kong Profits Tax has been made for the year ended 31 December 2022 as available tax losses brought forward from prior year to offset the assessable profits generated. No provision for Hong Kong Profits Tax had been made for the year ended 31 December 2021 as The Law Society had no assessable profits subject to Hong Kong Profits Tax.

6 INCOME TAX IN THE STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (CONTINUED)

(b) Reconciliation between tax expense charged to profit or loss and accounting surplus/(deficit) at the applicable tax rate:

	2022	2021
Surplus/(deficit) before taxation	\$ 31,403,970	\$ (51,821,560)
Notional tax on surplus/(deficit) before taxation (Note)	\$ 5,016,655	\$ (8,550,557)
Tax effect of non-deductible expenses	198,087	198,087
Tax effect of non-taxable income	(838,238)	(93,005)
Tax effect of unrecognised tax losses	–	8,675,179
Tax effect of utilisation of tax losses	(4,520,327)	–
Effect of two-tiered profits tax rate regime	165,000	–
Under-provision in prior years	–	3,029
Actual tax expense charged to profit or loss	\$ 21,177	\$ 232,733

Note: For the year ended 31 December 2022, the notional tax is calculated in accordance with the two-tiered profits rate regime under which tax on the first \$2 million of profits is calculated at 8.25% and tax on the remaining profits is calculated at 16.5%. For the year ended 31 December 2021 a single tax rate of 16.5% was applied.

7 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	Interest in leasehold land held for own use	Building held for own use	Leasehold improvements	Furniture, fixtures and equipment	Total
Cost:					
At 1 January 2022	\$ 105,885,279	\$ 45,062,601	\$ 17,423,913	\$ 11,802,571	\$ 180,174,364
Additions	–	–	66,360	1,732,370	1,798,730
Disposals	–	–	–	(534,832)	(534,832)
At 31 December 2022	\$ 105,885,279	\$ 45,062,601	\$ 17,490,273	\$ 13,000,109	\$ 181,438,262
Accumulated depreciation:					
At 1 January 2022	\$ 8,231,044	\$ 38,684,190	\$ 15,590,381	\$ 8,644,375	\$ 71,149,990
Charge for the year	970,127	1,802,504	713,919	1,650,810	5,137,360
Written back on disposals	–	–	–	(534,832)	(534,832)
At 31 December 2022	\$ 9,201,171	\$ 40,486,694	\$ 16,304,300	\$ 9,760,353	\$ 75,752,518
Net book value:					
At 31 December 2022	\$ 96,684,108	\$ 4,575,907	\$ 1,185,973	\$ 3,239,756	\$ 105,685,744

7 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (CONTINUED)

	Interest in leasehold land held for own use	Building held for own use	Leasehold improvements	Furniture, fixtures and equipment	Total
Cost:					
At 1 January 2021	\$ 105,885,279	\$ 45,062,601	\$ 16,022,588	\$ 10,444,166	\$ 177,414,634
Additions	–	–	1,401,325	2,181,726	3,583,051
Disposals	–	–	–	(823,321)	(823,321)
At 31 December 2021	\$ 105,885,279	\$ 45,062,601	\$ 17,423,913	\$ 11,802,571	\$ 180,174,364
Accumulated depreciation:					
At 1 January 2021	\$ 7,260,917	\$ 36,881,686	\$ 14,931,603	\$ 8,105,663	\$ 67,179,869
Charge for the year	970,127	1,802,504	658,778	1,362,033	4,793,442
Written back on disposals	–	–	–	(823,321)	(823,321)
At 31 December 2021	\$ 8,231,044	\$ 38,684,190	\$ 15,590,381	\$ 8,644,375	\$ 71,149,990
Net book value:					
At 31 December 2021	\$ 97,654,235	\$ 6,378,411	\$ 1,833,532	\$ 3,158,196	\$ 109,024,374

The leasehold land and building are held in Hong Kong under medium term and long term leases.

Right-of-use assets

The analysis of the net book value of right-of-use assets by class of underlying asset is as follows:

	Note	2022	2021
Interests in leasehold land and buildings held for own use, carried at depreciated cost in Hong Kong, with remaining lease term of:			
– 50 years or more	(i)	\$ 74,548,792	\$ 76,166,847
– between 10 and 50 years		26,711,223	27,865,799
		\$ 101,260,015	\$ 104,032,646

The analysis of expense items in relation to leases recognised in profit or loss is as follows:

	2022	2021
Depreciation charge of right-of-use assets by class of underlying asset:		
Interests in leasehold land and buildings	\$ 2,772,631	\$ 2,772,631

7 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (CONTINUED)

Right-of-use assets (continued)

(i) Interests in leasehold land and buildings held for own use

The Law Society holds two building units for its business. The Law Society is the registered owner of these property interests, including part of undivided share in the underlying land. Lump sum payments were made upfront to acquire these property interests from their previous registered owners, and there are no ongoing payments to be made under the terms of the land lease, other than payments based on rateable values set by the relevant government authorities. These payments vary from time to time and are payable to the relevant government authorities.

8 INTANGIBLE ASSETS

	Website costs
Cost:	
At 1 January 2021	\$ –
Addition	2,796,075
At 31 December 2021 and 1 January 2022	\$ 2,796,075
Addition	30,500
At 31 December 2022	\$ 2,826,575
Accumulated amortisation:	
At 1 January 2021	\$ –
Charge for the year	233,006
At 31 December 2021 and 1 January 2022	\$ 233,006
Charge for the year	564,299
At 31 December 2022	\$ 797,305
Net book value:	
At 31 December 2021	\$ 2,563,069
At 31 December 2022	\$ 2,029,270

9 INVESTMENT IN A SUBSIDIARY

	2022	2021
Unlisted shares at cost	\$ 20	\$ 20

9 INVESTMENT IN A SUBSIDIARY (CONTINUED)

Details of the subsidiary are as follows:

Name of company	Place of incorporation and operation	Proportion of ownership interest held by the company	Principal activity
The Law Society of Hong Kong Publications Limited*	Hong Kong	100%	Publishing the journal of The Law Society

* Not audited by KPMG.

10 DEPOSITS, PREPAYMENTS AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

	2022	2021
Deposits and prepayments	\$ 6,794,889	\$ 5,558,408
Other receivables	1,518,033	463,205
	\$ 8,312,922	\$ 6,021,613
Current portion	\$ 6,159,297	\$ 5,385,013
Non-current portion	2,153,625	636,600
	\$ 8,312,922	\$ 6,021,613

The amount of deposits and prepayments expected to be recovered or recognised as intangible assets is \$2,153,625 (2021: \$636,600). All of the other deposits, prepayments and other receivables are expected to be recovered or recognised as an expense within one year.

11 AMOUNT DUE FROM A RELATED COMPANY

The amount due from a related company is unsecured, interest-free and recoverable on demand.

12 CASH AND DEPOSITS WITH BANKS

(a) Cash and deposits with banks comprise:

	2022	2021
Deposits with banks with maturity within three months at acquisition	\$ 186,896,007	\$ 135,354,478
Cash at bank and on hand	33,854,286	12,836,819
Cash and cash equivalents in the cash flow statement	\$ 220,750,293	\$ 148,191,297
Deposits with banks with maturity of more than three months at acquisition	26,106,929	62,834,778
Cash and deposits with banks in the statement of financial position	\$ 246,857,222	\$ 211,026,075

(b) Reconciliation of surplus/(deficit) before taxation to cash generated from operations:

	Note	2022	2021
Surplus/(deficit) before taxation		\$ 31,403,970	\$ (51,821,560)
Adjustments for:			
Bank interest income	3	(2,452,230)	(563,664)
Reversal of accrued intervention cost	3	–	(9,197,577)
Depreciation	7	5,137,360	4,793,442
Amortisation	8	564,299	233,006
Changes in working capital:			
Increase in deposits, prepayments and other receivables		(774,284)	(1,043,625)
Decrease/(increase) in amount due from a related company		331,384	(199,087)
Decrease in creditors and accrued charges		(3,434,829)	(1,532,235)
Increase in membership, practising certificate and other fees received in advance		5,949,502	73,177,791
Cash generated from operations		\$ 36,725,172	\$ 13,846,491

As at 31 December 2022, The Law Society had \$100,661,841 (2021: \$99,588,013) cash and deposits with banks which were unclaimed client monies held on behalf of law firms pursuant to the Council's directions under section 8(2) of the Solicitors' Accounts Rules (Cap 159, sub leg) and to section 2(1) of Schedule 2 of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance (Cap. 159). These unclaimed client monies are not recognised in the statement of financial position given its nature of trust monies. During the year ended 31 December 2022, \$1,187,629 (2021: \$383,788) of the unclaimed client monies has been donated to Hong Kong Academy of Law Limited, a related party to The Law Society, pursuant to the resolution of the Council meeting on 7 December 2021 (2021: 10 November 2020).

As at 31 December 2022, The Law Society had \$3,482,218 cash and deposits (2021: \$Nil) with a bank which were held on behalf of the HKSAR Government pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding between Department of Justice of the HKSAR Government and The Law Society on Legal Talent Recruitment Scheme (Trainee Solicitors). These monies are not recognised in the statement of financial position given its nature of trust monies.

13 CREDITORS AND ACCRUED CHARGES AND CONTRACT LIABILITIES

Creditors and accrued charges are expected to be settled within one year or are repayable on demand.

(a) Contract liabilities in respect of membership, practising certificate and other fees received in advance

The contract liabilities mainly relate to the fees received in advance from members, foreign lawyers, and foreign law firms which represent the unearned income to be recognised as revenue after the end of the reporting period.

Movements in contract liabilities	2022	2021
Balance at 1 January	\$ 104,146,167	\$ 30,968,376
Decrease in contract liabilities as a result of recognising revenue during the year that was included in the contract liabilities at the beginning of the period	(104,146,167)	(30,968,376)
Increase in contract liabilities as a result of fees received in advance	110,095,669	104,146,167
Balance at 31 December	\$ 110,095,669	\$ 104,146,167

14 INCOME TAX IN THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Deferred tax liabilities recognised:

The components of deferred tax assets/(liabilities) recognised in the statement of financial position and the movements during the year are as follows:

	Depreciation in excess of/ (less than) the related depreciation allowances
Deferred tax arising from:	
At 1 January 2021	\$ (234,795)
Charged to profit or loss	(229,704)
At 31 December 2021	\$ (464,499)
At 1 January 2022	\$ (464,499)
Charged to profit or loss	(21,177)
At 31 December 2022	\$ (485,676)

Deferred tax assets not recognised:

The Law Society has not recognised deferred tax assets in respect of cumulative tax losses of approximately \$27,762,347 (2021: \$55,158,268) as it is not certain that future taxable profits will be available against which the Law Society can utilise the benefits therefrom. The tax losses do not expire under the current tax legislation.

15 CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

The Law Society is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The Law Society considers its capital to be the accumulated surplus. The Law Society's primary objectives when managing its accumulated surplus is to safeguard The Law Society's ability to continue as a going concern, so that it can continue to provide support and protect the interest of its members.

Adjustments are made to the capital structure in light of changes in economic conditions affecting The Law Society to the extent that these do not conflict with the Council Members' fiduciary duties towards The Law Society or the requirements of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance.

There has been no change in The Law Society's capital management practices as compared to prior year and The Law Society is not subject to any externally imposed capital requirements in both current and prior years.

16 FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT AND FAIR VALUES OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Exposure to credit, liquidity and interest rate risks arises in the normal course of The Law Society's operation. The Law Society's exposure to these risks and the financial risk management policies and practices used by The Law Society to manage these risks are described below.

(a) Credit risk

The Law Society does not have any significant credit risk with respect to amount due from a related company and other receivables as they relate to a wide range of entities with no recent history of default.

The major exposure to credit risk is represented by deposits with banks. The Law Society's policy is to place its deposits with banks with major financial institutions with good credit rating.

(b) Liquidity risk

The Law Society's policy is to regularly monitor its liquidity requirements to ensure that it maintains sufficient reserves of cash to meet its liquidity requirements in the short and longer term.

(c) Interest rate risk

The Law Society's interest rate risk arises primarily from deposits with bank at fixed rates that expose The Law Society to fair value interest rate risk. The Law Society's bank deposits have an effective interest rate of 1.19% (2021: 0.29%).

At 31 December 2022, it is estimated that a general decrease/increase of 100 basis points (2021: 100 basis points) in interest rates, with all other variables held constant, would have decreased/increased The Law Society's surplus and equity by approximately \$2,055,961 and \$2,055,961 (2021: \$563,664 and \$1,973,863).

The sensitivity analysis above indicates the annualised impact on The Law Society's interest income assuming the change in interest rates had occurred at the end of the reporting period and had been applied to the exposure to interest rate risk for financial instruments in existence at that date. The analysis has been performed on the same basis as for 2021.

16 FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT AND FAIR VALUES OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONTINUED)

(d) Fair value measurement

All financial instruments are carried at amounts not materially different from their fair values as at 31 December 2022 and 2021.

17 PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY SCHEME

The Solicitors (Professional Indemnity) Rules (Cap 159, sub leg) provide that The Law Society is authorised to establish and maintain a fund to provide the indemnity mentioned in section 73A of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance (Cap 159). This fund is known as the Hong Kong Solicitors Indemnity Fund ("the Fund"). Pursuant to the Solicitors (Professional Indemnity) Rules, the Fund is held and administered by Hong Kong Solicitors Indemnity Fund Limited which is a company limited by guarantee. The assets and liabilities of the Fund are not those of The Law Society and accordingly, they are not included in these financial statements.

18 COMMITMENTS

Capital commitments outstanding at 31 December 2022 not provided for in the financial statements were as follows:

	2022	2021
Contracted for	\$ 2,229,050	\$ 2,811,325

19 MATERIAL RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

In addition to the transactions and balances disclosed elsewhere in the financial statements, The Law Society entered into the following material related party transactions.

- (a) Charges for legal services in relation to intervention, disciplinary, litigation proceedings and professional and consultancy fees rendered to The Law Society by the firms of solicitors in which Council Members are interested totalled \$3.6 million (2021: \$1.8 million) for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Amounts due to these firms of solicitors as at 31 December 2022 amounted to \$1.8 million (2021: \$1.0 million) which are included in creditors and accrued charges.

(b)	Note	2022	2021
Expenses borne on behalf of a subsidiary		\$ 1,508,186	\$ 1,998,921
Recharge of office expenses to:			
Hong Kong Solicitors Indemnity Fund Limited	(i)	3,218,806	2,748,993

Note:

- (i) The entity is a related party to The Law Society as its board is appointed by the Council of The Law Society.

20 POSSIBLE IMPACT OF AMENDMENTS, NEW STANDARDS AND INTERPRETATIONS ISSUED BUT NOT YET EFFECTIVE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Up to the date of issue of these financial statements, the HKICPA has issued a number of new or amended standards, which are not yet effective for the year ended 31 December 2022 and which have not been adopted in these financial statements. These developments include the following which may be relevant to The Law Society.

	Effective for accounting periods beginning on or after
HKFRS 17, <i>Insurance contracts</i>	1 January 2023
Amendments to HKAS 1, <i>Presentation of financial statements: Classification of liabilities as current or non-current</i>	1 January 2023
Amendments to HKAS 1, <i>Presentation of financial statements</i> and HKFRS Practice Statement 2, <i>Making materiality judgements: Disclosure of accounting policies</i>	1 January 2023
Amendments to HKAS 8, Accounting policies, changes in accounting estimates and errors: <i>Definition of accounting estimates</i>	1 January 2023
Amendments to HKAS 12, <i>Income taxes: Deferred tax related to assets and liabilities arising from a single transaction</i>	1 January 2023


The Law Society is in the process of making an assessment of what the impact of these amendments is expected to be in the period of initial application. So far, it has concluded that the adoption of them is unlikely to have a significant impact on The Law Society's results and financial position.


ABBREVIATED TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT


ABA	American Bar Association
Academy of Law	Hong Kong Academy of Law Limited
AIJA	International Association of Young Lawyers
Conduct Guide	Hong Kong Solicitors' Guide to Professional Conduct
CPD	Continuing professional development
FATF	Financial Action Task Force
GBA	Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area
HKBA	Hong Kong Bar Association
HKCFA	Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal
HKSAR	Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
HKTDC	Hong Kong Trade Development Council
IILACE	International Institute of Law Association Chief Executives
LPO	Legal Practitioners Ordinance (Cap.159)
NPCSC	Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China
NSL	The Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
OLQE	Overseas Lawyers Qualification Examination
POLA	Presidents of Law Associations of Asia
PRC	People's Republic of China
RME	Risk management education
UIA	International Association of Lawyers




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