



## Limited Liability Partnerships

### With effect from 1 March 2016

Amendments to the Legal Practitioners Ordinance (the “Ordinance”) take effect from 1 March 2016 allowing law firms to operate in the form of a limited liability partnership (“LLP”). Only law firms operating as LLPs can include the words of “limited liability partnership” or the abbreviation “LLP” as part of their name.

### What is a limited liability partnership

In general, if a firm operates as a LLP in accordance with the provisions of the Ordinance,

1. Partners will not be personally liable for the negligent or wrongful acts of omissions or misconduct of another partner or of an employee, agent or representative of the firm.
2. However, each partner is personally liable for his or her own default, and for the defaults of those employees, agents or representatives he or she directly supervises in respect of a particular matter.

### Provisions applicable to LLPs

The Ordinance requires a law firm to satisfy several requirements under the Ordinance in order to practise as a LLP, including the following.

1. The firm must inform all clients of the identity of at least one partner with responsibility for overall supervision for each matter it handles (“OSP”) within 21 days after it accepts instructions and must keep the client informed of the identity of at least one OSP for the matter throughout the time that the matter is handled by the firm.
2. The firm must maintain a top-up insurance policy of not less than HK\$10 million per claim in addition to the statutory professional indemnity cover currently HK\$20 million per claim.
3. The firm must on request provide to a client the names of all other OSPs and partners responsible for supervising particular parts of the matter.

### List of LLPs

The Law Society will maintain a list of LLPs for public inspection free of charge to enable members of the public to ascertain whether a law firm is a LLP.

Enquiries should be directed to the Law Society at:

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Central, Hong Kong

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*The information contained in this leaflet is for reference only.  
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