

司法機構政務處



Judiciary Administration

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BY POST and E-MAIL

12 January 2023

Mr C.M. Chan
President
The Law Society of Hong Kong
3/F, Wing On House
71 Des Voeux Road Central
Hong Kong

Dear President,

Admission Proceedings

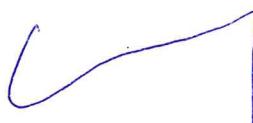
The Judiciary has recently reviewed the relevant arrangements for admission proceedings having regard to the latest general public health situation, the need to ensure an orderly conduct of proceedings and other relevant considerations. We will introduce the following few changes with effect from 21 January 2023:

- (a) the maximum number of persons accompanying each applicant will be increased from four to 12 persons (excluding the mover). This adjustment is made to ensure an even allocation of seats amongst applicants with reference to the prevailing full capacity of courtrooms; and
- (b) while court users should continue to wear surgical masks in the Judiciary premises at all times, applicants and their accompanying guests may take photographs with their masks temporarily removed at the designated area on the floor where the admission hearing is held after the admission hearing.

Please refer to the attached for details of all the latest arrangements.

The Judiciary will continue to keep in view the arrangements from time to time with a view to making adjustments where appropriate.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'C' followed by a horizontal line and a vertical line at the end.

(Ms Wendy Cheung)
for Judiciary Administrator

Encl.

**Admission Proceedings -
Notification to Hong Kong Bar Association and
The Law Society of Hong Kong**

In view of the prevailing public health situation and other considerations, the Judiciary has put in place special arrangements for admission proceedings since April 2020 to ensure social distancing and avoid gathering of crowd. The relevant arrangements have been reviewed and adjusted from time to time having regard to the changes in public health situation and other considerations.

2. With a view to facilitating the orderly conduct of the Admission Proceedings, applications for admission will proceed with effect from 21 January 2023 in the manner as updated below:

- (a) The applications will be listed in sessions of 20 minutes each. Four applications will be listed for each session.
- (b) The applications will be heard in open court. Oral speech (not exceeding 3 minutes) moving the admission will be allowed for each mover.
- (c) For application to be admitted as solicitor, the applicant and his/her mover must attend and be properly robed. After the presiding judge has made the order admitting the applicant as a solicitor, the applicant shall then take the affirmation/oath before the judge and sign the Roll of solicitors in court.
- (d) Each applicant may be accompanied by no more than 12 persons (excluding the mover) at the admission hearing. Applicants are reminded that all court users have to undergo body temperature checks when entering Judiciary premises and wear surgical masks at all times. A court user whose body temperature is higher than 37.5°C or who does not wear a surgical mask will be refused entry into or directed to leave Judiciary premises.
- (e) At the conclusion of their session, applicants and those accompanying them shall leave the courtroom. They may then take photographs with their masks temporarily removed at a designated area on the floor where the admission hearing is held.

After this, they shall wear the masks and then leave the court building.

- (f) Owing to safety concerns arising from renovation works in the coming months, applicants and those accompanying them will not be able to take photos on the vehicular access and the area immediately outside the G/F entrance of the High Court Building until further notice.

3. As admission hearings will be split into small sessions, applicants will be separately informed by the court of the specific time allotted for their applications.

The Judiciary
12 January 2023