

## **The YSG Think Tank 2025 Pitching Day**

### **Remarks by President Mr Roden Tong**

**Saturday, 26 July 2025**

1. Good morning everyone. I would like to first welcome all of you to today's Pitching Day of The YSG Think Tank 2025, organised by the Young Solicitors' Group.
2. The YSG Think Tank was established in 2022 to provide young members of the profession to address issues relevant to legal practice and the challenges that they face.
3. This year, we have chosen the theme **“Balancing Protection and Innovation: The Future of Sports Intellectual Property (“IP”) in Hong Kong”**, a topic that is both timely and significant for our profession and community.
4. The Hong Kong Government has shown strong support for sports development, recognising the industry's potential to boost economic growth and enhance Hong Kong's international profile. With substantial investments in infrastructure and initiatives to promote sports, 2025 marks an important milestone for Hong Kong, with opening of the Kai Tak Sports Park/Stadium. By embracing these opportunities, we, as legal professionals, have a

key role in ensuring our legal framework supports innovation and expansion of the sports sector, benefiting both the profession and the society at large. In response, The Law Society is at the forefront of this, where we hosted our inaugural Sports Law Mega Event early this year, exploring the intersection of sports, law, and business within the unique context of “One Country, Two Systems, and Three Jurisdictions”. Additionally, the establishment of the Sports Law Committee last year demonstrates our commitment to this growing sector. We are very honoured to have Council Member Mr Ronald Sum, Chair of the Sports Law Committee, to be here with us today as one of the panel judges. This committee is dedicated to addressing the unique legal challenges and opportunities within the sports industry, ensuring that our legal professionals are well-equipped to support this dynamic sector.

5. The theme of this year's Think Tank goes beyond addressing legal issues. Sports law is not merely the governance of athletics activities, it covers both contentious and non-contentious issues essential to the industry's operation. Sports law actually encompasses a broad spectrum of legal matters, including personality rights, sponsorship agreements, intellectual property, media rights, and broadcasting contracts. Additionally, disputes surrounding competition practices, athlete rights, and governance underscore the necessity for clear and efficient resolution

mechanisms. By ensuring that IP rights are adequately protected, we can support the growth and sustainability of the sports industry in Hong Kong.

6. For the legal profession, this theme is an invitation to lead in developing innovative solutions that strike a balance between protection and progress. It encourages us to think creatively and collaboratively, ensuring our legal framework evolves in step with technological advancements. This is vital for maintaining the relevance and competitiveness of our profession in a rapidly changing landscape. In this spirit, I would express my sincere thanks to our other two panel judges, Mr Amirali Nasirs, Vice-President and Chairman of Innotech Committee, and Mr Christopher Yu, Vice-President, Chairman of Standing Committee on Member Services and Member of Intellectual Property Committee. I have no doubt that their feedback will be invaluable to the teams today.
7. Having served on the Think Tank judging panel in the past two years, I have been impressed by the originality and creativity of the teams for the betterment of the legal profession. I am very pleased to note that this year, we have seen a record-breaking number of enrolments, a total of 8 teams to the Think Tank competition this year, which is double from last year.

8. I am confident that the teams participating today will bring forward fresh perspectives and innovative solutions that will contribute significantly to the future of sports IP in Hong Kong.
9. Thank you to the Young Solicitors' Group for organising this event and to all the participants for your hard work and dedication. I look forward to seeing your presentations and the innovative ideas you have developed.

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