

律政司
律政司司長辦公室

香港中環下亞厘畢道 18 號
律政中心中座 5 樓

網址 : www.doj.gov.hk



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Secretary for Justice's Office

5/F, Main Wing, Justice Place,
18 Lower Albert Road, Central, Hong Kong

Web site: www.doj.gov.hk

電話號碼 Tel No.: (852) 3918 4111
傳真號碼 Fax No.: (852) 3918 4119
來函編號 Your Ref.:
本函編號 Our Ref.:

5 January 2026

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

Dear 

**Enhanced Arrangement on the Supply of Information
to the Secretary for Justice for the Purpose of Admission as Solicitors**

I am writing to inform you of the forthcoming enhanced arrangement on the supply of information to the Secretary for Justice (“SJ”) by applicants for admission as solicitors in Hong Kong, which will take effect from 1 March 2026.

Background

The Law Society of Hong Kong and the SJ each plays an important role in assisting the Court to assess applications for admission as solicitors. Under section 4 of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance (Cap. 159) (“LPO”), the Court may admit a person whom the Court considers “a fit and proper person” to be a solicitor. The “fit and proper person” criterion is a key foundation of the public trust and confidence placed in the legal profession, which in turn is crucial to the proper administration of justice and the rule of law. It is therefore incumbent upon us to discharge our respective responsibilities properly in assisting the Court to assess whether an applicant for admission can satisfy this criterion.

Currently, all papers for solicitors' admission are required to be served on the SJ, as a party to such proceedings, under Rule 4(3) of the Admission and Registration Rule (Cap. 159B). These comprise (i) the motion paper filed with the Court seeking the admission, and (ii) a certified true copy of the certificate in Form 2 or Form 3, as the case may be, issued by the Hong Kong Law Society certifying, *inter alia*, that the applicant "is in other respects fit to be a solicitor". The limited information available from these papers, however, limits SJ's capability in effectively and independently making an assessment on an applicant's fitness and probity for admission as a solicitor.

In order to continue to effectively discharge the important role entrusted upon SJ by the Court on this matter, the enhanced arrangement as outlined below will be implemented.

The Enhanced Arrangement

With effect from 1 March 2026, all applicants for admission as solicitors under section 4(1)(a) and (4)(1)(b) of the LPO will be required to make a **statutory declaration** in the prescribed form and in accordance with the Oaths and Declaration Ordinance (Cap. 11), and serve the same on the SJ at the same time when they effect service of their admissions papers. A copy of the *proforma* statutory declaration, which shall also be made available on the Department of Justice's webpage in due course, is enclosed herewith.

The scope of information required to be provided in the statutory declaration generally corresponds with that currently made available to the Hong Kong Law Society for admission as solicitors and/or the Hong Kong Bar Association for admission as barristers. These cover information under the following categories:

- a. Criminal offence(s), inclusive of criminal conviction(s) and/or charge(s) with the offence(s);
- b. disciplinary offence(s), inclusive of being guilty of and/or charged with the same;
- c. records of finding of dishonesty by institute at which the applicants completed their academic and professional stages of legal education;
- d. pending or concluded investigations by any statutory tribunal;
- e. bankruptcy order and/or pending bankruptcy proceedings;

- f. director disqualification order and/or pending director disqualification proceedings; and
- g. voluntary arrangement with creditors.

The above enhanced arrangement applies to all applications for admission as solicitors under section 4(1)(a) and (4)(1)(b) of the LPO with their Notices of Motion filed with the Court on or after 1 March 2026.

For information, an equivalent arrangement will be implemented in relation to applications for admission as barristers under section 27 of the LPO.

I am also announcing the above arrangement to the public today by publication on the website of the Department of Justice (see https://www.doj.gov.hk/en/our_legal_system/other_useful_info.html). I shall be most grateful if necessary arrangements could be made to circulate the information on the above enhanced arrangement to your Members and other persons who may be affected by it. If you or your Members have any enquiry, please do not hesitate to contact Miss Liesl Lai at 3918 4411 for general information.

I thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely,



(Paul T K LAM, SC)
Secretary for Justice

Encl.

CD #2117444

STATUTORY DECLARATION OF [NAME]

I, [full name in English and, if applicable, Chinese], of [current residential address], solemnly and sincerely declare as follows:

1. I am the holder of Hong Kong Identity Card No. / Passport No. [number] (a copy of which is exhibited hereto marked [*]).
2. I make this statutory declaration in support of my application for admission as a solicitor/barrister* of the High Court of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region under the Legal Practitioners Ordinance, Cap. 159.
3. I have not been convicted of any offence in any Court of Hong Kong or in any other part of the world.

OR*

I have been convicted of the following offence(s) in a Court of Hong Kong and/or in any other part of the world:

[Please set out the details including the particulars of the offence(s), date(s) of conviction(s), penalty(ies) and jurisdiction(s).]

4. I have not been charged with any offence in Hong Kong or in any other part of the world.

OR*

I have been charged in Hong Kong with the following offence(s) and/or in any other part of the world:

[Please set out the details including the particulars of the offence(s), date(s) of charge(s), the current progress of the charge(s) and jurisdiction(s).]

5. I have not been found guilty of or charged with any disciplinary offence, whether in Hong Kong or in any other part of the world, by any professional body or authority responsible for regulating a profession.

OR*

I have been found guilty of and/or charged with the following disciplinary offence(s) by professional body(ies) or authority(ies) responsible for regulating a profession:

[Please set out the details including particulars of the disciplinary offence(s), date(s) and current progress of the charge(s), the date(s) of finding(s), penalty(ies) and the institution(s) concerned.]

6. I have not been found guilty of any disciplinary offence involving dishonesty by the institute at which I completed my academic and professional stages of legal education.

OR*

I have been found guilty of the following disciplinary offence(s) involving dishonesty by the institute(s) at which I completed my academic and professional stages of legal education:

[Please set out the details including the particulars of the disciplinary offence(s), the date(s) of finding(s), penalty(ies) and the institute(s) that issued the finding(s).]

7. My conduct is neither being investigated nor enquired into, whether in Hong Kong or in any other part of the world, by any statutory tribunal.

OR*

My conduct is being investigated or enquired into, in Hong Kong and/or in any other part of the world, by the following statutory tribunal(s):

[Please set out the details including the particulars of conduct being investigated or enquired into, the current progress of the investigation or enquiry, the statutory tribunal(s) and jurisdiction(s) concerned.]

8. No bankruptcy order or director disqualification order has been made against me in Hong Kong, and no similar order has been made against me in any other part of the world.

OR*

The following bankruptcy order(s) and/or director disqualification order(s) has/have been made against me in Hong Kong, and/or the following similar order(s) has/have been made against me in any other part of the world:

[Please set out the details including the date(s) of the relevant order(s), jurisdiction(s), whether the relevant order(s) has/have been discharged, and if yes, the date(s) of discharge.]

9. No bankruptcy proceedings or any similar proceedings has been initiated in respect of or against me, whether in Hong Kong or any other part of the world.

OR*

The following bankruptcy proceedings and/or similar proceedings have been initiated in respect of or against me in Hong Kong and/or any other part of the world:

[Please set out the details including the date(s) of commencement of proceedings, status of proceedings and jurisdiction(s).]

10. No director disqualification proceedings or any similar proceedings has been initiated in respect of or against me, whether in Hong Kong or any other part of the world.

OR*

The following director disqualification proceedings and/or similar proceedings have been initiated in respect of or against me in Hong Kong and/or any other part of the world:

[Please set out the details including the date(s) of commencement of proceedings, status of proceedings and jurisdiction(s).]

11. I have not entered into any individual voluntary arrangement or similar arrangement with my creditors in Hong Kong or in any other part of the world.

OR*

I have entered into the following individual voluntary arrangement(s) and/or similar arrangement(s) with my creditor(s) in Hong Kong and/or in any other part of the world:

[Please set out the details of the relevant arrangement(s).]

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the Oaths and Declarations Ordinance, Cap. 11.

Declared at
this day of

(Signed)
in Hong Kong

Before me,

[Signature and designation, i.e., Justice of the Peace/ Notary Public/ Commissioner for Oaths.]**

*Please delete where appropriate

** For declarations made by applicants who seek to be admitted as a solicitor, the declaration must not be witnessed by a solicitor who is an employee or principal in the applicant's employer firm or company.

WARNING

Under section 36 of the Crimes Ordinance, Cap. 200, any person who knowingly and willfully makes (otherwise than on oath) a statement false in a material particular in a statutory declaration, shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction upon indictment to imprisonment for two years and to a fine.

Personal Information Collection Statement

The personal data of the data subject collected in this Statutory Declaration will be used by the Department of Justice for the following purposes: -

- (i) The processing of the application for admission as a solicitor or barrister (as the case may be) of the High Court of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (“**Application**”) to which this Statutory Declaration relates and related matters;
- (ii) The exercise of the powers of the Secretary for Justice conferred upon him/her by the Legal Practitioners Ordinance, Cap. 159 and its subsidiary legislation; and
- (iii) The performance of the functions of the Secretary for Justice in assisting the Court to assess whether an applicant is a fit and proper person to be a solicitor or barrister (as the case may be).

It is obligatory for you to supply the Department of Justice with all the personal data requested in this Statutory Declaration. If you fail to supply any of such data, the Secretary for Justice may not be able to process the Application and/or may seek to be represented at the hearing of the Application and make appropriate representations, including ones to oppose the Application.

The personal data collected in this Statutory Declaration may be provided to such persons within the Department of Justice whose proper duties are to have access to and assist in the processing of the Application and related matters. The personal data may also be provided/disclosed to the relevant Government departments, professional bodies or authorities responsible for regulating a profession, academic institutes, statutory tribunals or courts or any other persons who may assist the Department of Justice in attaining the purposes above mentioned.

Any personal data that is provided to anyone outside of the Department of Justice will be restricted to what is necessary and not excessive to achieve any intended purposes.

You have the right to request access to and correction of the personal data as provided for in sections 18 and 22 and Principle 6 of Schedule 1 of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance, Cap. 486. Your right of data access includes the right to obtain a copy of your personal data provided by this Statutory Declaration. Any such request should be addressed to Mr. Wilson Lau, EO(CD)1 of the Civil Division, Department of Justice, 6/F, Main Wing and East Wing, Justice Place, 18 Lower Albert Road, Central, Hong Kong (Tel: 3918 4437; Email: wilsonlau@doj.gov.hk).