



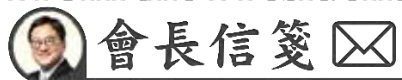
THE
LAW SOCIETY
OF HONG KONG
香港律師會

3/F WING ON HOUSE, 71 DESVOEUX ROAD
CENTRAL, HONGKONG DX-009100 CENTRAL 1
香港中環德輔道中 71 號
永安集團大廈 3 字樓

TELEPHONE (電話): (852) 2846 0500
FACSIMILE (傳真): (852) 2845 0387
E-MAIL (電子郵件): sg@hklawsoc.org.hk
HOMEPAGE (網頁): <http://www.hklawsoc.org.hk>



From the President



14 March 2024

Dear Fellow Members,

Mandatory Use of the iCMS

The Judiciary has been developing the integrated Court Case Management System (“iCMS”) to handle court-related documents and payments electronically across various court levels. It is the Judiciary’s aim that all represented litigants will be required to conduct their litigations electronically, unless otherwise exempted in particular circumstances. A [consultation paper](#) issued by the Judiciary in January 2024 sets out a proposed time-table that the Judiciary plans to mandate the use of the iCMS by legal representatives.

The switch to electronic transaction of business with the Court requires careful consideration and planning, including resources re-allocation and training (for instance, the demonstration-cum-briefings which the Judiciary put out and has repeated a number of times last year). The process takes time. I would urge members who have not yet started to prepare themselves for the mandatory regime to give thoughts to the requisite preparation work. Information on the iCMS including Users Registration could be found from [a dedicated webpage](#) on the Judiciary’s website.

New Fixed Costs in Matrimonial Causes

Fixed costs are available for matrimonial causes under the District Court (Fixed Costs in Matrimonial Causes) Rules, Cap.336F. Private practitioners can choose whether to elect fixed costs for a matrimonial matter, irrespective of whether that matter is or is not a legal aid assignment, and if the matter is a legal aid assignment, practitioners will routinely be asked to elect fixed costs.

These fixed costs have not been adjusted for over 20 years and we have asked the Government for a review. Having regard to economic changes and other developments in the past, and after various discussions with the Government, a new set of fixed costs in matrimonial causes was agreed and has become effective on 1 March 2024. For details of the new fixed costs, please refer to the [LegCo Brief of January 2024](#) and L.N. 1 of 2024 - the [District Court \(Fixed Costs in Matrimonial Causes\) \(Amendment\) Rules 2024](#).