



THE LAW SOCIETY OF HONG KONG COUNCIL DUTY VISIT TO BEIJING

APRIL 2026

Please follow the social media platforms of The Law Society of Hong Kong



The Law Society of Hong Kong

📍 6/F, The Center, 99 Queen's Road Central, Central, Hong Kong

☎ +852 2846 0500

✉ adceag@hklawsoc.org.hk

CONTENTS

Preface	1
I. Leading with professional expertise in the inaugural year of the 15th Five-Year Plan, Hong Kong solicitors contribute to high-quality development of the country and Hong Kong	4
II. Introduction to The Law Society of Hong Kong and review of its recent work	15
1. About The Law Society of Hong Kong	15
2. Five major work priorities of The Law Society of Hong Kong	16
3. Exchanges with Chinese Mainland and overseas counterparts	21
4. Solicitors Advancement	34
5. The Law Society of Hong Kong's work in promoting the development of the GBA in recent years	35
6. The Law Society of Hong Kong's Common Law Centre	41
7. Dispute resolution services	44
8. Sports law	46
9. Member services	47
10. Compliance reform initiatives	48
11. Giving back to the Community	50
12. Artificial intelligence in the legal industry	60
13. In-house lawyers	65
14. Members with Chinese Mainland background	66
15. Becoming a solicitor in Hong Kong	66
16. Professional Indemnity Scheme	67
17. Governance structure of The Law Society of Hong Kong	68

PREFACE

THE LAW SOCIETY OF HONG KONG STEADFASTLY COMMITTED TO UPHOLDING THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONALISM, WALKED ALONGSIDE HONG KONG FOR 119 YEARS

The Law Society of Hong Kong (“The Law Society”) was established in 1907 as an independent self-regulatory body under the Legal Practitioners Ordinance (Cap. 159). For 119 years, The Law Society has walked alongside Hong Kong, steadfastly committed to serving the public interest and upholding the highest standards of professionalism. It has close to 14,000 solicitor members and is responsible for the professional regulation and licensing of over 11,000 practising solicitors across Hong Kong, serving as an important pillar of the city’s legal system.

For more than a century, The Law Society has safeguarded professional standards through systems of qualification, practice regulation, and discipline, while nurturing talents and advancing access to justice to maintain public trust in our courts and judgments. As an independent institution, The Law Society not only ensures high standards and professional conduct in the legal profession but also upholds the core values of the rule of law while maintaining autonomy from the Government. This has firmly established The Law Society as a highly respected body in the international legal community. The Law Society serves not only the local legal sector but also promotes international legal exchanges and acts as an important bridge for Hong Kong’s integration into the country’s overall development.

Our country is embarking on a new development chapter. At the just-concluded Two Sessions of the country, the “Outline of the 15th Five-Year Plan for National Economic and Social Development of the People’s Republic of China” was adopted, clarifying the main goals, major tasks and strategic measures for the country’s economic and social development in the next five years, charting a brighter future for Hong Kong. The specific chapter on Hong Kong and Macao in the “15th Five-Year Plan” clearly supports Hong Kong in consolidating and enhancing its competitive advantages and supports Hong Kong to better integrate into and serve the overall development of the country. In addition, Hong Kong shall actively participate in and promote the construction of the “Belt and Road” initiative and the Greater Bay Area, promote the development of science and technology, develop new quality productive forces, and leverage the country’s green transformation. In the Government Work Report delivered by Premier Li Qiang at the Fourth Session of the 14th National People’s Congress, it was proposed to accelerate rule of law construction in the Greater Bay Area, facilitate Hong Kong solicitors practising in

the Greater Bay Area, support the establishment of more cross-border dispute resolution platforms, and encourage Hong Kong legal talent to participate in Chinese Mainland rule of law construction, while promoting institutional integration and innovation in areas such as finance and intellectual property.

In the face of major historical opportunities, The Law Society will, as always, support legal practitioners in upholding the highest professional standards, rallying various sectors to consolidate Hong Kong's status as an international financial, IPO, shipping, and trade centre, promoting institutional innovation and international alignment, and building a highland for international high-calibre talent, further elevating Hong Kong's role in our country's foreign-related rule of law construction and global rule of law development, and providing solid rule of law support for the high-quality development of Hong Kong and the Greater Bay Area. At the same time, The Law Society shall continue its close cooperation with the Hong Kong SAR Government and relevant stakeholders, and strengthen its ties with jurisdictions and professional bodies worldwide. On the one hand, we will continue to participate in and promote high-quality legal services to reach the community and citizens, and give back to the society through specific actions, such as community rule of law education and legal support, so as to highlight the core values of the rule of law; on the other hand, we will also take a more proactive approach to strengthen professional interaction with major jurisdictions around the world through the law as the linkage, clearly explain and tell the story of "One country, Two systems", and make due commitments for safeguarding Hong Kong's constitutional security and national interests.

On 8 April 2026, we welcome the opening of the new office premises of The Law Society. This relocation is not merely a change of address, but a reflection of the collective growth of the Hong Kong legal profession, and our enduring responsibility to the community. The new premises will serve as a platform for professional exchange, learning and collaboration, symbolising continuity, growth and our collective aspirations for the future, as we continue to serve nearly 14,000 dedicated professionals.

On the occasion and following the grand opening of our new office premises, The Law Society's Council will pay its annual duty visit to Beijing for high-level visits and exchanges, marking our commitment to further strengthen the close connection and cooperation between the Chinese Mainland and Hong Kong in the legal field. Through professional exchanges, we will promote the common progress of the rule of law construction between the two places, consolidate the strong safeguarding of national sovereignty, security and development interests, assist the country develop

with high quality and high standards, and at the same time bring new development opportunities to the legal profession in Hong Kong and help them meet future challenges with more confidence and initiative, expand the advantages of world-class legal services for the country and Hong Kong, build a new highland for international rule of law cooperation, and contribute to the realisation of the Chinese dream of the great rejuvenation of China.

I. LEADING WITH PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE IN THE INAUGURAL YEAR OF THE 15TH FIVE-YEAR PLAN HONG KONG SOLICITORS CONTRIBUTE TO HIGH-QUALITY DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY AND HONG KONG

The “15th Five-Year Plan” is a critical stage in national development and also a new phase of historic opportunity for Hong Kong’s legal services sector. As an international financial centre and a jurisdiction inheriting the common law tradition, Hong Kong, at this historical juncture, has both the responsibility and the capability to serve as a two-way bridge between the region and the world. The positioning of Hong Kong solicitors should not be limited to being providers of the nation’s “foreign-related legal services,” but should further encompass the roles of “integrators and accelerators of international-class legal services,” “escorts for national industrial upgrading and innovation,” and “builders of regional dispute governance cluster hubs.”

The Law Society of Hong Kong (“The Law Society”) has long played a pivotal role in safeguarding the rule of law and strengthening Hong Kong’s legal infrastructure. Rooted in the common law system and underpinned by an independent judiciary, Hong Kong’s legal framework provides legal certainty, predictability and effective dispute resolution, which are essential to the city’s status as an international financial, trading and professional services centre. Through its core functions in solicitor admission, practice regulation, discipline and continuing professional development, The Law Society upholds high professional and ethical standards, thereby reinforcing public confidence in the legal system and contributing to the stable and effective operation of “One Country, Two Systems” in practice.

At the same time, The Law Society actively engages with the Chinese Mainland and the international legal community to present a clear, factual and professional account of Hong Kong’s legal system, judicial independence and rule of law. Through duty visits, international forums, professional exchanges and dialogues with legal institutions, The Law Society explains Hong Kong’s legal realities, addresses misunderstandings and highlights the city’s unique role in supporting the country’s development of foreign-related rule of law. These efforts reflect the profession’s commitment to serving both Hong Kong and our country, while contributing legal expertise to national development and cross-border cooperation.

Besides, The Law Society attaches great importance to enhancing the legal profession and the public’s understanding of significant laws and national policies implemented in Hong Kong, including “The Law of the People’s Republic of China

on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region”. The Law Society recognises that accurate and comprehensive understanding of the law is a fundamental prerequisite for the effective operation of the legal system. Accordingly, The Law Society has consistently adopted a professional, objective and education-focused approach in its related work. Through organising seminars, publishing professional materials, providing training, and engaging with the media, The Law Society assists legal practitioners and the public in gaining a proper understanding of the legislative intent, legal principles and practical operation of relevant laws within the context of the Basic Law and the principle of “One Country, Two Systems”.

In parallel, The Law Society serves as an important bridge between the legal profession, the public and the international community in offering objective and construction explanation on national policies and Hong Kong’s constitutional obligations. By participating in public education initiatives, responding to media enquiries and engaging in local and overseas dialogues, The Law Society promotes discussion grounded in facts and legal principles, enhances the community’s overall legal awareness and respect for the rule of law, and thereby facilitates the accurate understanding and effective implementation of important laws and national policies in Hong Kong.

As the self-regulatory body of Hong Kong solicitors and a key participant in the process of Hong Kong’s rule-of-law development, The Law Society is confident in promoting further work in the following areas and leading the legal profession to make greater contributions to national development:

I. Elevating the Professional Standards of Legal Services Within the Region and Providing World-Class Legal Services

During the “14th Five-Year Plan” period, China’s legal services industry achieved leapfrog development, fully demonstrating the positive interaction between rule-of-law construction and economic and social development, and reflecting the significant enhancement in the accessibility and overall supply capacity of legal services in the Chinese Mainland. This has provided stronger rule-of-law safeguards for high-quality economic development. Under the “15th Five-Year Plan,” the legal sector will face challenges of industry transformation and upgrading of legal services.

As the self-regulatory body of Hong Kong solicitors, The Law Society has consistently and proactively upheld the integrity and standards of the legal services

industry, cultivated a sound professional ecosystem, fostered an industry culture and market environment of “professionalism has value” (including enhancing the value of professional services, charging reasonable fees, and building positive industry values), and promoted the healthy and self-disciplined development of the legal profession.

With the rapid growth of demand for legal services within the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA), and the increasing scenarios of cross-boundary legal practice, we hope to join hands with bar associations across the GBA to jointly advocate for “anti-involution” competition in the legal industry, promote healthy competition, create a sound development environment, nurture first-class law firms and solicitors, and develop the GBA into a legal services hub. We propose the following recommendations:

1. Promote the realisation of allowing GBA lawyers to establish law firms in partnership form within the GBA, further implementing the institutional advantages of the GBA Lawyer Scheme, moving from permitting individual affiliation practice to permitting the establishment of law firms for on-the-ground practice. This will enrich the forms of legal services in the GBA and deepen and broaden cooperation and integration between the legal markets of the two places. In this process, Hong Kong GBA lawyers will have the opportunity to bring Hong Kong law firm management experience and professional culture into the GBA, mutually promote and grow together with Chinese Mainland law firms, complementing each other in client base, professional capability, and service models, jointly enhancing the quality of legal services in the GBA and contributing to rule-of-law development within the region.
2. Promoting the statutory development of the GBA Lawyer System. Since the implementation GBA Lawyer Scheme in 2020, with strong support from the Country and all sectors within the GBA, the GBA Lawyers Scheme has operated well and its institutional advantages have gradually emerged. As of March 2026, the total number of GBA lawyers exceeds 630. In 2023, the practice experience threshold for Hong Kong and Macao legal practitioners to enrol in the GBA Legal Professional Examination has also been lowered from five years to three years. The profession responded enthusiastically, and in 2025, more than 200 candidates sat for the GBA Legal Professional Examination.

As the positioning of the GBA within the “15th Five-Year Plan” becomes increasingly clear, demand for GBA lawyers’ legal services within the GBA is strong, and professional exchanges within the legal sector are expanding to broader fields and deeper dimensions. Promoting the legal codification of the GBA Lawyer Scheme accords with the development needs of the GBA, consolidates its institutional advantages, and facilitates the construction of a systematic development blueprint and a more refined path for institutional improvement. Legal codification would mean, from a legislative perspective, confirming that the GBA Lawyer Scheme forms part of the country’s lawyer system, providing a clear legal foundation for industry self-regulation, business expansion, protection of parties’ interests, and the performance of duties and exercise of powers, while injecting new vitality into rule-of-law construction and economic development in our motherland.

In addition, the in-house lawyers in Hong Kong, as an important component of Hong Kong solicitors (currently accounting for more than one-third of the total number of Hong Kong solicitors with practising certificate), has shown strong interest in the GBA Lawyer Scheme, particularly legal personnel within cross-border enterprises. They believe that sitting for the GBA examination would not only enhance their understanding of Chinese Mainland law but also help them more effectively handle cross-border legal matters for their enterprises. If, in the process of legal codification, consideration could be given to allowing Hong Kong in-house lawyers to sit for the GBA Examination and, upon meeting certain conditions, obtain GBA lawyer qualification (without providing legal services to clients in the capacity of practising lawyers), this would help fill an important missing piece of the GBA Lawyer Scheme, encourage Hong Kong in-house lawyers to integrate into the GBA’s rule-of-law development and legal services market, better assist cross-border enterprises in establishing and expanding their business in the GBA with Hong Kong as their base, and further demonstrate the institutional advantage of the GBA Lawyer Scheme in serving the real economy.

3. Explore with counterparts in the GBA the promotion of a pilot implementation of the professional indemnity scheme (PIS) within the GBA, strengthening the institutional foundation for improving legal service quality, optimising the competitive environment, and promoting the upgrading of the GBA legal services industry.
 - With the increase in cross-boundary business, it is imperative to examine whether lawyers across the GBA should align under a unified professional indemnity system, providing a unified and transparent compensation

mechanism covering the nine GBA cities, thereby reducing the impact of practice disputes on clients and the public.

- It is recommended that the pilot be modelled on the risk management framework of The Law Society, while taking into account the particular risks of the Chinese Mainland market, to provide an insurance-level professional safety net for cross-regional practice.

4. Strengthening cooperation in anti-money laundering (AML) risk management. As an important window of China's reform and opening-up and a highly active economic region, the GBA places significant responsibility on the legal services industry in AML risk management. Solicitors, as the core force of legal services, play an important role in preventing money laundering risks and safeguarding financial security and social stability. To further strengthen cooperation among GBA lawyers and enhance the overall level of AML risk management in the legal services sector, we propose:

- Lawyers' associations within GBA may take the lead in establishing a cross-regional platform for sharing AML information, regulations and case studies, integrating AML resources and experience from the legal profession across GBA cities. In light of the GBA's specific characteristics, a unified professional AML curriculum covering the laws, regulations and practices of the Chinese Mainland, Hong Kong and Macao may be designed, with regular joint training sessions to enhance lawyers' capabilities in identifying high-risk clients, transaction analysis, and suspicious transaction reporting.
- Lawyers' associations within GBA may represent the profession in maintaining regular dialogue with financial regulators, including the People's Bank of China, the National Financial Regulatory Administration, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, the Securities and Futures Commission of Hong Kong, and the Security Bureau, to stay abreast of the latest regulatory policies and requirements, while providing feedback on practical issues encountered to assist in improving AML laws and regulations.

II. Leveraging Hong Kong’s Strength as an International Financial Centre to Support National Industrial Upgrading and Innovation with World-Class Diversified Legal Services

1. In November 2025, the China National Space Administration issued the *Action Plan for Advancing the High-Quality and Safe Development of Commercial Aerospace (2025–2027)*, incorporating commercial aerospace into the overall national aerospace development layout to accelerate the formation of new-quality productive forces in aerospace and promote integration between the low-altitude economy and commercial aerospace. The Government Work Report also, for the first time, designated aerospace as an “emerging pillar industry.” The HKSAR Government, in its forthcoming five-year plan, has also identified the aerospace industry as a key focus and will introduce financial and professional service policies to support national aerospace enterprises in their orderly global expansion.

In the inaugural year of the aerospace industry, Hong Kong, as an international financial centre, should have the capacity to facilitate aerospace industrialisation. Hong Kong solicitors’ extensive experience across various fields can help enterprises accelerate development.

- The development of Hong Kong’s aerospace industry should rely on its unique advantages as a “financial centre + research hub + international platform” to form a cross-border aerospace resource network of “technology–capital–market.” As a major global financing centre, Hong Kong can attract more capital into the aerospace sector. Hong Kong solicitors can assist enterprises in completing IPOs and bond issuances in Hong Kong or international capital markets, and in designing suitable equity structures, financing agreements and compliance arrangements, particularly where cross-border investors are involved.
- Aerospace research and development requires substantial funding support. Hong Kong solicitors can assist venture capital (VC) and private equity (PE) funds in investment activities in the aerospace field, including drafting appropriate equity investment agreements and intellectual property ownership clauses to provide legal protection for technological innovation.
- Aircraft manufacturing and procurement often involve complex supply chain

finance and leasing arrangements. Hong Kong solicitors can assist enterprises in structuring suitable financing solutions and ensuring legal compliance, including handling lease agreements and mortgage registrations in aircraft leasing transactions.

- Aerospace involves stringent international standards and complex regulatory requirements. Hong Kong solicitors can assist enterprises entering international markets to understand and comply with aviation safety regulations, export control policies, and environmental requirements. For example, in drone technology or satellite communications, assisting enterprises in meeting different jurisdictions' data privacy protection and cross-border transfer requirements.
 - Furthermore, Hong Kong's common law system, highly aligned with international practice, can take the lead in exploring emerging legal areas such as space tourism contracts, insurance, liability allocation and space data rights, providing a solid approach from Hong Kong perspective for the country's future participation in international space commerce rule-making, while nurturing interdisciplinary talent in technology, commerce and law.
2. The HKSAR Government has designated “industries for AI” and “AI for industries” as important development directions, aligning closely with the national innovation strategy. The legal services sector can play an important role in regulating industry development, protecting intellectual property, supporting enterprise innovation, and addressing international competition. Safeguarding Chinese technology enterprises in their ‘go-global’ journey requires professional legal support and risk management services.
- The legal services sector can provide global legal support to Chinese technology enterprises, formulating comprehensive IP strategies, including patent applications, trademark registrations and copyright protection, particularly in AI algorithms and data processing technologies. It provides cross-border IP dispute resolution services to protect enterprises' rights in international markets and assist enterprises in overseas investment, mergers and acquisitions, and market expansion, ensuring lawful and compliant operations, including in cross-border data transfer, labour law and tax law.
 - As an international financial centre, Hong Kong can attract global capital to invest in AI enterprises. The legal services sector can support rapid growth by

providing corporate governance, investment agreements and listing compliance services, assisting enterprises in completing IPOs or other financing arrangements.

- Hong Kong can serve as a bridge between Chinese Mainland AI technology and international markets. Through cross-border mergers and acquisition and joint venture establishment, the legal sector can promote the industrial application and commercialisation of Chinese Mainland AI technologies in Hong Kong and overseas, and assist local enterprises in integrating these technologies into traditional business models to achieve digital transformation.

3. With the rapid development of the digital economy and FinTech, blockchain technology, as a disruptive innovation tool, is reshaping traditional financial operations, bringing efficiency gains while generating new legal challenges and risk control needs. Against this backdrop, Hong Kong, with its international rule-of-law environment, mature financial market, and the unique advantage of “One Country, Two Systems,” is expected to become a core hub of the global blockchain and Web3 ecosystem. Hong Kong solicitors play an irreplaceable role in this trend.

- Due to blockchain’s global nature, enterprises face diverse regulatory regimes. Hong Kong solicitors can help formulate unified compliance strategies and assist in meeting AML and KYC (Know Your Client) requirements in crypto-asset transactions.
- Hong Kong can serve as a bridge between blockchain technology and traditional financial institutions. Solicitors can design appropriate business models and implementation solutions, such as converting traditional contracts into automated smart contracts.
- Hong Kong, as an international centre for legal services, possesses unique advantages in cross-border financial dispute resolution and the development of legal standards. The application of blockchain technology may give rise to new legal issues, such as the enforceability of smart contracts and questions concerning the ownership of digital assets. Hong Kong solicitors are well positioned to provide professional legal services to assist enterprises in effectively managing such disputes, while also contributing to the establishment of dispute resolution mechanisms tailored to the blockchain sector, including arbitration and mediation.

- Through participation in international conferences and forums, Hong Kong solicitors can share best practices in blockchain legal services and assist Chinese Mainland enterprises in promoting blockchain technology along the Belt and Road countries and regions under the Belt and Road Initiative.

During the “15th Five-Year Plan,” Hong Kong, leveraging its mature common law system and open financial environment, which have attracted numerous blockchain enterprises and projects, is expected to further refine relevant laws and regulations to provide a clearer and more inclusive policy framework for blockchain applications. The legal services sector will play a key role in enabling compliant innovation and handling related cross-border legal matters.

III. Strengthening Hong Kong’s Strategic Role as an International Mediation and Arbitration Centre to Lead Regional ADR Development and Mitigate Cross-Border Dispute Pressures

Deepening Hong Kong’s strategic role as an international mediation and arbitration centre will enhance its global influence in dispute resolution and provide efficient legal services to the GBA and Belt and Road countries. By promoting the innovation and adoption of alternative dispute resolution, strengthening cross-regional cooperation, and improving regulatory frameworks, cross-border disputes can be prevented from escalating, litigation pressure reduced, and regional economic stability promoted.

1. Strengthening Hong Kong’s strategic position as an international centre for mediation and arbitration is essential for advancing the development of ADR legal services in the region, preventing cross-border disputes from escalating, and alleviating litigation pressure. Hong Kong solicitors play multiple roles within the International Organization for Mediation, as mediators, legal representatives, promoters of mediation culture, and participants in institutional development. They not only enhance Hong Kong’s position in the field of international dispute resolution, but also provide clients with more efficient and flexible solutions to resolve disputes.
2. The Chief Executive of the HKSAR has clearly stated in the Policy Address the commitment to developing sports dispute resolution mechanisms. Hong Kong solicitors, particularly in sports arbitration, can play an important role by serving

as arbitrators, representing clients, providing preventive legal services, and promoting institutional development. This enhances local sports law standards, strengthens Hong Kong's international influence, and attracts international sports events and institutions. In 2025, The Law Society successfully organised Hong Kong's first Sports Law Conference and supported sports law initiatives during the National Games. Looking ahead to 2026, The Law Society will:

- Plan to sign a memorandum of understanding with the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China to provide pro bono advice on governance issues, and support sports associations in contributing to the development and industrialisation of the sports sector;
- Support the promotion and development of sports law training programmes by offering professional legal assistance;
- Promote cooperation between the online arbitration platform eBRAM and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) to provide online and offline mediation services for regional sports disputes;
- Consider organising a second Sports Law Conference to further promote legal services related to sports industrialisation and support Hong Kong and the nation in achieving high-standard alignment with the international sports industry, and leverage Hong Kong's advantages in internationalisation and market-orientation.

IV. Continuing Active International Engagement to Tell Hong Kong's Story Through Law and Enhance Legal Diplomacy

In 2026, The Law Society will continue to organise and participate in major international legal conferences and events, including the 64th AIJA Annual Congress, the 39th LAWASIA Conference, the 2026 International Bar Association Annual Conference, the 70th UIA Congress, and the 2026 International Conference of Legal Regulators, facilitating exchanges with legal professionals across jurisdictions. The Law Society will also invite overseas legal organisations and professionals to participate in major Hong Kong legal events, such as the Opening of Legal Year and The Law Society's Belt and Road Forum, while encouraging local solicitors to participate in overseas study and exchange programmes to enhance international perspective and cross-cultural communication.

In 2025, The Law Society participated in 39 overseas legal events, introducing the institutional design and unique advantages of “One Country, Two Systems,” promoting international cooperation, professional services, and standard-setting, and actively performing the role of legal diplomacy.

In conclusion, The Law Society will continue to uphold a pragmatic and proactive approach, anchor Hong Kong’s international positioning, strengthen and elevate professional standards, promote the healthy development of the industry, lay a solid foundation for building an international-class legal services market, assist Hong Kong in integrating into the overall national development strategy, and contribute to the realisation of the grand blueprint of the “15th Five-Year Plan.”

II. INTRODUCTION TO THE LAW SOCIETY OF HONG KONG AND REVIEW OF ITS RECENT WORK

1. About The Law Society of Hong Kong

The Law Society of Hong Kong (“The Law Society”) is both the self-regulatory body and professional association for solicitors in Hong Kong. It is entrusted with the statutory duty to monitor the conduct of law firms and lawyers to maintain the highest standards. In this regard, The Law Society provides relevant and effective support to members, including organising regular training courses, seminars and events to update members on the latest developments in the law and to facilitate the sharing of experiences with Chinese Mainland and overseas counterparts. The Law Society also organises different kinds of sports, recreational and social activities for members to establish connections between members and even their families.

As a bridge between the solicitors’ profession and the Government, The Law Society is in constant communication with relevant governmental departments, expressing opinion to improve the practice environment and regularly responds from the legal perspective to consultations on different issues. Rooted in Hong Kong and expanding abroad, The Law Society maintains a prominent presence in the international legal arena. We have established friendly relationships with many legal associations around the world and has signed various Memoranda of Understanding with different legal associations and organisations from overseas, the Chinese Mainland and Taiwan.

Representing close to 14,000 members, The Law Society values the importance of social responsibility and encourages and facilitates its members to participate in voluntary work, using their legal knowledge to benefit the community. The Law Society will continue to uphold its vision and mission to safeguard and ensure the fair administration of justice while serving the legal profession.



2. Five major work priorities of The Law Society

- **Enhancing support to members**

- To enhance the support provided to our close to 14,000 solicitor members. In particular:
 - to introduce a knowledge-sharing platform where industry experts-led seminars and forums will be conducted.
 - to advocate for policy reform to alleviate the burden currently imposed on law firms.
 - to facilitate our members in innovation and adaptation in accordance with their individual situations and priorities. For instance, we will pro-actively study how technology and Artificial Intelligence can be utilised to increase our competitiveness and study the implementation of “Alternative Business Structures”.
 - to commence a legislative amendment exercise to ensure the consistent adoption of “律師” as the Chinese rendition of “solicitor” in the Hong Kong legislation, thereby strengthening the status of Hong Kong solicitors

- **Pro-actively engage with stakeholders**

- To pro-actively engage with Government, legal education providers, the general public and all other stakeholders to ensure that the voice of the legal profession is fully heard, with a view to making the best use of our professional expertise and capabilities in shaping legal policies and driving meaningful reforms.
- To enhance the transparency and efficiency of our regulatory system, without compromising the maintenance of the highest professional standards.
- The Law Society, with the valuable input of the various specialist committees and working parties under the Standing Committee on Practitioners Affairs, has reflected the views of the solicitors’ profession in consultations on law reforms. In 2025, a total of 17 submissions were issued in response to public consultations. Meanwhile, The Law Society has made 3 submissions publicly as of 10 February 2026.

2026

- 2026-27 Government Budget (3 February)
- Consultation Paper on Legislative Proposal to Regulate Virtual Asset Advisory Service Providers and Virtual Asset Management Service Providers (20 January)

- Consultation Paper on Proposed Amendments to the Code on Unit Trusts and Mutual Funds (6 January)

2025

- Consultation Paper on Proposed Enhancements to Structured Products Listing Framework: “Review of Chapter 15A – Structured Products” (26 November)
- Conclusions and Further Consultation Paper on Proposals to Optimise IPO Price Discovery and Open Market Requirements (14 October)
- Consultation on draft Securities and Futures (Financial Resources) Rules amendments, Guidelines for Internal Models Approach for FRR Market Risk Charges Calculation and General Principles for Model Risk Management (26 September)
- Public Consultation on Enhancing Regulation of Licensed Money Lenders (20 August)
- Consultation Paper on Legislative Proposal to Regulate Virtual Asset Custodian Services (20 August)
- Consultation Paper on Legislative Proposal to Regulate Dealing in Virtual Assets (20 August)
- 2025 Policy Address (19 August)
- Registration of Titles and Land (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2025 – Development Bureau’s Response to The Law Society further Submission on 2 July 2025 (19 August)
- Consultation Paper on Proposed Amendments to the Securities and Futures Ordinance and the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing Ordinance Relating to the Use of Certain Titles (22 July)
- Registration of Titles and Land (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2025 (2 July)
- Proposed Amendments to the Securities and Futures (Stock Market Listing) Rules (3 June)
- Registration of Titles and Land (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2025 (20 May)
- Proposed Amendments to Buildings Ordinance (11 March)
- Proposals to Optimise IPO Price Discovery and Open Market Requirements (11 March)
- Companies (Amendment) (No.2) Bill 2024 (25 February)
- Protection of the Harbour (Amendment) Bill 2024 (25 February)
- Government Budget 2025-2026 (28 January)

- Introduction of Lawyer Corporations as an additional mode of practice for solicitors
 - Law firms in Hong Kong currently operate as sole proprietorships or partnerships (be it general partnership or limited liability partnership, or usually referred to as “LLP”, which was introduced in 2016).
 - Allowing solicitors practising as a solicitor corporation or foreign lawyer corporation, coupled with sole proprietorship, general partnership and LLP, will offer a comprehensive operation model for legal practice in Hong Kong which is of paramount importance to enhance flexibility and promote the development of the legal profession, aligning Hong Kong with global trends of legal services.
 - A solicitor corporation is a company formed and registered under the Companies Ordinance (Cap.622) or under the former Companies Ordinance which is limited by shares. It has to be approved by The Law Society to carry on the business and practice of solicitors. Its shares cannot be publicly listed, and the shares of a solicitor corporation can only be transferred to a solicitor holding an unconditional practising certificate who is a director or an employee of the solicitor corporation. In particular, one salient feature of a solicitor corporation is its separate legal entity, meaning that it will continue irrespective of the personal circumstances of its directors and members. This prevents any disruption that might be caused by the incapacity, retirement, death, bankruptcy, or withdrawal of a partner.
 - The amendments to the Legal Practitioners Ordinance (Cap.159) (the “LPO”) to allow for incorporation as a solicitor corporation are in place in June 1997, but they have not come into operation as new subsidiary rules are needed to put in place a regulatory framework for these corporations. Since the existing subsidiary legislation cover legal practice in the form of sole proprietorships and partnerships, they require substantial amendments to cover solicitor corporations and foreign lawyer corporations and therefore have undergone an extensive period of legislative amendments.
 - With the invaluable support of the Department of Justice (the “DOJ”) and the Judiciary, The Law Society has made significant progress in 2025 and 2026 towards the implementation of solicitor corporations and foreign lawyer corporations. The drafting instructions in respect of the proposed consequential amendments to the LPO and a total of 20 pieces of non-LPO legislation were submitted to the DOJ in March 2026 in furtherance of the legislative process.
 - In March 2025, the Chief Justice granted approval-in-principle to the

draft new Solicitor Corporation Rules, the draft new Foreign Lawyer Corporation Rules and the proposed consequential amendments to 17 pieces of subsidiary legislation of the LPO. In March 2026, the updated and finalised conventional forms in bilingual texts of the new Solicitor Corporation Rules, the new Foreign Lawyer Corporation Rules and the amendment rules in respect of the proposed consequential amendments to 17 pieces of subsidiary legislation of the LPO were submitted to the Judiciary for seeking the Chief Justice’s final approval, so as to commence the negative vetting procedures of the Legislative Council as soon as possible.

- As the legislative process has now reached to the final stage, The Law Society looks forward to all relevant principal legislation and subsidiary legislation coming into effect in the near future.
- **Leverage the advantages of the common law system under “One Country, Two Systems” and nurture legal talent**
 - Under “One Country, Two Systems”, Hong Kong is the only common law jurisdiction in our country. Hong Kong is also the only English-Chinese bilingual common law system in the world. Under the common law system, we will continue to facilitate foreign investments in our country and help our country in connecting with the world through Hong Kong legal services.
 - To further promote Hong Kong’s institutional strengths, we actively participate in major international legal conferences and professional forums, where we explain to the global community the unique features of “One Country, Two Systems” and Hong Kong’s continued advantages under this framework. Through these platforms, we highlight Hong Kong’s robust rule of law, judicial independence, and legal talent that underpin its status as a leading international legal and dispute resolution centre.
 - In recent years, we have taken part in various international events, such as:
 - the Annual Conference of the International Bar Association (IBA);
 - the LAWASIA Conference; and
 - exchanges with overseas lawyers’ associations and international legal organisations in regions including the United Kingdom, Italy and Singapore,
 - To this end, we attach great importance to talent retention and inclusiveness, and nurturing legal professional leaders for the coming generations to ensure sustainable and prosperous development of the profession. For instance:
 - To support young lawyers in participating in exchange programmes with legal organisations in other jurisdictions

- To promote exchange with legal organisations and leading universities in the Chinese Mainland



- **Promote legal education**

- The Law Society is duty-bound to explain law to the general public, particularly the younger generation. Through different activities, we highlight the advantage of bilingual proficiency of our next generation which contributes to Hong Kong's roles as "super-connector" and "super-value adder" in facilitating our country in connecting with the world.

- **Maintain the independence of The Law Society as a self-regulatory professional body**

- To maintain the independence of The Law Society as a statutory self-regulatory professional body, particularly in the face of the ever-increasing political and economic challenges confronting our society.
- We will steadfastly remain apolitical, uphold the rule of law, and protect ourselves from any factors that may undermine our functions as a statutory legal professional body.
- To effectively implement our policies and initiatives within the legal industry, always with the aim of giving back to the broader Hong Kong community in meaningful ways and contributing to the development of our country.

Profile of the legal profession (as of 31 March 2026):

<u>Solicitors</u>	
Members	13,578
Members (with practising certificates)	11,928
Trainee solicitors	1,054
Registered foreign lawyers (from 31 jurisdictions, and 589 with Chinese Mainland as home jurisdiction)	1,716
Solicitor Advocates	107
<u>Law Firms</u>	
Hong Kong law firms (45% sole proprietorships; 44% with 2-5 partners)	928
Registered foreign law firms (46 are Chinese Mainland firms)	89
Representative offices of Hong Kong law firms in the Chinese Mainland (in 11 Chinese Mainland cities, 74% located in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou)	61
Partnership associations in Guangdong Province (Shenzhen: 16; Guangzhou: 9; Dongguan: 1; Zhuhai: 6)	32

3. **Exchanges with Chinese Mainland and overseas counterparts**



Exchanges with counterparts from the Chinese Mainland

- **In 2025, we have**
 - organised or attended 19 meetings with counterparts from the Greater China region

- organised or attended 28 physical / hybrid / virtual events within the Greater China region
 - organised or attended 19 physical / hybrid / virtual local events in relation to Greater China region
- **Hong Kong Legal Services Forum 2025**
 - President Mr Roden Tong and other delegates from the Law Society, including Vice-President Ms Careen Wong, Council members Mr Neville Cheng and Ms Heidi Chui, Past President and Chairman of Arbitration Committee Mr Huen Wong, and over 30 members to participate in the delegation led by the Secretary for Justice Mr Paul Lam, SC, to visit Xi'an, with a view to promoting Hong Kong's international legal and dispute resolution services, facilitating legal exchange and cooperation, and supporting the "Belt and Road" development with our Xi'an counterparts.
 - During the visit to Xi'an, President Mr Tong met with senior officials including Mr. Zhao Yide, Secretary of the Shaanxi Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China and Director of the Standing Committee of the People's Congress of Shaanxi Province, as well as representatives from the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong SAR and provincial-level departments. The discussions focused on how Hong Kong's common law system and international legal expertise can support Xi'an enterprises in "going global," and inject new momentum into the Belt and Road Initiative.
 - The delegation also visited the Xi'an Arbitration Commission, the China-Europe Railway Hub, and the Ministry of Justice's "Three Centres" (China-SCO Legal Services Committee Xi'an Centre, Belt and Road Lawyers Alliance Xi'an Centre, and Xi'an Belt and Road International Commercial Dispute Resolution Centre), gaining insights into the latest developments in international commercial dispute resolution.
 - During the event, under the witness of Minister of Justice He Rong; Secretary for Justice Mr Paul Lam, SC; and Shaanxi Party Secretary Zhao Yide; President Tong and Shaanxi Lawyers Association President Han Yongan signed an updated cooperation agreement.
 - Besides, The Law Society and the Hong Kong Bar Association co-hosted two mock dispute resolution sessions, showcasing Hong Kong lawyers' expertise in cross-border business disputes and offering Xi'an enterprises practical inspiration.



- **Visit to Xinjiang by Multi-disciplinary Delegation**

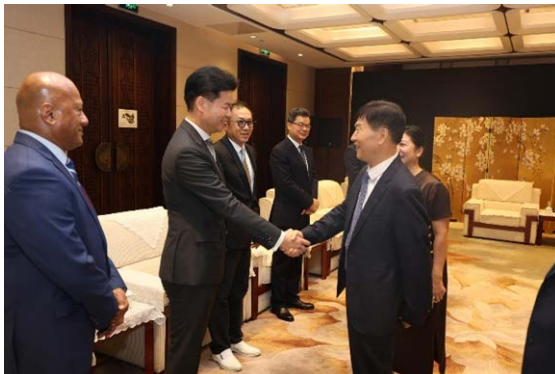
- Led by the Secretary for Justice Mr Paul Lam, SC, a delegation visited Urumqi, Xinjiang, from 11 to 14 September 2025. Council Members Mr Tom Fu and Mr Vincent Tso were invited to participate in the visit alongside a multi-disciplinary delegation comprising members from Hong Kong's legal and arbitration/ mediation sectors, as well as the financial and business sectors.



- **2025 Hainan Free Trade Port Legal Week**

- Mr Roden Tong, President of The Law Society, attended the 2025 Hainan Free Trade Port Legal Week under the theme “Law-Based Free Trade Port · Sharing New Opportunities.”
- During the Opening Ceremony, President Tong had the opportunity to meet esteemed leaders and guests, including Governor Liu Xiaoming, and witness the signing of the second cooperation agreement between The Law Society and the Hainan Lawyers Association.
- Besides, President Tong delivered a keynote speech during the Seminar on the Integration and Development of Hainan Free Trade Port and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (“GBA”), which highlighted Hong Kong’s unique strengths under “One Country, Two

Systems.” As the only common law jurisdiction in the country, Hong Kong offers legal certainty, transparency, and predictability—qualities that underpin its role as a trusted hub for international business, dispute resolution, and cross-border collaboration.



- **Signing of the Cooperation Agreements**

- In line with the continuous mission of the GCLAC to cultivate and strengthen connections with lawyers’ associations and legal organisations in the Greater China region, The Law Society signed 7 Cooperation Agreements in 2025: Zhongshan Lawyers Association (March), School of Judicial Science of China University of Political Science and Law (March), Shaanxi Lawyers Association (May), Hainan Lawyers Association (October), Shenzhen Lawyers Association (October), Zhejiang Merchants Foreign-Related Legal Service Centre(November) and eBRAM International Online Dispute Resolution Centre (November).
- As of December 2025, The Law Society has signed 67 Cooperation Agreements with 48 lawyers’ associations and 19 organisations in the Greater China region.



Exchanges with overseas counterparts

- The Law Society seizes every opportunity to promote to the international community Hong Kong’s legal and dispute resolution services, as well as the unique status of the city under the People’s Republic of China’s “One Country, Two Systems” policy. Through active participation in international activities, The Law Society reinforces Hong Kong’s global connectivity, consolidates its position as a leading international legal hub, and gains first-hand insights into developments in overseas legal markets.
- **In 2025, we have**
 - coordinated and organised 6 physical / hybrid / virtual events for counterparts from overseas jurisdictions
 - organised and attended 37 physical meetings with counterparts from overseas jurisdictions
 - attended 39 physical / hybrid / virtual events organised by counterparts from overseas jurisdictions
 - attended 17 physical / hybrid / virtual meetings organised by counterparts from overseas jurisdictions
 - signed 4 Memoranda of Understanding (“MOUs”): Qatar International Center for Conciliation and Arbitration (May), Qatar Lawyers Association (May), Kuwait Bar Association (May) and The Advocates Association of Sarawak (June), adding to a total of 51 MOUs with 48 overseas lawyers’ associations and international legal organisations from 32 jurisdictions.



- In January 2026, The Law Society has already completed six official visits, including Openings of the Legal Year in various overseas jurisdictions (Malaysia, Sabah & Sarawak, Singapore, Brunei Darussalam, Milan).
- The Law Society also takes part in the Government-led business and professional promotion missions to bring in investment opportunities for members, promote Hong Kong’s legal system and services, and share the advantages of using our professional services, and doing business in Hong Kong:
 - Business Delegation led by the Chief Executive of Hong Kong SAR to Qatar and Kuwait (May)
 - Hong Kong Infrastructure and Construction Mission to Indonesia and Malaysia led by the Commissioner for Belt and Road (June)
 - HKTDC Hong Kong Professional Plus Campaign, Vietnam (August)
 - **Business Delegation led by the Chief Executive of Hong Kong SAR to Qatar and Kuwait**
 - At the invitation of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (“HKTDC”), President Mr Roden Tong represented The Law Society and the legal sector in a business delegation led by the Chief Executive to Qatar and Kuwait, from 10 to 15 May 2025.



- In business, there is a saying that “law comes first”. Legal service remains central to discussion throughout the visit. President Tong took the opportunity to share insights from a Hong Kong legal perspective with the local business and legal communities, highlighting the strengths of Hong Kong’s highly internationalised legal profession in supporting cross-border business. Hong Kong legal professionals are well-recognised for their global outlook, familiarity with the Chinese Mainland market, and expertise in cross-border transactions and dispute

resolution. Many solicitors hold dual qualifications, including GBA lawyer credentials, and serve as in-house counsel for multinational corporations across diverse industries.

- On this occasion, reciprocal visits to the Investment and Trade Court of the State of Qatar and the Qatar International Court and Dispute Resolution Centre were arranged. MOUs were also signed with the Qatar International Center for Conciliation and Arbitration, the Qatar Lawyers Association, and the Kuwait Bar Association respectively. These outcomes significantly expanded The Law Society's network in the Middle East and laid a solid foundation for future cooperation, reinforcing our role as "Super Connector" and "Super Value-Adder" in supporting cross-border business and investment.



- These overseas duty visits have not only enabled us to keep abreast of the latest developments in the global legal arena but have also served to update the international community with the legal landscape in Hong Kong. The different degrees of readiness of various sectors of the international community to learn about the real situation of Hong Kong, such as the continual upholding of the rule of law and the strong judicial independence, as well as the safeguards of freedoms, aptly reflect that it is important for us to reach out to continuously provide a fuller and accurate account on Hong Kong. These overseas duty visits also paved the way for strengthening links between Hong Kong and the overseas counterparts for future collaboration.
- Throughout the years, The Law Society has also organised a number of physical / hybrid / virtual events for counterparts from overseas jurisdictions:
 - **International Conference of Legal Regulators ("ICLR")**
 - Self-regulation is essential for maintaining the independence of the legal profession, thereby reinforcing public confidence. As the statutory

self-regulatory body for solicitors in Hong Kong, The Law Society’s regulatory role reflects the trust it commands and its steadfast commitment to integrity. The Law Society remains committed to working together with international counterparts to uphold the highest standards of professionalism and regulatory excellence.

- The ICLR serves as a dynamic network within the global legal community, providing a dedicated platform for regulators and individuals working for regulatory bodies or specialising in lawyer regulation as academics or consultants to exchange insights and best practices. For the first time, The Law Society had the honour of hosting this annual international event in Hong Kong in 2025, bringing together over 100 legal regulators, scholars, industry leaders, and non-legal regulators from 19 jurisdictions. Their presence underscored the international community’s strong confidence in Hong Kong’s robust and independent self-regulatory legal framework.
- Themed “New Ways to Regulate in a Changing World?”, the Conference featured four plenary sessions and nine breakout discussions covering topics such as cross-border practices, anti-money laundering, cybersecurity, in-house integrity, and professional diversity — issues that resonate deeply with regulators navigating today’s complex legal landscape. Side programmes were also arranged for the overseas delegates to explore Hong Kong’s rich cultural heritage and legal traditions.



➤ **Symposium on Diversity and Inclusion**

- In today’s global legal community, females are playing an increasingly vital role. In Hong Kong, 52% of practising lawyers are women, and many outstanding female legal leaders have made significant contributions to both the profession and society. To promote diversity and inclusion, The Law Society, with the support of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (“CUHK”) and its Faculty of Law, hosted a

symposium themed “First, But Not Last: Women Leaders Reimagining Justice in Asia” on 20 January 2026 at the CUHK, in commemorating the 20th anniversary of CUHK’s Faculty of Law.

- Moderated by President Mr Roden Tong, the symposium feature three pioneering Asian female leaders who shared insights on how women leaders are driving meaningful change for justice across Asia: The Right Honourable Tun Tengku Maimun binti Tuan Mat, Malaysia’s first female Chief Justice; Dr the Honourable Elsie Leung Oi sie, GBM, JP, the first Secretary for Justice of the HKSAR; and Ms Melissa Pang, BBS, MH, JP, the first female President of The Law Society.
- The event attracted over 180 registrants, including young lawyers, students from three local law schools, senior university representatives, as well as prominent members of the legal profession. Young participants not only gained inspiration from the guest speakers but also had valuable opportunities to connect with leaders of the legal community.
- At The Law Society, inclusivity and equality are not merely aspirations – they are foundational values that shape our vision for the legal profession. We remain committed to upholding the values of diversity and promoting equality and inclusion, and we call upon the legal community to join us in realising this shared vision.



- **Nurturing of young lawyers**

- Nurturing young legal talents is one of The Law Society’s key priorities to ensure the long-term development and sustainability of the profession.
- **Sponsorship for young members to participate in international conferences**
 - Every year, The Law Society sponsors promising young members to participate in prominent international conferences, offering invaluable opportunities to gain international perspectives, build professional networks, and establish themselves as active members of the global

legal community.

- In 2025, in total 12 young members were sponsored to participate in major international legal events. In 2026, we are pleased to continue this meaningful initiative.

➤ **Korean Internship Programme**

- The Korean Internship Programme is an annual initiative that The Law Society has been working with the Korean Ministry of Justice and Korean Bar Association. Under the programme, law students and young lawyers of one jurisdiction interned in the counterpart jurisdiction to gain first-hand exposure to its legal system, legal processes, and professional culture. Over the years, the programme has strengthened legal exchange, fostered cross jurisdiction professional ties, and enhanced cross-cultural understanding.
- After a four-year hiatus due to the pandemic, the two-week internship training in Hong Kong resumed in 2024 for 24 Korean young lawyers and law students from 29 July to 9 August with the tremendous support from our members' law firms and the legal unit of a corporation. This marked the highest attendance since the programme's inception in 2014. The 2025 programme continued the momentum, welcoming 18 Korean young lawyers and law students.
- The Law Society is actively planning for the 2026 programme, tentatively scheduled for August and October 2026. In addition to receiving Korean young lawyers and law students for two-week training in Hong Kong, The Law Society plans to send promising young Hong Kong young lawyers to Korea for internship training.



➤ **Hong Kong Young International Legal Talents ‘Belt and Road Tour’**

- From 21 to 25 July 2025, the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region organised the “Belt and Road” Visit for

Hong Kong Young International Legal Talents.

- The Law Society has nominated four young lawyers to participate in the visit, including Council member Ms Hin Han Shum, GCLAC member Dr Celeste Lo, Young Solicitors' Group member Ms Joanna Tong and young lawyer Ms Vanessa Cheng.



➤ Young Lawyers' Legal Exchange in Shandong

- At the invitation of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of Shandong Province, The Law Society's young lawyers delegation embarked on an enriching legal and cultural exchange in Shandong from 19 to 22 September. The delegation, led by President Mr Roden Tong engaged in a series of impactful activities designed to strengthen ties between Hong Kong and Chinese Mainland's legal communities, and explore the role and opportunities of the legal profession in economic collaboration, innovative development, and globalisation.



➤ **Signing of MOUs with overseas lawyers' associations**

- By connecting with the lawyers' associations around the world, The Law Society has built extensive and amicable relationships with many overseas jurisdictions which enhance the cooperation and bring benefits to the local legal industry.
- As of early 2026, The Law Society has signed a total of 53 MOUs with 50 overseas lawyers' associations and international legal organisations across 33 jurisdictions.
- They include a myriad of members along the Belt and Road: Cambodia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Egypt, Georgia, Hungary, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mongolia, Poland, Qatar, Russia, Slovenia, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, United Arab Emirates and Vietnam.

Belt and Road

- Since the launch of the Belt and Road Initiative (“Initiative”) in 2013, The Law Society has been playing an active role in promoting the Hong Kong legal system and legal profession along the Belt and Road.

➤ **Belt and Road Committee**

- To explore opportunities for members arising from the Initiative and foster in-depth collaboration with different jurisdictions, a Belt and Road Committee was convened in December 2015 to organise activities for global legal practitioners to exchange ideas and thoughts.

➤ **Belt and Road Conference**

- The Law Society has held its international Belt and Road Conferences in Hong Kong since 2017, which is the first and foremost conference of its kind, dedicated to exploring opportunities and discussing solutions for challenges brought about by the Initiative for the legal profession.
- The Law Society has been a supporting organisation of the Belt and Road Summits co-organised by the HKSAR Government and HKTDC. 2025 marked a new milestone in collaboration between The Law Society and the HKTDC, with the 8th Belt and Road Conference being included as part of the 10th Belt and Road Summit on 10 and 11 September in Hong Kong.
- As the finale and a key highlight of the Summit, the Conference, was successfully held on 11 September 2025. Themed “Leading Change Through Legal Excellence”, the event explored how Hong Kong can

leverage the strengths of its legal system to take a leading role in the Belt and Road Initiative. It also examined the synergy between law, financial services, and technology. It was well-attended by around 400 participants.



➤ Other Belt and Road activities

- The Law Society remains an active participant in Belt and Road-related events across Hong Kong, the Greater China and overseas jurisdictions. In 2025, we had the honour to be invited to several duty visits to Belt and Road countries to promote our legal profession:
 - Business Delegation led by the Chief Executive of Hong Kong SAR to Qatar and Kuwait (May)
 - Hong Kong Infrastructure and Construction Mission to Indonesia and Malaysia led by the Commissioner for Belt and Road (June)
 - HKTDC Hong Kong Professional Plus Campaign, Vietnam (August)

- At various international events, such as the LAWASIA Annual Conferences, The Law Society representatives also took the lead to speak at Belt and Road panels to highlight the extensive opportunities for the legal profession.

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership

- The Law Society formed a Committee on Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (“RCEP”) in January 2021 to study the initiative and monitor its latest development. Six Working Parties have also been formed under the Committee on RCEP to look into and report on salient parts of the Agreement. Activities organised by the Committee include a series of webinars co-launched with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council since 2023.
- In 2025, The Law Society and the HKTDC jointly organised a webinar on electronic commerce under the RCEP, with a view to equipping the business

sector with insights into how the legal profession can assist in identifying and addressing practical issues that local enterprises may encounter in their day-to-day operations. In addition, The Law Society has been engaging in discussions with the HKTDC on potential collaboration by facilitating its members' connection with global opportunities offered through the HKTDC's Belt and Road Portal.

4. Solicitors Advancement

- All along, the Hong Kong legal profession has been built upon two long established branches, namely solicitors and barristers. This structure reflects our heritage and continues to define the way the profession operates today. Around the world, however, many jurisdictions have moved toward a unified or more flexible model, encouraging collaboration and recognising excellence across the profession. Hong Kong remains one of the few places that still preserves a clear division, and this invites us to reflect on how best to honour merit in a modern legal landscape.
- In June 2025, President of The Law Society Mr Roden Tong delivered an address at the admission ceremony of the three new Senior Counsel of Hong Kong. He took the opportunity to underscore the distinct yet complementary roles of solicitors and barristers in the administration of justice. A strong and independent pool of advocates, both solicitors and barristers, is essential to upholding the rule of law and ensuring fair administration of justice in Hong Kong. He emphasised that, in the years ahead, it is vital that both branches of the profession collaborate to serve the interests of our community, our legal system and our country.
- The Law Society is dedicated to championing the advancement of solicitors, and committed to raising awareness within the legal profession, the Judiciary, the government, and the wider community about the capability, suitability, and extensive experience of solicitors to serve as members of the Judiciary at all levels and be eligible for appointment as Senior Counsel. This reform is essential to ensure that all legal professionals, irrespective of their branch, are celebrated for their skills and contributions. By promoting diversity, equity, and excellence, solicitors and barristers can work together to strengthen Hong Kong's legal system and its pivotal role on the global stage.
- To this end, a Working Party on Solicitors' Advancement has been established by The Law Society in 2025 to make recommendations to the Council. Together, we can forge new paths, not only for ourselves but for the generations of legal professionals who will follow. By collaborating – solicitors and barristers, young and experienced, local and international – we will ensure that Hong Kong remains a beacon of justice, excellence, and opportunity.

5. The Law Society’s work in promoting the development of the GBA in recent years

- On 22 October 2020, the State Council General Office released the details regarding the pilot scheme that allows those who pass the special qualifying examination to deal with civil and commercial legal matters (including litigation and non-litigation matters) in the nine mainland cities of the GBA.
- Once qualified, the “GBA lawyers” will be required to join as members of the local lawyers’ associations as well as the All China Lawyers Association. They can be employed by the Chinese Mainland law firms or the partnership associations between Hong Kong/ Macao law firms and Chinese Mainland law firms in the nine Mainland cities in the GBA. They, however, cannot be employed by the representative offices of Hong Kong/Macao or foreign law firms in the Chinese Mainland.
- Following the decision of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress in September 2023 to extend the Pilot Scheme for three more years from 5 October 2023 to 4 October 2026, the State Council published the detailed measures for the extended Pilot Scheme on 28 September 2023 (“New Pilot Measures”).
- The New Pilot Measures set out the requirements in obtaining the licence to practise as a GBA lawyer. The major change is that the post qualification experience threshold has been lowered from 5 years to 3 years.
- As of December 2025, there are currently over 630 Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao lawyers practising in the GBA.
- From time to time, The Law Society organises and participates in forums or seminars related to GBA and shares its views on the roles played by Hong Kong lawyers in the GBA, with a view to promoting exchanges and cooperation between GBA and Hong Kong.
- Major outbound events related GBA for The Law Society in 2025:

	Event Name	Date
1.	Exchange Session for HK Trade Association Heads	14 January
2.	GBA Express – Zhongshan	21 March
3.	GBA Talent Development Showcase	12 – 13 April
4.	“Career Opportunities in the GBA Series (I): Opportunities for the Legal Profession in the GBA Seminar”	24 April
5.	15 th Joint Meeting for Lawyers’ Associations in the GBA	17 May
6.	Visit to Guangzhou by Hong Kong’s Cross-	24 June

	Professional Delegation	
7.	“Teen Talk” GBA Study Tour 2025	5 – 6 July
8.	GBA Legal and Business Symposium	16 September
9.	Shenzhen Legal Services Expo and signing the third Cooperation Agreement with Shenzhen Lawyers Association	25 – 26 October
10.	The Third Zhuhai – Hong Kong – Macao Training Camp for Lawyers	13 – 16 November
11.	2025 Congress of the Federation of Portuguese-speaking Lawyers	19 – 21 November
12.	Visit to Shenzhen led by Deputy Secretary for Justice	10 December
13.	16 th Joint Meeting for Lawyers’ Associations in the GBA	13 December

- Major local event related to GBA:

	Event Name	Date
1.	“Potential Contribution of Common Law in the GBA” Seminar	25 February
2.	Lunch Gathering for GBA Lawyers Sub-Committee and GBA Lawyers Interest Group	12 May
3.	Seminar on “Collaborative Development of the Legal Professions in Shenzhen and Hong Kong”	7 June
4.	13 th Mainland, Hong Kong and Macao Legal Seminar	21 July
5.	Sharing Session on GBA Legal Professional Examination 2025	3 October
6.	Hong Kong-Macao Exchange and Sharing Session on Legal Practices	9 October
7.	2025 GBA Conference	23 October

- Details of some events:

➤ **“Potential Contribution of Common Law in the GBA” Seminar (25 February 2025)**

To promote Hong Kong’s uniqueness as the only common law jurisdiction in China and explore its contributions to GBA, a seminar titled “Potential Contribution of Common Law in the GBA” was successfully hosted by the Asian Academy of International Law (“AAIL”) and AAIL Foundation, the hybrid event attracted over 110 in-person and online participants. President Mr Roden Tong was invited to speak on the distinguished features of the Hong Kong legal system, and the role and potential

contribution of the Hong Kong legal sector.



➤ **Visit to Guangzhou by Hong Kong's Cross-Professional Delegation (24 June 2025)**

On 24 June 2025, the Department of Justice, Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau and InvestHK organised a networking luncheon in Guangzhou to promote Hong Kong as an international financial centre, emphasising its common law system and internationalised professional services to reinforce its unique role in bridging local and international markets.

Deputy Secretary for Justice Dr Horace Cheung led a delegation of around 60 Hong Kong's finance and legal representatives to join the event in Guangzhou, including Vice-President Mr Christopher Yu, Council Member Mr Vincent Tso, Chairman of the Intellectual Property (“IP”) Committee Professor Kenny Wong, as well as member of IP Committee Ms Annie Tsoi.



➤ **GBA Legal and Business Symposium (16 September 2025)**

The GBA Legal and Business Symposium, organised by the International Probono Legal Services Association (IPLSA) successfully took place on 16 September 2025 in Macao, bringing together around 300 participants from the legal and business sectors across the GBA. The Law Society was one of the supporting organisations of the event.



➤ **GBA Express**

To facilitate exchanges with Chinese Mainland counterparts on specific legal topics and foster cross-border collaboration opportunities for members, The Law Society has introduced the “GBA Express” event series. The fourth “GBA Express” event was held on 21 March 2025 in Zhongshan, which attracted more than 30 members to participate.



➤ **Joint Meeting for Lawyers’ Associations in the GBA**

According to the “Joint Meeting System for Lawyers’ Associations in the GBA” signed by The Law Society and lawyers’ associations in the GBA in December 2018, The Law Society, Guangdong Lawyers Association and Macao Lawyers Association would take turn in hosting meetings to foster exchanges and promote legal services industry in the GBA.

The 15th and 16th Joint Meeting for Lawyers’ Associations in the GBA

was held on 17 May 2025 and 13 December 2025 in Macao and Huizhou respectively.

Recent discussion topics included:

- Implementation Plan for the Rotating Hosting Mechanism of the Joint Meeting
- Suggestions on enhancing the professionalism of the legal sector in the GBA; and
- Hosted the Legal Rendezvous in GBA



➤ **The Legal Rendezvous in GBA**

- The Law Society launched the inaugural “Legal Rendezvous” event in October last year with the aim of fostering interaction and dialogue between users and providers of legal services. Building on the success of the inaugural programme, the Society extended the series to the GBA on 28 March 2026, to assist members in broadening their professional networks and exploring business development opportunities within the region.
- Held under the theme “Legal Empowerment for a Digital Future: New Legal Market Opportunities in the GBA”, the event took place at Mixc Cube, Shenzhen, examined the new opportunities and challenges facing GBA enterprises amid the digital economy and cross border development. Discussions were conducted from multiple perspectives, including practical operations, legal frameworks and regulatory regimes. The event attracted close to 180 participants from Hong Kong and the nine mainland municipalities from the GBA.
- During the session, the speakers reviewed the development journey of Chinese Mainland enterprises expanding globally and exchanged views

on how businesses could address common compliance requirements, political risks and localisation challenges encountered in overseas investment. The discussion focused on how enterprises could make effective use of the institutional synergies within the GBA to enhance the resilience and sustainability of their overseas expansion. The exchange also examined the development trends of Real-World Assets tokenisation, exploring its potential to enhance asset liquidity, innovate financing models and connect with global markets, while outlining the compliance requirements and issuance pathways applicable to different types of tokens both within and outside the Chinese Mainland. In addition, the event covered the development direction of the data trading market, discussing how trusted data mechanisms and institutional innovation could, while safeguarding security, facilitate lawful and compliant data circulation, thereby providing institutional support for enterprises' digital transformation and cross border development.

- On the same day in the afternoon, President Mr Roden Tong, together with Council members, members of the OC and members of The Law Society, visited the China Resources Spring Bamboo Shoots History and Culture Exhibition Hall, located on the 65th-66th floor of China Resources Tower. The delegation viewed the Houhai area of Nanshan District, further deepening their understanding of the region's development environment. This event also marked the fifth stop of the "GBA Express" series.



6. The Law Society's Common Law Centre

- **Establishment of the Common Law Centre**
 - Under the principle of 'One Country, Two Systems', Hong Kong is the only common law jurisdiction in China and the only jurisdiction along the "Belt and Road" that has adopted and implemented a Chinese-English bilingual common law system.
 - As a common law jurisdiction, Hong Kong has a mature legal system, an internationalised legal environment and an efficient dispute resolution mechanism.
 - Since 2019, The Law Society has been organising courses for law students from top-tier Chinese Mainland universities. In view of the growing interest of the country and its corporations in the common law, and in order to better leverage on Hong Kong's strengths, we will introduce law programmes and training in a more structured manner to facilitate more fruitful exchanges with a view to enhancing synergies between the legal systems of Hong Kong and the Chinese Mainland.
 - A training academy, Hong Kong Academy of Law Limited (the "Academy") was founded by The Law Society in 2008 to design professional training system and provide relevant training for all member solicitors. In February 2025, the Common Law Centre (the "Centre") was set up under the auspices of the Academy with the aims to more effectively and systematically promote the implementation of common law training courses, providing universities and legal practitioners in non-common law jurisdictions including the Chinese Mainland with courses for their greater understanding on the operations of common law, so as to let Hong Kong to exemplify its advantages and better reflect its role as the "super-connector". The Centre is not only committed to promote communication and mutual understanding between common law and non-common law jurisdictions but is also dedicated in cultivating more foreign-related legal talents from the Chinese Mainland and Hong Kong to support the country's development.

- **The Common Law Centre's philosophy regarding SOEs**
 - With the accelerated internationalisation of Chinese Mainland state-owned enterprises ("SOEs"), there is a growing demand for international commercial rules, cross-border investments and disputes resolution. In particular, the Chinese Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement ("CEPA") provides preferential access to the Hong Kong market for Chinese Mainland enterprises (including SOEs),

which enables SOEs to accelerate their expansion into the Hong Kong and international markets.

- As a result, cross-border and even global trades and investments by SOEs (and their potential disputes) will also increase in light of the expected increased interactions between Hong Kong and the Chinese Mainland (as well as other jurisdictions around the world). Inevitably, the relevant transactions and (some of) their relevant contracts will be governed by the common law and hence, the demand for common law will rise.
 - Through the promotion of training and programmes related to the common law system, we hope to enhance the internationalisation of the legal function and the management of SOEs in the Chinese Mainland and to strengthen their ability to cope with cross-border legal risks. In addition, our more in-depth vision is to strengthen and promote co-operation between Hong Kong and the Chinese Mainland in the field of legal services, and to promote the integration of the economies of the two places.
 - Looking ahead, when the Chinese Mainland legal profession (including the legal function of SOEs) has enhanced their knowledge on common law, it is hoped that they will be more readily to accept the use of Hong Kong law (or common laws) as the governing law (and/or Hong Kong as a venue for dispute resolutions) in commercial contracts for cross-border transactions. By applying common law principles, SOEs can better cope with cross-border legal risks and safeguard the smooth operation of cross-border or international business.
- **Relevant Programmes of The Law Society/ Common Law Centre**
 - Common Law Training and Courses: The Common Law Centre hopes to timely expand the target audience of its courses to more Chinese Mainland legal practitioners. At the early stage, the Centre could reach out to these lawyers through Chinese Mainland universities and lawyers' associations, particularly those that have signed cooperation agreements or memoranda of understanding with The Law Society. In the longer term, the common law courses will be made available to corporate counsels, including those in legal function or the management of SOEs.
 - Exchanges organised or assisted by The Law Society: to arrange or facilitate legal professionals of Chinese Mainland SOEs to attend seminars, talks or exchange activities to share and exchange with Hong Kong law firms, The Law Society, courts and arbitration organisations, etc., to gain a deeper understanding of the application of common law in practice.
 - Training of talents: to recruit more experienced Hong Kong lawyers to act as lecturers, so as to bring more practical experience to the targeted

audience, including legal professions in SOEs, so that they can better integrate what they have learnt with legal practice, with a view to effectively cultivating foreign-related legal talents who attach equal importance to both knowledge and practice.

- **Courses offered by the Centre**

- Based on the needs and feedback from institutions and legal professional bodies that have collaborated with The Law Society over the years, the Centre will continue to provide the following popular thematic courses:
 - Comparison of legal systems between the Chinese Mainland and Hong Kong
 - Cross-border professional practice: a Hong Kong common law perspective
 - Cross-border investment and wealth management
 - Topics on corporate law (e.g., corporate insurance, commercial crimes)
 - International commercial dispute resolution
 - Mock arbitration
- In 2025, the Centre has deepened collaboration with leading academic institutions in the Chinese Mainland:
 - In March to April 2025, we continued our seven-year partnership with Peking University by offering another structured, credit-bearing course for its law students on its Beijing campus.



- Further to a MOU signed by The Law Society with the China University of Political Science and Law (as above), an intensive four-day lecture series focusing on legal services and risk management was launched in May 2025 for its postgraduate law students and invited legal practitioners.



- In November to December 2025, the Centre re-ran weekend credit-bearing lectures at Renmin University’s Beijing campus on the topics of international commercial arbitration practice for their law students.



- These initiatives were well received by the institutions as well as the participating students of the respective courses. Around 40 enthusiastic solicitor members, including our Past Presidents and Council Members, dedicated their time and effort to take part in delivering lectures to these young minds.
- The Centre continues to explore collaboration opportunities with more Chinese Mainland universities, organisations and parties to provide suitable common law courses for students, legal professionals, and those aspiring to join the legal profession, thereby supporting the country in nurturing more legal talents with expertise in foreign-related matters.

7. Dispute Resolution Services

The Law Society offers the following services to its members and the public:

- **Panel of Arbitrators/ Panel of Mediators/ Panel of Parenting Coordinators**
 - The Law Society has its own Panel of Arbitrators, Panel of Mediators, and Panel of Parenting Coordinators. These panels comprise only practicing solicitors who have satisfied the admission requirements of the relevant

committees of The Law Society. The Panels are available for free use by Law Society's members and the general public.

- **Sample Clauses and Agreements**

- The Law Society provides various template documents regarding arbitration and mediation proceedings which are available for Law Society's members and the general public. These template documents are prepared by the Arbitration Committee and the Mediation Committee of The Law Society and are designed to help users of arbitration or mediation to resolve their disputes in an effective and efficient manner.
- The Arbitration Committee and the Mediation Committee will conduct regular reviews on the above template documents in order to ensure their usefulness. For example, the Arbitration Committee is considering publishing a new sample arbitration clause to assist Hong Kong-invested enterprises to refer their dispute to arbitration seated in Hong Kong for final resolution.

- **Code of Professional Conducts**

- The Law Society issues various codes and guidelines concerning the professional conduct of solicitor-arbitrators and solicitor-mediators. These codes and guidelines are subject to regular reviews in order to ensure that the conducts of solicitor-arbitrators and solicitor-mediators are up to the highest standards.

- **Training Courses**

- The Law Society and the Hong Kong Academy of Law provide training courses on topics relating to arbitration, mediation, and other dispute resolution methods to enhance solicitors' knowledge in those practice areas.

- **Appointment of Arbitrator and Nomination of Mediator Services**

- The Law Society provides free services regarding appointment of arbitrator and nomination of mediators for parties who cannot agree on the appointment of an arbitrator or the nomination of a mediator for their disputes.

- **Information Leaflets and Helpline**

- The Law Society publishes two information leaflets to provide an introduction on arbitration and mediation to the public. Moreover, The Law Society also maintains the Mediation Helpline to provide free consultation services (limited to 45 minutes) to eligible callers from the public.

8. Sports Law

- The Law Society supports the HKSAR Government’s policy direction to develop a dedicated mechanism for resolving sports disputes. This policy commitment was set out in the Chief Executive’s Policy Address in 2024 and 2025, and The Law Society has continued to contribute professional input to advance a neutral, fair and efficient mechanism for resolving sports disputes through mediation and arbitration.
- In January 2025, the DOJ established the Advisory Committee on Sports Dispute Resolution to advise on the design, setting up and implementation of the Pilot Scheme on Sports Dispute Resolution (“Pilot Scheme”). The Law Society is represented on the Advisory Committee by Council Member Mr P. S. Hau, ensuring that the solicitors’ profession has a direct role in shaping the framework and supporting its wider adoption by the sports sector.
- The Law Society also supports the Pilot Scheme led by the DOJ and administered by the AALCO Hong Kong Regional Arbitration Centre, with eBRAM International Online Dispute Resolution Centre providing the technology infrastructure and online support. The Pilot Scheme adopts a “mediation first, arbitration next” approach to provide the sports sector with a fair, efficient and convenient dispute resolution mechanism. As one of the founding members of eBRAM, The Law Society welcomes eBRAM’s participation in implementing the Pilot Scheme and the use of LawTech to enhance accessibility and efficiency.
- AALCO and eBRAM are conducting training on sports mediation, and The Law Society is a supporting organisation for the programme, including nominating suitable speakers to share practical experience and promote professional standards. In parallel, The Law Society continues to engage stakeholders to strengthen sports law education and awareness, and to encourage practitioners to contribute to sports dispute resolution in Hong Kong.
- Looking ahead, The Law Society is considering organising a second major sports law conference (or sports law event) in 2026, building on earlier work to convene stakeholders from the legal and sports sectors, strengthen professional capacity, and reinforce Hong Kong’s position as a regional centre for sports dispute resolution services.

9. Member Services

• **The 15th Members and Family Fun Day**

- It was held on Sunday, 4 May 2025. This year, The Law Society was especially excited as we co-organised the event with the Hong Kong Fire Services Department (“FSD”) for the first time. With the theme “Safeguarding Our Citizens”, we highlighted the shared commitment between legal and fire services professionals in protecting the community.
- Around 800 participants of The Law Society members and their families, and colleagues from FSD came together for a day. Over 250 children showcased their energy and spirit in track and field competitions.
- The Law Society was honoured to host Dr Horace Cheung Kwok-kwan, Deputy Secretary for Justice; Mr Andy Yeung Yan Kin, Director of Fire Services; and other distinguished guests who not only opened the event with us but also participated in a friendly tug-of-war! Additionally, Commander of the HKSAR Search and Rescue Team and Commandant of the Fire and Ambulance Services Academy Mr Cheu Yu Kok, shared inspiring stories about the recent earthquake relief mission in Myanmar.



• **20th Anniversary cum The 18th Cross-Strait, Hong Kong and Macao Lawyers’ Golf Tournament**

- It was held from 21 to 23 November 2025. This year’s Cross-Strait, Hong Kong and Macao Lawyers’ Golf Tournament was especially meaningful, as it marked the 20th anniversary of this longstanding tradition, with The Law Society serving as host. Held at Mission Hills Golf Club in Haikou, Hainan, the event brought together over 210 legal professionals from across the region to strengthen ties and foster mutual understanding.
- This year’s event also took on added significance in the context of the nation’s high-level opening-up and the ongoing development of the Hainan Free Trade Port. These national initiatives are creating new opportunities for legal professionals to contribute to cross-border cooperation and

economic growth.

- In addition to the tournament, The Law Society took part in a series of discussions with leaders from the Hainan legal sector and government, focusing on future collaboration under the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) to explore ways to further support cross-border legal services and professional development, including plans for a Hong Kong–Hainan Young Lawyers Forum.



10. Compliance Reform Initiatives

- A series of reform initiatives have been implemented by The Law Society beginning in September 2024, which are integral to our commitment to enhancing regulatory procedures concerning complaints, and improving transparency, openness and efficiency within our regulatory framework.
- The reform initiatives include:
 - Introducing and implementing streamlined procedures for complaint cases revealing a prima facie case of professional misconduct;
 - Refining and simplifying workflow for complaint cases not revealing a prima facie case of professional misconduct;
 - Regularly publishing complaint-related information on our website to promote greater transparency and openness, including:
 - statistics on complaints; and
 - information on recent decisions of the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal;¹
 - Adopting an improved initial response process for quicker acknowledgement of receipt of complaints, by reducing the acknowledgement time to no more than 3 working days after receipt of a complaint.²

¹ To view statistics on complaints and information regarding recent SDT decisions, please visit our website at www.hklawsoc.org.hk, clicking on the “Maintain Standards” icon, and selecting “Complaints of Professional Misconduct”.

² As set out in the Guidance Notes to the Complaint Form, we will acknowledge receipt of a complaint within 3 working days after receiving it. Please navigate to our website at www.hklawsoc.org.hk, select the “Maintain Standards” icon, and then choose “Complaints of Professional Misconduct” to reach the relevant webpage for the Guidance Notes to the Complaint Form.

- The reform initiatives have all been successfully implemented since September 2024.
- In cases where complaint cases reveal a *prima facie* case of professional misconduct, the implementation of streamlined procedures has expeditiously and effectively managed work processes for handling some straightforward complaints of a miscellaneous nature. This allows for the reallocation of saved time and resources to matters requiring closer or more focused attention.
- Notably, since their introduction in September 2024, the streamlined procedures have efficiently managed a portion of complaint cases, enhancing operations and reducing workloads, which has resulted in the successful completion of relevant cases in slightly over a week on average. The completion time for relevant cases processed under the streamlined procedures has seen a remarkable improvement, with considerably shorter turnaround times reduced from months to weeks or even days.
- In parallel, workflow for complaint cases not revealing a *prima facie* case of professional misconduct has also been refined and simplified, ensuring faster processing and contributing to an overall improvement in complaint handling.
- Our ongoing reform initiatives reflect our commitment to enhancing the regulatory process for the legal profession of solicitors, aiming to make it more effective, efficient and transparent while maintaining the highest professional standards. We will continually assess and improve our procedures, keeping members and the public informed.

11. Giving back to the Community

- The Law Society is dedicated to upholding the rule of law locally among stakeholders, especially the younger generation. In 2025, our work pertaining to this goal included:
 - **“Teen Talk”**, an annual flagship event of The Law Society aiming to promote law abidance among the young people and cultivate their interest in law. Since the inception of “Teen Talk” in 2009, approximately 19,000 students from over 520 schools have taken part.



- **“Deepening Legal Cooperation, Youth Shaping Tomorrow” GBA Study Tour**
 - The Law Society co-organising a two-day-one-night GBA Study Tour again with the Justice Bureau of Shenzhen Municipality in early July 2025. The Law Society led 61 outstanding secondary school students from Hong Kong (including those enrolled in international and local schools) to Shenzhen, where they joined 20 students from Shenzhen’s international schools for a comprehensive and enriching learning and exchange experience. Key features of the programme included: a fully English-conducted curriculum, visits to renowned legal institutions and deployment of 21 experienced volunteer solicitors by The Law Society as mentors to guide students throughout the Study Tour.
 - During the event, students visited prestigious institutions including Shenzhen Qianhai Cooperation Zone People’s Court, Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration (SCIA), leading enterprise China Resources Tower, and participated in a team-based speech competition at Peking University Shenzhen Graduate School. Students fully immersed themselves in these experiential learning opportunities and actively engaged with legal professionals throughout the exchange.



➤ **“Teen Talk” Elite Mentorship Programme**

- A notable highlight of “Teen Talk” during the reporting period in 2025 is the Elite Mentorship Programme. This initiative is designed to offer secondary and tertiary students the invaluable opportunities to interact with volunteer solicitor-mentors. Through these interactions, students can deepen their legal knowledge, chart their life goals, and cultivate a positive outlook on life. The Programme received an enthusiastic response from our members. Within a short span of time, we recruited dozens of our members as mentors. Among the mentors, there are young solicitors who participated as mentees in The Law Society’s mentorship programme. Now, they are giving back by sharing their past experiences with the students. Additionally, there are mentors who are highly experienced solicitors, bringing with them a wealth of legal and life experiences.
- Over 100 secondary and tertiary students participated in the Programme, engaging in various activities such as anti-drug promotional game booth design competition and activity days at disciplined services venues. The diverse experiences and guidance from their mentors, combined with these enriching activities, have received positive feedback, highlighting the Programme’s significant impact on their personal and professional growth. The Two-Year Programme concluded with a Closing Ceremony on 14 December 2025 at the Central Market.



- **“Law Week” – another annual flagship event of The Law Society, aiming to promote legal services and to equip different sectors of our community with fuller legal knowledge in a down-to-earth manner.**
 - Under the theme “Law in Action: Building the Future Together”, Law Week 2025 events included Free Legal Advice Programme that has gained widespread popularity among the public, Community Legal Talks, legal-themed game booths, Drawing Competition and Legal Quiz Competition. Further, sign language interpreters were once again arranged onsite to ensure that more individuals in need can access legal assistance.
 - The Law Society once again visited three districts during Law Week 2025 – Tin Shui Wai and Ma On Shan in the New Territories, and Sham Shui Po in Kowloon. Through the Free Legal Advice Programme, A team of 36 volunteer solicitors offered over 3,600 minutes of legal consultations to 212 citizens.
 - Legal talks covering topics like “Online Shopping Scam”, “Legal issues of cross-border living” and “Wills and Probates” had enhanced public legal awareness.
 - The Drawing Competition and Legal Quiz Competition received an enthusiastic response, with over 100 creative artworks submitted, while the quiz competition attracted nearly 2,000 participants. The award ceremony was successfully held on January 31, 2026.



➤ **2025 Legislative Council General Election – Election Forum for the Legal Functional Constituency**

- The Law Society organised the Election Forum for the Legal Functional Constituency on 3 December 2025. The Forum provided a dedicated and open platform for our members to engage directly with the two candidates.
- During the Forum, each candidate was invited to present their vision and election platform, and to respond to questions focused on the advancement of our profession, the promotion of the rule of law, and the enhancement of effective social governance.



- Other work which has been undertaken to raise awareness of the rule of law at the local level:
 - The Law Society once again participated in the Hong Kong Book Fair in 2025, drawing nearly 4,500 visitors to its exhibition booth. A total of 41 volunteer solicitors dedicated their time to support the event, actively engaging young attendees by sharing valuable career insights and personal experiences to inspire them to consider joining the legal profession. During the Book Fair, The Law Society unveiled a newly designed illustrated bilingual storybook “Legal Bears’ Courtroom Adventure”, specially written for primary school students, alongside storytelling sessions. By combining legal concepts with storytelling, the initiative aims to nurture children’s awareness of the rule of law and sense of civic responsibility from an early age.



- To enhance young people’s awareness of the seriousness of triad-related crimes and help them understand the legal consequences of unlawful acts, the Community Relations Committee of The Law Society

collaborated with the Kwai Tsing District Police-Community Relations Unit and the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups, organised the “Abide by the Law Education Legal Forums – Project GATES”. In the third forum of this school year, a young individual who had previously been involved in triad activities was invited to share his personal experiences with students, with the aim of instilling in 380 primary school students the concept of law-abidingness and helping them develop a respect for the law from a young age, thereby preventing them from going astray.

- Over the past 21 years, our “Law and New Generation Programme and School Talks” has provided free talks on a variety of topics to many schools to educate young people different legal concepts and enhance students’ understanding of the Rule of Law. In 2025 year, Law Society’s members conducted over 140 free legal talks and reached out to over 36,000 secondary school students, covering topics relevant to young people’s daily lives including “Rule of Law and Hong Kong Legal System”, “Introduction to the Basic Law”, “Criminal Law I: (i) Triad, Violence; (ii) Sex-related Offences”, “Criminal Law II: (i) Theft; (ii) Drug-related Crimes”, “Internet-related Crimes”, and “Be a Smart Online Shopper” and “Introduction to Hong Kong National Security Law”.



- To enhance the understanding of the concept of the rule of law and the way of how legal industry operates, community talks have been held for different organisations. In 2025, a total of 17 community talks were held, with over a thousand participants.
- The Law Society has always been committed to promoting legal education. In 2025, on National Security in particular, The Law Society offered 24 school talks and four community talks to various non-governmental organisations, and reaching school principals, students and social workers. These talks fully demonstrated the Society’s continued commitment to enhancing the community’s understanding of

national security and upholding the spirit of the rule of law.

- To commemorate the fifth anniversary of the implementation of the Hong Kong National Security Law, Yan Oi Tong organised a National Security Talk and invited Ms. Joyce Cheng, Council Member of The Law Society delivered the talk on the key provisions and significance of the National Security Law.



- Other initiatives included a law firm visit for non-Chinese speaking students from seven Secondary schools, showcasing The Law Society's commitment to serving diverse communities.



- **Free Legal Helpline**
 - More than 160 volunteer solicitors participated in our Free Legal Helpline (“Helpline”). The Helpline offers free legal advice on personal injury, matrimonial law, criminal law, employment law, wills and probate and mediation. In 2023, the Helpline handled over 770 requests for assistance.
- **Emergency Free Legal Advice Support for Tai Po Tragic Fire**
 - In response to the Tai Po Tragic Fire, The Law Society has set up a temporary panel under the “Emergency Free Legal Helpline for Tai Po

Tragic Fire” (2840 1011) since 27 November 2025. The Helpline provides preliminary free legal advice to the public on the five areas of law, namely: Personal Injuries, Wills & Probate, Insurance, Civil Litigation and Building Management.



- To provide face-to-face preliminary legal advice service to residents affected by the Tai Po Tragic Fire, The Law Society also set up 7 “Emergency Free Legal Advice Service Counters for Tai Po Tragic Fire” in Lok Sin Village, Good House and Trackside Villas in Tai Po, T-Loft@Lok Wo in Ma On Shan, CONCORDIA Sheung Yue River in Yuen Long, Kai Fook Kui in Kai Tak and Eminence Tower in Hung Shui Kiu.



- As of 20 March 2026, the helpline has handled 352 enquiries, and the counters have assisted 191 cases. In January and February 2026, The Law Society organised 4 thematic seminars addressing pressing legal issues including civil claims, insurance, property matters, contracts and legal aid:
 - “Tai Po Fire Support - Meeting with LegCo Member (Legal Exchange Session)” was organised on 10 January 2026 at Eminence Tower in Hung Shui Kiu. The Honourable Nick Chan, BBS, MH, JP,

LegCo Member (Legal) was invited to attend in person and engage in face-to-face exchanges with affected residents.

- “Tai Po Fire Support - Exchange Session with LegCo Member (Election Committee) Exchange Session” was organised on 24 January 2026 at Trackside Villas in Tai Po. Dr Thomas So, JP, LegCo Member (Election Committee) of the Legislative Council and Chairman of eBRAM International Online Dispute Resolution Centre was invited to attend in person and engage in face-to-face exchanges with affected residents.



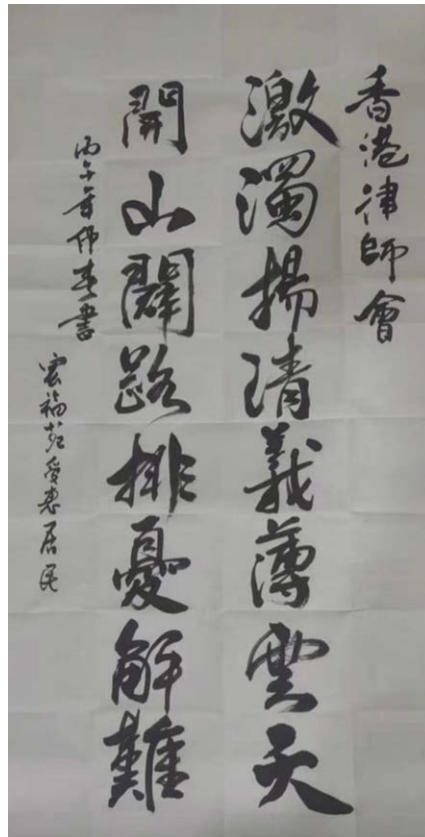
- “Tai Po Fire Support - Sharing on Common Legal Issues Exchange Session” was invited by Christian Family Service Centre and organised on 31 January 2026 at the Yap Ting Terraced Home in Tseung Kwan O. Mr Tsui Kwok Sum, Member of the Insurance Law Committee and Arbitration Committee of The Law Society explained insurance and legal document issues to affected residents.
- At the invitation of the Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden of The University of Hong Kong, The Law Society conducted a second Tai Po Fire Support seminar “Decoding Practical Legal Issues” on 28 February 2026 (Saturday) at the HKU Kadoorie Centre. The seminar was delivered by Ms Sharon Tam, Council Member and Member of its Community Relations Committee.



- In light of the Government’s announcement of the Wang Fuk Court Long-Term Housing Arrangement Plan (“the Plan”), by a circular to its members dated 5 March 2026, The Law Society invited member firms to express interest in providing professional legal services to Wang Fuk Court affected residents in connection with the implementation of the Plan and related issues. As of 20 March 2026, 81 law firms signed up to be included in the list of interested law firms (“the List”) compiled by The Law Society. The List has been compiled for the convenience of affected residents and will be updated on an ongoing basis. The List has been made available on The Law Society’s website.
- With the aim of enabling frontline solicitors and law firms to gain a deeper understanding of the details of the Plan, The Law Society collaborated with the Housing Department to organise a Briefing Session on 17 March 2026. The keynote speaker, Ms Estrella Cheung, JP, Deputy Secretary for Housing and Deputy Director (Strategy) of the Housing Department explained the Plan and addressed practical concerns raised by members of The Law Society.



- The Law Society and its members will continue to leverage their professional expertise and maintain close collaboration with the stakeholders across the community like Government, the banking sector etc. with a view to assisting affected residents in addressing legal issues arising from the relevant arrangements.



12. Artificial Intelligence (“AI”) in the Legal Industry

- **Cross Strait Four Regions Young Lawyers Forum**

- The Cross Strait Four Regions Young Lawyers Forum 2025 (the “Forum”) was held on 25 November 2025 at the iconic Charles K. Kao Auditorium (“Golden Egg”) of Hong Kong Science Park, uniting young legal professionals across the region under the visionary theme “DARE – Data & Digitalisation, Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, and E-Commerce”. The Forum underscores Hong Kong’s pivotal role as a regional centre for technology, innovation, and legal excellence.
- A highlight of the Forum was the presentation of the Young Lawyers’ Manifesto, jointly led by representatives of more than twenty lawyers’ associations across the Greater China region. Reinterpreting “DARE” as Determination, Accountability, Resilience, and Ethics, the Manifesto

reaffirms the commitment of young lawyers to embrace technological innovation as a force that elevates the legal profession.

- Another milestone was the signing of a Cooperation Agreement between The Law Society and eBRAM International Online Dispute Resolution Centre, aimed at advancing the development of LawTech and online dispute resolution. This collaboration will support the region's growing demand for efficient, cost-effective, cross-jurisdictional digital legal services.
- The Forum also features a main session and three sub-sessions, covering a range of forward-looking topics, including:
 - Digital Governance: National Policies Shaping the Legal Landscape of Digitalisation
 - AI-Powered Future: Legal Boundaries and Innovative Integration
 - Robotic Horizon: Legal Ecosystem and Digital Innovation in Robot Applications
 - E-Commerce: The Legal Ecosystem of Low-Altitude Economy



- **Online Dispute Resolution Platform – eBRAM**

- eBRAM is a cross-boundary, efficient, secure and cost-effective platform for the provision of online arbitration and mediation, as well as smart contract and related services. The platform will benefit local micro-enterprises and SMEs, as well as those in the Belt and Road economies, members of the ASEAN and beyond, and facilitate deal making as well as dispute avoidance and resolution:
 - Facilitate deal-making and cost-effectively prevent disputes across parties and jurisdictions
 - Serve as an international platform for dispute resolution
 - Use technology to prevent disputes where one of the parties is not

located in Hong Kong

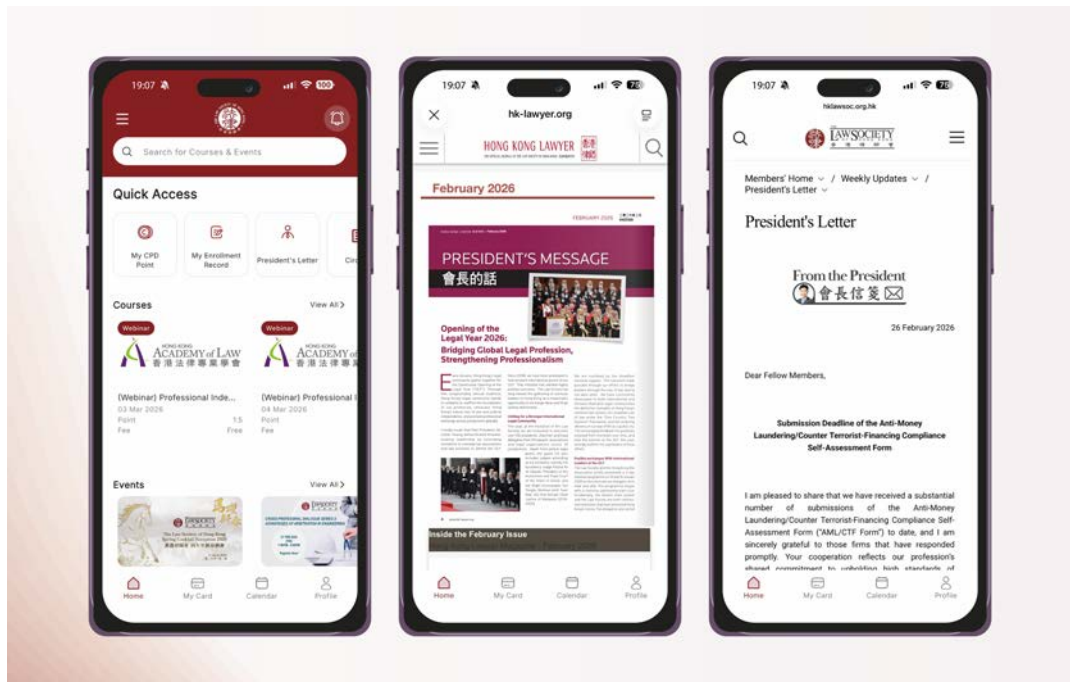
- Protect personal data and confidentiality
 - Provide domain-specific language translation technology
 - Harmonise rules of engagement in international business deals
- eBRAM was jointly established by The Law Society, Hong Kong Bar Association, and Asian Academy of International Law Ltd in 2018.

- **The Law Society of Hong Kong New Mobile App**

- The Law Society has long been committed to supporting its members and upholding the highest professional standards of the legal profession. Providing effective and comprehensive services to close to 14,000 members has always been a top priority of the Council and the Secretariat. In an era marked by rapid technological advancement and increasing regulatory complexity, The Law Society recognises the need to adapt and innovate in order to meet the evolving expectations of legal practitioners.
- More than a decade ago, The Law Society launched its first mobile application, making it one of the early adopters among law societies worldwide to introduce a digital tool for members. However, due to technological limitations at the time, the original application has since become outdated and is no longer able to meet the practical needs of today's legal professionals.
- Against this background, The Law Society launched its newly developed mobile application in 2025, following nearly a year of planning and development. This represents an important milestone in The Law Society's ongoing digital transformation, demonstrating its firm commitment to enhancing efficiency, convenience, security and, most importantly, member engagement.
- A core objective of the new mobile application is to streamline professional development and compliance management. Managing Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and Risk Management Education (RME) requirements has traditionally involved multiple administrative steps, often across different platforms or paper-based processes. The new application consolidates these functions into a single platform, allowing members to browse courses, register, make payments, add events to their calendars, receive reminders, and access attendance records. CPD and RME status can be viewed in real time, enabling members to manage their compliance requirements more efficiently and with greater convenience.
- The application also serves as a practical tool to enhance member engagement with The Law Society. By simplifying the search and

registration process for events, members can easily register for meetings, seminars, workshops and networking activities anytime and anywhere. This improved accessibility helps members stay connected with the professional community, even amid busy schedules, and fosters a stronger sense of belonging to The Law Society.

- Safeguarding data security and professional standards remains a key priority. The new mobile application incorporates robust security measures, including biometric login and two-factor authentication, to protect sensitive member information. These safeguards reflect not only a technological commitment, but also The Law Society's broader responsibility to uphold professional integrity and protect the interests of both members and the public.
- The launch of the new mobile application forms part of The Law Society's wider strategy to leverage technology in support of the legal profession. By integrating core services—such as course registration, record management, event enrolment and payments—into a single, user-friendly platform, The Law Society aims to better equip members to meet emerging challenges and opportunities in legal practice. Ongoing enhancements are planned, including greater personalisation options and closer integration with additional Law Society services, in response to member feedback and technological developments.
- Looking ahead, The Law Society remains firmly committed to fulfilling its dual role as a self-regulatory professional body and a comprehensive service provider for its members. The new mobile application offers tangible support, strengthens engagement and upholds professional standards, clearly reflecting this commitment. Through continued investment in technology and member services, The Law Society seeks to ensure that its members are well positioned to meet the demands of modern legal practice and thrive in an increasingly interconnected professional environment.



- **Use of Technology for Court Hearings**

- Organised a webinar on digital common law, with role play to introduce this new feature which could enable greater access to the law and facilitate submissions to and at court.
- Published an article to summarise the important points to note during preparation of e-bundles and illustrate how administration of justice could be facilitated through implementation of the use of technology in courts and uploaded recordings of the Briefing Session on the Use of E-bundle for members' reference.
- Attended trial run of remote hearing for interlocutory applications and briefing cum demonstration sessions arranged by the Judiciary. Following the hearings and demonstration sessions, provided feedback to the Judiciary on how to enhance the remote hearing process.

- **Electronic storage and digitalisation**

- Issued the Guidance Note on Digitisation of Documents in May 2024, further refined the Guidance Note issued in September 2022. The Guidance Note stated guidelines in the digitisation of documents by law firms. It stated that the firm must ensure the document in electronic format is an accurate copy of the original document if it is to be returned to the third party. It also reminded firms that originals, certified or attested copies of documents set out in Schedule 1 to the Electronic Transactions Ordinance (Cap 553) may be digitised but the original documents should not be destroyed.

- The Guidance Note on Digitisation of Documents also set out guidance on storage of documents in electronic format. A firm must ensure that all the firm’s documents/ electronic records are accessible from Hong Kong by the firm, The Law Society and regulators.
- **Facilitate technology readiness, adoption and promote the use of technology in the legal profession**
 - Organised a series of webinars and workshops with various themes related to the use of LawTech, the application of generative artificial intelligence tools and cybersecurity vulnerabilities in the legal profession.

13. In-house Lawyers

- In-house lawyers refer to those members who are not in private practice and mainly work in a legal capacity in commerce, trading, industrial, financial, educational, governmental or non-profit sectors. As of the end of 2025, around 32% of The Law Society’s members holding a practising certificate were not in private practice.
- Since 2011, a dedicated Law Society committee, the In-House Lawyers Committee, has been set up to provide a platform for in-house lawyers to share experiences and insights on their work and to strengthen their communication with fellow members in private practice.
- On 22 October 2025, The In-House Lawyers Committee organised the Annual Conference of In-House Lawyers 2025 at the Hong Kong Ocean Park Marriott Hotel, attracting a record-breaking number of nearly 600 hybrid participants from Hong Kong, the Chinese Mainland and overseas across industries such as financial services, telecommunications and public utilities. Themed “The Future of Lawyers: Innovation, Strategy, and Resilience”. The Conference provided a valuable platform for in-house lawyers to enhance their strategic capabilities, foster professional networks and address key challenges in a rapidly evolving legal environment.



14. Members with Chinese Mainland Background

- The Members with Mainland Background Committee (“MMBC”) was established in October 2023 with an aim to support members with Mainland background in the development of their professional career in Hong Kong. MMBC aims to provide a platform for exchange among members and assist them in the development of their professional career in Hong Kong.
- MMBC organised a series of events in 2025 to support members' professional development and foster cross-sector connections. Key activities included:
 - A sharing session in June 2025 on “Navigating OLQE: Insights & Experiences from Successful Candidates”
 - A career talk on 11 November 2025 for around 100 university law students with Mainland background, offering guidance on career pathways in the legal profession.
 - Launch of The Legal Rendezvous event series, a new platform designed to foster connections across the legal and business communities; the inaugural event on 9 October 2025 successfully attracted over 200 legal professionals, fintech innovators and business representatives for discussions on “Digital Assets & Hong Kong's Role and Opportunities in the Digital Ecosystem”, facilitating idea exchanges and fresh perspectives in a relaxed yet intellectually stimulating environment.



15. Becoming a Solicitor in Hong Kong

- There are three routes to become a solicitor in Hong Kong:
 - **Local route** - A qualifying local law degree is required > Postgraduate Certificate in Laws (PCLL) > Trainee solicitors
 - **Overseas Route** - Sit the Overseas Lawyers Qualification Examination (OLQE)

- In 2025, The Law Society received a record-high of over 400 applications to sit the 2025 OLQE and there were a total of 292 candidates sitting the 2025 OLQE. Candidates were from XX jurisdictions (including X non-common law jurisdiction). We also witnessed a record-high 22 candidates eventually sitting the Oral Head, who were from non-common law jurisdictions and passed all the Written Heads that they were required to sit.

Subjects of Overseas Lawyers Qualification Examination

- Head I: Conveyancing
- Head II: Civil and Criminal Procedure
- Head III: Commercial and Company Law
- Head IV: Accounts and Professional Conduct
- Head V: Principles of Common Law
- Head VI: Hong Kong Constitutional Law

16. Professional Indemnity Scheme

- The Professional Indemnity Scheme is compulsory and has been in operation since 1986, aiming to cover claims in respect of civil liability whatsoever incurred in connection with the practice. It does not, however, indemnify partners or employees in respect of losses arising out of any claim brought about by their dishonesty, fraudulent act, or fraudulent omission.
- No consistent pattern of claims because many factors can bring about changes in the claims pattern. Members' contributions to the Scheme are assessed on the basis of:
 - The number of solicitors employed by a law firm,
 - The firm's gross fee income and the firm's past claims history.
- Hong Kong Solicitors Indemnity Fund Limited was established by The Law Society. It manages the Scheme and is responsible for ensuring a fair and efficient management of the Scheme in the interests of both the public and the legal profession.

17. 香港律師會管理架構 Governance structure of The Law Society of Hong Kong

理事會 The Council

會長 President



湯文龍
Roden M.L. TONG

副會長 Vice-Presidents



黎雅明
Amirali B. NASIR



余國堅
Christopher K.K.
YU



黃巧欣
Careen H.Y.
WONG

理事 Council Members



鄭偉邦
Calvin K. CHENG



陳國豪
Jimmy K.H. CHAN



傅嘉綿
Tom K.M. FU



岑君毅
Ronald K.N. SUM



袁凱英
Justin H.Y. YUEN



馬康利
Simon J.
McCONNELL



侯百榮
Pak Sun HAU



岑顯恆
Hin Han SHUM



曹紹基
Vincent S. K. TSO



鄭程
Joyce C. CHENG



鄭宗漢
Neville C. H.
CHENG



徐凱怡
Heidi H. Y. CHUI



趙彤
Chris T. ZHAO



張嘉尹
Karen K.W.
CHEUNG



楊大志
Terry T.C. YANG



譚雪欣
Sharon S.Y. TAM

常務委員會 Standing Committees

理事會每月舉行兩次或以上的會議，會上討論多項事務。理事會並審閱所屬六個常務委員會之報告及在主要事項上作出決策。各常務委員會簡介如下：

The Council meets twice monthly or more frequently, if necessary. It receives and considers reports from six Standing Committees. It also determines issues raised by the Council itself. The Standing Committees are:

<p>審查及紀律 Compliance</p>	<p>執行律師專業的行政及監管職能 Deals with the regulatory and administrative aspects of the profession</p>
<p>對外事務 External Affairs</p>	<p>處理律師會公共政策議題及與法律專業（本地及國際性法律專業團體）、傳媒及社區之關係 Deals with public policy issues and manage The Law Society's professional (local and international media and community) relations</p>
<p>會員服務 Member Services</p>	<p>制定加強會員利益的政策 Formulates strategies that enhance members' benefits and interests</p>
<p>政策及資源 Policy & Resources</p>	<p>協調政策，管理律師會資源及其預算案 Responsible for policy co-ordination, the management of The Law Society's resources and budget</p>
<p>執業者事務 Practitioners Affairs</p>	<p>處理對律師行業，執業事務質素及法律改革事務有所影響之法律政策 Deals with legal policy affecting the profession, good practice and law reform</p>
<p>專業水準及發展 Standards & Development</p>	<p>通過執業實務規則、指引及編制專業發展進修課程及風險管理計劃，幫助訂定及維持律師執業及專業操守質素之標準 Sets and maintains standards of work and ethical practice through practice rules and guidelines, and oversees the Continuing Professional Development and Risk Management Education programmes</p>

