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律政司司長辦公室

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Secretary for Justice's Office

5/F, Main Wing, Justice Place,
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來函編號 Your Ref.:
本函編號 Our Ref.:

10 March 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**

Thank you for sharing your views on the Enhanced Arrangement in your letter dated 27 February 2026. Having carefully considered the same, I write to offer further explanation regarding the Enhanced Arrangement.

As pointed out in our letter dated 5 January 2026, the scope of information required to be provided in the statutory declaration under the Enhanced Arrangement (“**SJ Declaration**”) generally corresponds with that currently made available to the Law Society of Hong Kong and/or the Hong Kong Bar Association for admission purpose. This is to enable the Secretary for Justice’s thorough assessment of the fitness and probity of an applicant applying for admission as a solicitor or a barrister, an important duty in the public interest entrusted upon the Secretary for Justice by the Court.

Regarding your observation that the current wording of Paragraphs 3 and 4 of the SJ Declaration casts a very wide net to cover all offences including trivial charges and convictions, I wish to explain that payment of a fixed penalty and the issue of fixed penalty notice or demand notice are not expected to be included in the SJ Declaration, since the law provides that the effect of payment

of fixed penalty would generally mean that the person is not liable to be prosecuted or convicted.

On the other hand, convictions arising from the failure to pay a fixed penalty or after trial in which the liability for the offence is disputed, and some summary offences might concern an applicant's conduct and character and could be relevant to SJ's consideration of admission applications.

Paragraphs 3 and 4 of the SJ Declaration are framed in its current wording with the above rationale in mind.

The above being said, we appreciate your proposal, and for the avoidance of doubt, we are minded to add suitable remarks to Paragraphs 3 and 4 of the *proforma* SJ Declaration, a copy of which is enclosed with this letter and will be made available on the Department of Justice's webpage.

I trust that the foregoing clarifies matters. Should you have any further enquiry, please do not hesitate to contact our Miss Liesl Lai, Assistant Law Officer (Civil Law) (Acting) at 3918 4411.

Yours sincerely,



(Paul T K LAM, SC)
Secretary for Justice

Encl.

CD #2134336

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.

(Remark: Payment of fixed penalty need not be reported.)

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.

(Remark: Issue of fixed penalty notice or demand notice need not be reported.)

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).