



2 January 2026

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Index Reference:

**Regulations: Practice Direction
P, The Anti-Money Laundering
and Counter-Terrorist
Financing Ordinance (Cap. 615)**

CIRCULAR 26-1

2 January 2026

26-1 (SD) LAUNCH OF THE ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING/COUNTER TERRORIST FINANCING COMPLIANCE SELF-ASSESSMENT FORM

1. As the designated regulatory body under the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing Ordinance (Cap. 615), the Law Society is committed to supporting its members in managing money laundering and terrorist-financing risks effectively. Alongside this commitment, the Law Society has a statutory duty to oversee members' compliance with the statutory Client Due Diligence ("CDD") and record-keeping requirements. To fulfil these responsibilities, the Law Society is enhancing its supervisory framework through a proportionate, risk-based approach.
2. This work is also being undertaken to address the recommendations set out by the Financial Action Task Force ("FATF") in the [Mutual Evaluation Report of Hong Kong \(2019\)](#), which called on the Law Society to establish a robust, risk-based AML supervision of legal professionals.

Mandatory Anti-Money Laundering/Counter-Terrorist Financing Compliance Self-Assessment Form ("AML/CTF Form")

3. As part of ongoing efforts to meet FATF recommendations and enhance sector-wide compliance, the Law Society is rolling out the AML/CTF Form. Completion and online submission of this form is mandatory for all law firms in Hong Kong. This requirement is based on a resolution by the Council of the Law Society. As the designated regulatory AML supervisory body, the Law Society has a statutory duty to oversee members' compliance with the AML/CTF obligations.
4. Completion of the AML/CTF Form is an important part of meeting the Law Society's professional responsibilities, and non-compliance may be treated as professional misconduct.



5. The AML/CTF Form is designed to guide firms in reviewing their own compliance with the AML/CTF requirements and to help identify areas where additional guidance or training may be useful. It will also assist the Law Society in understanding where support is most needed and in developing practical guidance and other resources for members.
6. The goal is to make compliance easier and more collaborative, to establish a shared understanding of AML/CTF requirements across the sector, support firms in strengthening their compliance frameworks, and provide an opportunity to raise questions.

How to Complete the AML/CTF Form?

- (a) **Online access to the Form:** The link for online submission of the AML/CTF Form is available on the Law Society's AML website under the "[*AML/CTF Compliance Self-Assessment Form*](#)" tab. Please click [here](#) to access the link to the AML/CTF Form. On the AML website, members will also find a comprehensive [*Frequently Asked Questions*](#) document to assist with completing the form, as well as a sample AML/CTF Form for reference purposes only. **Please note that all responses to the AML/CTF Form must be submitted online using the link provided on the AML website; submissions by email or post will not be accepted.**
- (b) **Submission Period:** 5 January 2026 – 2 March 2026
- (c) **Submission Method:** [Online only](#) (no email or postal submissions)
- (d) **Relevant Period of Self-Assessment:** 1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025
- (e) **Complete All Required Fields:** Enter your information accurately.
- (f) **Submission of the AML/CTF Form:** Click the "Submit" button at the end of the form. The Law Society will receive your submission automatically, and you will receive a confirmation email.
- (g) **Record Keeping:** Refer to the front page of the AML/CTF Form for instructions on saving your submission and making amendments if needed.

Training and Engagement Opportunities:

7. To support firms in meeting their AML/CTF obligations, the Law Society will deliver targeted training sessions starting in 2026, both on-site and through webinars or workshops. These sessions will focus on the following areas:
 - Scope of compliance and CDD requirements
 - Red flags and risk indicators
 - Suspicious transaction reporting
 - Law Society's compliance tools.
8. As part of this process, the Law Society will contact firms to arrange an AML/CTF training session. Firms are also encouraged to write to us if they would like to arrange such training or discuss a particular area in advance of our engagement.



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9. The Law Society will host two information sessions for members to provide guidance on the AML/CTF Form and the submission process. These sessions are scheduled for **14 January 2026** and **6 February 2026**. Members are encouraged to register for any of these sessions through the Law Society App or the Hong Kong Academy of Law website.
10. For a detailed overview of the AML supervisory background, requirements, and progress, as well as the link to the AML/CTF Form and submission guidance, please refer to the AML webpage [*AML/CTF Compliance Self-Assessment Form*](#).
11. If you have any enquiries regarding this Circular, please contact the Law Society on +852 2846 8804 or by email to aml@hklawsoc.org.hk.



Index Reference :

**Courts: Practice & Procedure &
Judiciary**

CIRCULAR 26-2 (PA)

2 January 2026

26-2 (PA) PRACTICE DIRECTION – SL 9
Extension of the Pilot Scheme on Private Adjudication of
Financial Disputes in Matrimonial and Family Proceedings
Amendments to Practice Direction SL9

1. The Judiciary Administration advises that Practice Direction SL 9 – “Pilot Scheme on Private Adjudication of Financial Disputes in Matrimonial and Family Proceedings” (“PDSL 9”) is to be extended for two years from 19 January 2026 to 18 January 2028. PDSL 9 has been updated to reflect the effective period of the pilot scheme and other textual changes.
2. The PDSL9, as amended in the above, will come into effect on 9 January 2026.
3. Please note that PDSL 9 will be subsequently replaced by a similar chapter in the upcoming Consolidated Practice Direction on Alternative Dispute Resolution.
4. Please click the following links for the Practice Direction SL9.

[English Version](#)

[Chinese Version](#)

5. The Practice Directions are also available on the Judiciary's website:
<http://www.judiciary.gov.hk>.



Index Reference :

Law Society: General

CIRCULAR 26-3 (FA)

2 January 2026

**26-3 (FA) THE LAW SOCIETY OF HONG KONG
FEES SCHEDULE**

1. The Law Society Fees Schedule has been updated with effect from 2 January 2026. Members can download the Fees Schedule from the [Law Society website](#) > Public Zone > About the Society > Overview of 2026 Fees Schedule.
2. Circular 25-3 (FA) is deleted.



Index Reference :

Law Society: General

CIRCULAR 26-4 (PA)

2 January 2026

26-4 (PA) HIGHER RIGHTS OF AUDIENCE (HRA) APPOINTMENT TO EXAMINING PANELS

Extended Deadline: 9 January 2026 (Repeat circular)

1. The Higher Rights Assessment Board (“the Board”) appoints Examining Panels for the purpose of conducting assessments of professional competence of applicants for higher rights of audience. For each assessment exercise, there are usually 2 panels, one for civil proceedings and one for criminal proceedings. Pursuant to Rule 17 of the Higher Rights of Audience Rules, each Examining Panel consists of four members. At least one member is selected from a list of not less than six solicitors submitted to the Board by the Council of the Law Society. A member of an Examining Panel holds office for a period of two years.
2. There are currently vacancies on the **Examining Panel (Civil)** and the **Examining Panel (Criminal)**. Members who would like to be considered for nomination to the Examining Panels and have a minimum of 10 years of practice experience in civil law and/or in criminal law should send their CVs to the Director of Practitioners Affairs at the Secretariat of the Law Society via email at: <mailto:dpa@hklawsoc.org.hk> marked "HRA Examining Panels" **on or before 9 January 2026**. Members should specify in their applications which Panel(s) they intend to apply for.
3. The Board indicates that if solicitor advocates wish to be considered for nomination to the panels, they should have obtained their higher rights of audience for over 5 years.
4. For members' information,
 - The Board usually conducts HRA assessments once a year. Assessments will take place over weekends. The tentative schedule for the coming round of assessments will be as follows:

<i>Criminal written examination</i>	<i>25 April 2026 (Saturday)</i>
<i>Civil written examination:</i>	<i>25 April 2026 (Saturday)</i>
<i>Criminal practical assessment:</i>	<i>9 or 16 May 2026 (Saturday)</i>
<i>Civil practical assessment:</i>	<i>9 and 16 May 2026 (Saturdays)</i>



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- The Board will be able to pay honorariums to Panel members in respect of each formal assessment, that is, for examining the practical demonstrations by the candidates of their skills and advocacy coupled with their knowledge of practice and procedure, marking of the written examination papers of the candidates and preparing a report for the Board. The Board indicates that at this time, a sum of HK\$50,000 per Panel per assessment will be payable.

Note: The personal data provided in the CV submitted will be used for approval, appointment, and purposes relating to the co-option and appointment. By submitting your CV, you understand and agree that the Law Society may provide your personal data provided in the CV to relevant committees, Council and the Board for the aforesaid purposes.



Index Reference:

**Courts: Practice & Procedure &
Judiciary**

CIRCULAR 26-5 (PA)

2 January 2026

**26-5 (PA) JUDICIARY
INTEGRATED CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (“iCMS”)**

**Briefing-cum-hands-on-demonstration
on key functions of the High Court iCMS
for Law Firms in January to February 2026
(Repeat Circular)**

1. The Judiciary Administration is inviting member firms to its two briefing-cum-demonstration sessions on key functions of the High Court iCMS scheduled for January to February 2026. Two identical Briefing-cum-Demonstration sessions are now arranged on 27 January and 10 February 2026. Please click [here](#) for the programme details.
2. Members who are interested to participate in these sessions please complete and return a [Reply Slip](#) to the Judiciary Administration via email (e-registration@judiciary.hk) by **7 January 2026 (Wednesday)**.
3. For the above sessions, the Judiciary Administration
 - (a) suggests that each firm which is to participate be represented by at least one lawyer, preferably a more senior one if possible. He/she may be accompanied by one other person, including other lawyer, partner, consultant and/or paralegal, legal executive, clerk, secretary and other working level staff; and
 - (b) encourages participants to bring along a copy of their firm’s Business Registration Certificate and the authorization letter if possible, as they may consider submitting an application for registration of iCMS account right away after the session. Please click the [application form for registration of iCMS account](#) and [a sample of the authorization letter](#) for reference.



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4. Enquiries on the briefing-cum-demonstration sessions could be made direct to Ms Mandy Wong of the Judiciary Administration at 2477 1200 or the iCMS general hotline of the Judiciary Administration at 2477 1002.
5. It is the target of the Judiciary to make the use of the electronic litigation platform ***mandatory*** by all represented litigants by 2026. Members may wish to consider and plan ahead their resources deployment and training for their firms and staff.
6. More information on iCMS is available at the [Judiciary's dedicated website](#).



Index Reference:

Law Society: General

CIRCULAR 26-6 (PA)

2 January 2026

**26-6 (PA) MEMBERS' SURVEY ON
COURT WAITING TIME IN FAMILY COURT
PROCEEDINGS
(Repeat Circular)**

1. The Family Law Committee is conducting a survey on court waiting time in family court proceedings.
2. The information collected in this survey will be used by the relevant committees of the Law Society for the purposes of facilitating discussion on court waiting time in Family court and may be disclosed to external organisations.
3. Members are invited to take part in this survey. Please click [HERE](#) to complete the survey on or before 8 January 2026.
4. For enquiry, please contact us by email at adpa2@hklawsoc.org.hk.



Index Reference :

Law Society : General

CIRCULAR 26-7 (COM)

2 January 2026

**26-7 (COM) PANEL OF PROSECUTORS FOR
SOLICITORS DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL PROCEEDINGS
(Repeat Circular)**

1. Members, preferably partners of a firm, with more than 10 years' post qualification experience are invited to apply for appointment to the Panel of Prosecutors for solicitors disciplinary tribunal proceedings ("Panel of Prosecutors").
2. Applicants should have appropriate advocacy skills and relevant experience in criminal and civil cases, particularly prosecution experience.
3. The appointment to the Panel of Prosecutors will be made on an individual basis. Appointments will be for renewable periods of two years and successful applicants will be expected to continue acting in assigned cases until their conclusion despite expiry of the term.
4. Any conduct history and/or disciplinary records of the applicants will be disclosed to the Standing Committee on Compliance for the purpose of processing the applications.
5. Members who wish to be considered for appointment to the Panel of Prosecutors should send their written application together with a resume of their experience to the Director of Conduct **on or before 7 January 2026**.

A. Notes

The resume should consist of not more than 2 sides of A4 paper giving contact details and particulars of practice experience.

B. Personal Information Collection Statement

1. The personal data collected in the resume supplied by you and any conduct history and disciplinary records relating to you (collectively "the data") will be used by the Law Society of Hong Kong ("the Society") for the purposes of processing your application for appointment to the Panel of Prosecutors ("this Application") and related matters.



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2. In making this Application, it is obligatory for you to supply the Society with the data requested in this circular except as otherwise indicated. The consequence for you if you fail to supply such data is that the Society will not be able to process this Application.
3. The data may be provided to such persons within the Society whose proper business it is to have access to and assist in the processing of this Application. The data may also be provided to the members of the Standing Committee on Compliance to assess the merits of this Application and to such other persons who may help the Society in attaining the purposes above mentioned.
4. Any data that is provided to anyone outside of the Society will be restricted to what is necessary and not excessive to achieve any intended purpose.
5. You have the right to request access to and correction of the data. Any such request should be addressed to the Director of Conduct, the Law Society, 3/F, Wing On House, 71 Des Voeux Road Central, Hong Kong.
6. The Privacy Policy Statement of the Society is available on its website at www.hklawsoc.org.hk.



Index Reference :

Property

CIRCULAR 26-8 (PA)

2 January 2026

26-8 (PA) PROPERTY

LANDS DEPARTMENT PRACTICE NOTE NO.10/2025

1. The Lands Department on 30 December 2025 issued the Practice Note No.10/2025 on “*Offering Private Land to Offset the Land Premium Payable for Land Exchange under the “Enhanced Conventional New Town Approach” or Land Grant by Tender under the “Large-scale Land Disposal” Arrangement in New Development Areas of the Northern Metropolis*”.
2. Please click the following link for:
[**Practice Note No.10/2025**](#)



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Index Reference:

Law Society: General

CIRCULAR 26-9 (SG)

2 January 2026

26-9 (SG) OPENING OF LEGAL YEAR 2026

1. The Religious Service on the occasion of the Opening of the Legal Year 2026 will take place on Monday, **19 January 2026** at St. Joseph's Church (Catholic) at 37 Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong, from 1:15 pm to 2:00 p.m.
2. All members are welcome to attend.



2 January 2026

PROBATE

Enquiries From Solicitors On Wills, Codicils And Other Testamentary Dispositions

An enquiry has been received from solicitors as to the existence of a will, codicil or other testamentary disposition made by the following deceased persons. If you are holding the original or a copy of any of these documents, you are requested to contact the enquiring firm directly within 14 working days.

Members are reminded to exercise due care when responding to enquiries in order to avoid any breach of the duty of confidentiality which they owe to the testator or the testator's personal representatives.

Name of Deceased Person	Date of Death	Hong Kong Identity Card No (save as otherwise specified)	Enquiring Firm
HUI LAM MEE LING FLORENCE (許林美玲)	09 April 2025	D077600(A)	TANG LAWYERS
AU HING (區慶)	18 March 2025	B422485(5)	KCL & PARTNERS
CHAN CHI MING (陳志明)	Certified dead on 6 November 2025	D704083(1)	KWAN & CHOW
HO AH TSIM (何亞尖) Alias HO TSIM (何尖)	15 December 2022	E760209(3)	YEUNG TERRY & LAI
CHEUNG KING LEUNG (張景良)	05 July 2025	B511613(4)	KONG & TANG



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FUNG MIU (馮妙) Alias (冯妙)	18 August 2025	P907596(1) 及 中華人民共和國居民 身份證號碼 810000193302180049	LO K.K. LAW OFFICE
LING PUI (凌培)	01 November 2025	E408871(2) 及 中華人民共和國居民 身份證號碼 810000192806250034	LO K.K. LAW OFFICE
WONG SAIR FU (黃社夫)	24 December 2022	D098947(A)	LAU & CO., T.C.
MA KAM PING (馬錦平)	27 June 2025	Z463279(7)	AU-YEUNG, CHAN & HO, SOLICITORS
HO WAI SUNG (何惠崧)	26 April 2025	P524200(6)	YUNG, YU, YUEN & CO.
LUI LEUNG HEI (呂良起)	23 November 2024	R122391(6)	YUNG, YU, YUEN & CO.
LUI SHUI HA (雷瑞霞)	09 December 2009	H487495(3)	SHUM WONG & CO., SOLICITORS
KWONG CHOI LIN (鄺彩連) Alias (邝彩连)	13 November 2021	H486500(8) 及 港澳居民來往內地 通行證號碼 H0770961701	KONG & CO., FRANCIS SOLICITORS
YEUNG KWAI CHEUNG (楊桂祥) Alias (杨桂祥)	08 March 2008	E036358(1)	KAN & CO., FRED
TANG SIU WAH (鄧小華)	24 November 2019	H150073(4)	LING & LAWYERS



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CHEUK SAU CHING (卓秀清)	05 November 2025	A545096(1)	TAI, TANG & CHONG
POON MEI (潘美)	06 June 2019	A507485(4) 及 港澳居民來往內地 通行證號碼 H0638354101	CHENG & CO., S.T.
LEUNG CHUEN WUN (梁轉煥) Alias LIANG ZHUANHUAN (梁转换)	14 October 2023	P390019(7)	YUNG, YU, YUEN & CO.
CHAN JIP YIN (陳接源) Alias CHEN JIEYUAN (陈接源)	02 May 2022	H020267(5)	YUNG, YU, YUEN & CO.
CHOU PAK (周八)	25 April 2025	H357239(2)	KOO CHRISTINE M. & IP, SOLICITORS & NOTARIES LLP
TING KA LUN (丁家倫)	16 June 2014	A854247(6)	KOO CHRISTINE M. & IP, SOLICITORS & NOTARIES LLP
CHEN MURONG (陳木榮)	07 July 2023	M160103(8) 及 港澳居民來往內地 通行證號碼 H10580429	CHEUNG, YEUNG & LEE, SOLICITORS
YIP KOK TAI (葉國泰)	30 June 2008	A281541(1)	KAN & CO., TONY



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LU DAOPEI (陆道培) Alias (陸道培)	02 April 2025	中華人民共和國居民 身份證號碼 110102193110303019	CHOW C.L. & MACKSION CHAN, SOLICITORS
LAU PAN CHIU (劉濱昭)	26 April 2025	E224860(7)	CHIU, SZETO & CHENG SOLICITORS
LAM SING FAI (林聲輝)	Discovery on 21 October 2022	A887311(1)	INCE & CO
KWAN WA JOSEPHINE (關華) Alias (关华)	22 August 2025	P923207(2) 港澳居民來往內地 通行證號碼 H03401587	NG HARMONY & ASSOCIATES