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PRESS RELEASE

Working Party on Reform of the Civil Process in Hong Kong

In January 2000, the Chief Justice, Mr. Andrew Li advised the Law Society that he would be convening a Working Party "To review the civil rules and procedures of the High Court and to recommend changes thereto with a view to ensuring and improving access to justice at reasonable cost and speed."

The Law Society has also convened its own working party to review the civil process in Hong Kong from the practitioners' perspective.

The Law Society's Working Party has 15 senior litigators sitting on 11 sub-committees. Its terms of reference are as follows:-

"To review the civil rules and procedures and workings of the High Court and District Courts with a view to the improvement of the provision of dispute resolution and legal services to the public by every element of providers of legal services"

Areas which the Law Society's Working Party will be reviewing for reform include:- pleadings, early disposal/resolution, evidence, case management, court processes, trial, costs and appeal.

It is anticipated the Working Party will be providing its report to the Council of the Law Society before the end of the year.

The Law Society of Hong Kong 23 March 2001