



THE
LAW SOCIETY
OF HONG KONG
香港律師會

2024
ANNUAL REPORT

Reforming for Sustainability





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THE COUNCIL 2024



Roden M.L. TONG
President (from June)
Vice-President (until June)



Amirali B. NASIR
Vice-President



Christopher K.K. YU
Vice-President



Careen H.Y. WONG
Vice-President (from June)



C. M. CHAN
President (until June)



Melissa K. PANG



Calvin K. CHENG



Jimmy K.H. CHAN



Tom K.M. FU



Ronald K.N. SUM

Pak Sun HAU

Constance H.M. CHOY

Justin H.Y. YUEN

Hin Han SHUM

Joyce C. CHENG

Heidi H.Y. CHUI

Simon J. McCONNELL

Vincent S.K. TSO

Neville C.H. CHENG

Chris T. ZHAO

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

The Council has pleasure in submitting its annual report together with the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024.

PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS

The Law Society of Hong Kong ("The Law Society") is a company limited by guarantee, and is incorporated and domiciled in Hong Kong and has its registered office and principal place of business at 3/F, Wing On House, 71 Des Voeux Road Central, Hong Kong.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY

The principal activity of The Law Society is to act as the professional and regulatory body for solicitors in Hong Kong. The principal activity and other particulars of The Law Society's subsidiary are set out in note 9 to the financial statements.

BUSINESS REVIEW

A review of The Law Society's operation and management, financial position and risks, environmental policies and performances and future direction of The Law Society are set out on pages 8 to 17 and 20 to 48 of the Annual Report.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The surplus of The Law Society for the year ended 31 December 2024 and the state of The Law Society's affairs as at that date are set out in the financial statements on pages 92 to 115.

MEMBERSHIP

As at 31 December 2024, there were 13,387 (2023: 13,234) members of The Law Society. The total number of Practising Certificates issued was 11,758 (2023: 11,589). There were 923 (2023: 926) firms of solicitors.

BANKERS

The bankers are The Bank of East Asia Limited, The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, Hang Seng Bank Limited, Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited, CMB Wing Lung Bank Limited, Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited, Bank of Communications Company Limited, Dah Sing Bank Limited and China Everbright Bank Company Limited.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Council Members during the financial year and up to the date of this report and their attendance at the Council Meetings are shown in the table on page 5.

In accordance with article 15(a) of The Law Society's articles of association, at the forthcoming annual general meeting the five members longest in office since election or re-election shall retire but shall be eligible for re-election.

At no time during the year was The Law Society, its subsidiary or any of its related companies a party to any arrangement to enable the Council Members of The Law Society to acquire benefits by means of the acquisition of an interest in The Law Society or any other body corporate.

Except for the related party transactions as disclosed in note 18(a) to the financial statements, no contract of significance to which The Law Society, its subsidiary or any of its related companies was a party, and in which the Council Members had a material interest, subsisted at the end of the year or at any time during the year.

INDEMNITY OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

A permitted indemnity provision (as defined in section 469 of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance) for the benefit of the Council Members of The Law Society is currently in force and was in force throughout this year.

AUDITORS

KPMG retire and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-appointment. A resolution for the re-appointment of KPMG as auditors of The Law Society is to be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

By order of the Council

Roden M. L. Tong

President

Hong Kong, 11 March 2025

ATTENDANCE OF THE COUNCIL MEMBERS AT THE COUNCIL MEETINGS DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR AND UP TO 11 MARCH 2025, THE DATE OF THIS REPORT

	Regular Meetings	Unscheduled Meetings	Total	Official Duties
Roden M. L. Tong, President (elected as President on 11 June 2024)	26	1	27	0
Amirali B. Nasir, Vice President (re-elected as Vice President on 11 June 2024)	24	0	24	1
Christopher K. K. Yu, Vice President (re-elected as Vice President on 11 June 2024)	21	1	22	1
Careen H. Y. Wong, Vice President (re-elected on 30 May 2024 and elected as Vice President on 11 June 2024)	26	1	27	1
C. M. Chan (President until 11 June 2024)	22	1	23	2
Melissa K. Pang	16	1	17	1
Calvin K. Cheng (re-elected on 30 May 2024)	24	1	25	1
Jimmy K. H. Chan (re-elected on 30 May 2024)	21	1	22	0
Tom K. M. Fu	20	1	21	0
Ronald K. N. Sum	22	1	23	0
Justin H. Y. Yuen (re-elected on 30 May 2024)	23	1	24	0
Simon J. McConnell	24	1	25	0
Hau Pak Sun	26	0	26	0
Shum Hin Han	26	1	27	0
Vincent S. K. Tso (re-elected on 30 May 2024)	24	0	24	0
Joyce C. Cheng	24	1	25	0
Neville C. H. Cheng	24	1	25	0
Constance H. M. Choy	21	0	21	0
Heidi H. Y. Chui	24	1	25	0
Chris T. Zhao	24	1	25	0

KEY METRICS IN 2024

(As of 31 December 2024)

13,387
Members
(with or without
Practising Certificate)

11,758
**Members with
Practising
Certificate**
(out of whom 8,019 (68%) are
in private practice)

1,542
**Registered
Foreign Lawyers**
(from 31 jurisdictions)

1,040
**Trainee
Solicitors**

338
**Student
Members**



923

Hong Kong Law Firms

(46% are sole proprietorships and 42% are firms with 2 to 5 partners, 67 are limited liability partnerships formed pursuant to the Legal Practitioners Ordinance)

33

Registered Associations between Hong Kong law firms and registered foreign law firms

85

Registered Foreign Law Firms

(from 21 jurisdictions, 15 are limited liability partnerships formed pursuant to the Legal Practitioners Ordinance)

2,169

Civil Celebrants of Marriages

382

Reverse Mortgage Counsellors

101

Solicitor Advocates

(95 in civil proceedings,
6 in criminal proceedings)

PRESIDENT'S & SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORTS



Roden M.L. TONG
President

Heidi CHU
Secretary General

I am pleased to present the annual report of The Law Society for 2024.

I would like to express my gratitude to Immediate Past President Mr C. M. Chan, who passed me the baton upon my election as President on 11 June, as well as all my other predecessors for their selfless contributions to The Law Society and the legal profession. Their tremendous achievements have laid a solid foundation for me to continue their good work.

UPHOLD THE RULE OF LAW AND REMAIN APOLITICAL

Hong Kong has experienced unprecedented challenges, including those posed by geopolitical dynamics and economic disruptions, in recent years. As the professional body representing an independent self-regulatory solicitors' profession in Hong Kong, The Law Society continues to steadfastly maintain its apolitical stance as it navigates through the complexities of current issues, voicing its views and discharging its duties strictly from a legal perspective.

On such basis, in March, The Law Society made written submissions in response to the public consultation on the proposed national security legislation under Article 23 of the *Basic Law of HKSAR*. Furthermore, The Law Society issued two public statements in June and August. In the June statement, following much politicised speculation of the changes to the panel of non-permanent judges of the Court of Final Appeal, The Law Society reiterated its full confidence in the judicial system and the judicial officers appointed through the system in upholding the rule of law and judicial independence. In August, there were reports about widely circulated social media posts targeting immigration law firms for attack in England and Wales following the riots there. To uphold the independence of the legal profession, The Law Society immediately issued a public statement condemning any form of violence, wherever situate.

DEFEND SELF-REGULATION

As the regulator of a self-regulatory profession, The Law Society must at all times ensure that there is in place an effective, efficient and transparent regulatory system.

In addition to regularly publishing complaint-related information, including statistics on complaints and information on recent decisions of the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal, on The Law Society website and adopting an improved initial response process for quicker acknowledgement of receipt of complaints, streamlined complaint handling procedures have been introduced since September. They have 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. The completion time for relevant cases processed under the streamlined procedures has remarkably improved, with turnaround time reduced considerably from months to weeks or even days.

ENHANCE SUPPORT FOR MEMBERS

One of the priorities of the work of The Law Society has been to enhance the support it provides to members. In addition to the ongoing support that it has been regularly providing, The Law Society worked on a number of new initiatives for members during the year.

New technology

On top of the support list was technology, considering the powerful generative artificial intelligence ("AI") tools made available in the market during the year that could transform legal practice.

The Law Society issued its Position Paper on the Impact of AI on the Legal Profession on 20 January. Through the issue of this Position Paper, The Law Society hopes to contribute to a comprehensive understanding of the impact of AI on the legal profession and to impress upon our profession and other stakeholders including, among others, the Government, the Judiciary and legal professional educators the urgent need of coordinated actions and reforms to guide the proper use of AI.

During the year, in addition to organising courses on AI, The Law Society created a dedicated AI webpage, published articles on AI and conducted an AI survey. Much effort was also made to identify eligible AI tool providers for the benefit of general members.

New structure

The Law Society has also been actively exploring ways to improve the practice environment for members. During the year, a working party was tasked to study the experiences of alternative business structures (“ABSs”) introduced to the legal sector in other overseas jurisdictions and the feasibility of their adoption in Hong Kong. ABSs take different forms in different jurisdictions but generally they are legal service providers with non-lawyer investors. The Law Society will consult members on its findings when they are ready.

New practice areas

To tap into the opportunities of new practice areas, three new specialist committees, the Privacy and Data Law Committee, the Committee on Charities and Trust and the Family Office Practice Committee was established during the year.

Furthermore, with the development of the sports industry and related activities, and the huge success of Mainland and Hong Kong athletes in the 33rd Summer Olympic Games held in Paris in 2024, sports law received much public attention and policy focus. The Sports Law Committee is tasked with reviewing the development of this new practice area. In addition, The Law Society had been working on the preparation of the Sports Law Mega Event to be held in February 2025, the first of its kind dedicated to discussions and exchanges about the interface among sports, law and business against the backdrop of “One Country, Two Systems, and Three Jurisdictions”. The Law Society aims to enhance Hong Kong’s reputation in the regional sports arena and its positioning as a key player in the world of sports and related industries.

ENGAGE WITH 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, The Law Society has been pro-actively engaging with different stakeholders including but not limited to the Government, the Judiciary, the Legislative Council (“LegCo”), Chambers of Commerce, Consuls General, legal education providers as well as the general public.

Public submissions

During the year, The Law Society issued 15 written submissions in response to public consultations on law reforms. As President, I, together with other representatives of The Law Society, regularly attended meetings of the Administration of Justice and Legal Services Panel of LegCo to offer views on issues relevant to the legal profession.

Central authorities and Government missions

In April, The Law Society paid its annual visit to the Mainland authorities in Beijing. The Law Society Council took every opportunity to reflect members’ views on how the Hong Kong legal profession with our common law training and qualifications could contribute to the development of national strategies under our unique “One Country Two Systems”, to explain the challenges faced by the legal profession in the rapidly changing legal landscape, and to suggest ways in which those challenges, with the support of the Central authorities, could be overcome.

The Law Society also actively supported overseas missions organised by the Government and official organisations to promote Hong Kong legal services to overseas investors. For instance, our representatives joined promotional delegations to Saudi Arabia in March, the Middle East in May, Shenzhen and Foshan in August, Vietnam and Malaysia in September and South Africa and Egypt in October.

Mainland and overseas counterparts

The Law Society has also been actively nurturing connections with overseas and Mainland counterparts. A strong international network strengthens Hong Kong's global presence and its position as an international legal service hub.

Not only did The Law Society send representatives to attend international events and conferences organised by overseas and Mainland counterparts throughout the year (including, for instance, Ceremonies for the Opening of Legal Year in Singapore, Malaysia, Sabah & Sarawak, England and Wales, and Paris; annual conferences of international legal organisations like the IBA, IPBA, CLA, AIJA, LAWASIA, etc), but it also hosted the 34th Summit of Presidents of Law Associations in Asia ("POLA") in June, the Cross Strait Four Regions Young Lawyers Forum in September, the 7th Belt and Road Conference in November in Hong Kong, as well as seminars and professional exchange sessions in Guangzhou in March, Chongqing in April and Zhuhai in August.

Furthermore, The Law Society signed Memoranda of Understanding ("MOUs") with 10 more professional bodies around the world during the year including the MOU with the Dubai International Financial Centre Courts in May, which was the first MOU that The Law Society signed with a Middle East Court. As of the end of the year, the number of MOUs that The Law Society had signed with lawyers' associations and international legal organisations around the world reached 107.

Local public

One of the key missions of The Law Society is to promote public legal literacy and enhance the public image of the legal profession.

In 2023, The Law Society and Radio Television Hong Kong jointly launched the inaugural series of a legal education radio programme series "The Nitty Gritty of Law". The programme offers insights into diverse legal topics and the roles of lawyers through chit-chats and light-hearted situational dramas.

Building on the success of the initial run, The Law Society worked on a second series in 2024, to be broadcast at the beginning of 2025 not only on radio but also on television and various online platforms.

NURTURE LEGAL TALENT FOR SUSTAINABILITY

It is important to invest in the long-term health and sustainability of the profession. This includes initiatives to attract and retain top talent, promote diversity and inclusion, and foster professional development opportunities. By nurturing the next generation of legal leaders, The Law Society aims to ensure the continued vitality of the legal industry as a whole.

The Law Society organised many activities during the year to promote a proper understanding of the law to students and the younger generation.

Teen Talk cross-boundary exchange

In July, our rule of law youth-education programme "Teen Talk" extended its reach beyond the city for the very first time. The Law Society organised a cross-boundary Greater Bay Area Study Tour for secondary school students from Hong Kong and Shenzhen. Such cross-regional education and exchange initiative serves to nurture a new generation of legal professionals who appreciate the differences between the two co-existing legal systems under "One Country, Two Systems" and are therefore able to leverage the strengths and contain the limitations.

Korean internship

The Law Society also sponsors young lawyers in participating in international conferences and organises exchange programmes with legal organisations in other jurisdictions. For example, in July, The Law Society organised a Korean Internship Programme jointly with the Korean Ministry of Justice and the Korean Bar Association, comprising two-week internship training in law firms in Hong Kong for Korean law students and young lawyers.

Mainland lectures

The Law Society also put in much effort in promoting common law to students on the Mainland. In November, two new law courses entitled "International Commercial Dispute Resolution and Arbitration" for the School of Foreign-related Law of East China University of Political Science and Law, and "International Commercial Arbitration Practice" for the Renmin University of China were held in Shanghai and Beijing respectively.

Common Law Centre

In addition, the Hong Kong Academy of Law, under the auspices of The Law Society, has been working on the proposed establishment of a Common Law Centre to promote the common law system and to collaborate with other organisations including universities on the Mainland and other non-common law jurisdictions on common law training. The Common Law Centre is expected to be up and running by the beginning of 2025.

All in all, 2024 has been an eventful year for The Law Society. I would like to thank my fellow Council members and Law Society members for their unwavering support, and the Secretariat for their dedication and hard work. Together, we will continue to uphold the independence and integrity of the legal profession and implement effectively the policies and initiatives set by the Council, always aspiring to remain a strong representative voice of the profession, to give back to the broader Hong Kong community and to contribute to the development of our mother country.



Roden M.L. TONG
President



2024 has been a year of renewed energy and vibrancy, fueled by a collective determination to reclaim the opportunities that the prolonged COVID-19 pandemic had halted.

The year also stands testament to the team's extraordinary resilience and unwavering dedication to adapt and to move forward with the changing times.

The summary below sets out major quantifiable tasks we performed for our members throughout the year, under the guidance of the Council and Committees:

- (a) organised over 54 social and networking events for members, including Members and Family Fun Day, Swimming Gala, MBC Thirsty Thursday Series, Annual Christmas Party, Children's Programme, and two wellness seminars, among many others;
- (b) coordinated six community projects, including Law Week, Teen Talk, school talks, community talks, legal forum and participation in Hong Kong Book Fair 2024, which included 150 talks to schools and the wider community covering over 35,000 participants, out of whom approximately a total of 3,000 students and general participants were attracted to the "GBA Study Tour" under Teen Talk 2024 and The Law Society's participation in Hong Kong Book Fair 2024;
- (c) met with two local delegations and seven Consuls General in Hong Kong, and organised 63 physical and virtual meetings with delegations from the Greater China region and overseas jurisdictions;
- (d) coordinated and organised 26 events, including 23 physical, virtual and hybrid events for counterparts in the Greater China region and overseas jurisdictions and three law courses for the Peking University Law School; the School of Foreign-related Law of East China University of Political Science and Law, and the Renmin University of China respectively;
- (e) attended 92 physical, virtual and hybrid events and meetings organised by counterparts in the Greater China region and overseas jurisdictions;
- (f) signed four Memoranda of Understanding with ten professional organisations, namely Zhuhai Lawyers Association (January), Jiangsu Lawyers Association (May), Dubai International Financial Centre Courts (May), Suzhou Lawyers Association (May), Taoyuan Bar Association (July), East China University of Political Science and Law (July), Vietnam Bar Federation (October), Egyptian Bar Association (October), Xinjiang Lawyers Association (November) and China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission (December);
- (g) issued over 15 submissions on public consultations and seven press statements on issues relevant to the legal profession;
- (h) organised 295 training courses, attended by 26,685 participants, under the Continuing Professional Development ("CPD") Scheme and the Risk Management Education ("RME") Programme;
- (i) administered the annual Overseas Lawyers Qualification Examination ("OLQE") for a total of 267 candidates;
- (j) coordinated over 620 activities of the 14 sports teams and nine recreational groups of The Law Society including competitions, classes and training sessions;
- (k) processed applications for (i) the subscription of 13,387 members, 16 associate members and 337 student members, (ii) the registration of 639 trainee solicitor contracts, (iii) the admission of 655 solicitors, (iv) the issue of 11,758 bilingual practising certificates, (v) the registration of 1,695 foreign lawyers and 85 foreign firms, (vi) the issue of 1,405 certificates of standing for solicitors/foreign lawyers and 34 for solicitors' firms and foreign law firms, (vii) the issue of 149 letters regarding employment or training visas, and (viii) 3,282 will searches;
- (l) accredited 4,139 CPD training courses and 124 other CPD activities as well as 115 RME courses and three other RME activities;
- (m) reviewed 1,570 Statements of Compliance with CPD/RME requirements completed by solicitors and conducted CPD audits on 591 practitioners;

- (n) handled 972 complaints against practitioners and employees of law firms; and
- (o) visited 48 law firms on 88 occasions to provide assistance with their accounting procedures and inspect documents to ensure compliance with the *Solicitors' Accounts Rules* (Cap.159F).

Much of our work, however, is less quantifiable. Detailed accounts of other projects and initiatives we undertook in 2024 are set out in other sections of this Annual Report.

MEMBERSHIP MOVEMENTS AND BREAKDOWN

The Law Society's membership increased by 1.2% from 13,234 in 2023 to 13,387 as of the end of 2024. The growth rate was lower than the average rate of 3.3% for the five-year period from 2019 to 2023. Out of our 13,387 members, 11,758 held a practising certificate, representing a 1.5% increase from 11,589 in 2023.

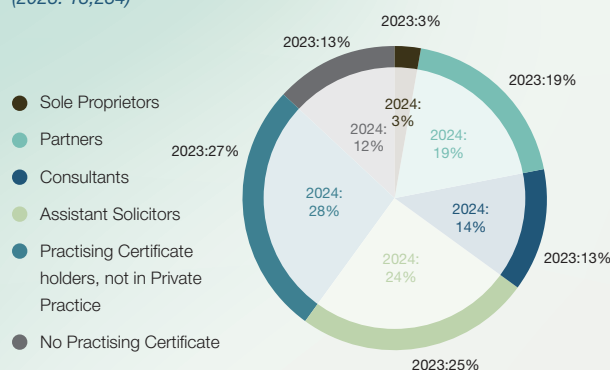
The charts on the right provide a snapshot of the distribution of our membership in terms of their practice, seniority and gender as of the end of 2024.

Historically, the number of male practising certificate holders had always exceeded that of female holders. In 2021, the ratio reversed for the first time, with 51% of female practising certificate holders and 49% of male holders. In 2023, the gap widened from 2% to 4%, with 52% being female practising certificate holders and 48% being male holders. The gap remained at 4% for 2024.

During the year, 30 new Hong Kong law firms (23 in 2023) and 15 new foreign law firms (two in 2023) commenced practice. On the other hand, 34 Hong Kong law firms (28 in 2023) and four foreign law firms (five in 2023) ceased practice. The number of foreign lawyers increased by 4.5% from 1,476 (from 32 jurisdictions) in 2023 to 1,542 (from 31 jurisdictions) in 2024. The top three jurisdictions where the most foreign lawyers registered as their home jurisdictions in 2024 were the United States (34%), Mainland China (28.2%) and England and Wales (15.6%). Compared to 2023, there was a decrease of 4.4% and 0.3% in the share of US firms and English firms respectively, and an increase of 6.3% in the share of Mainland firms in 2024.

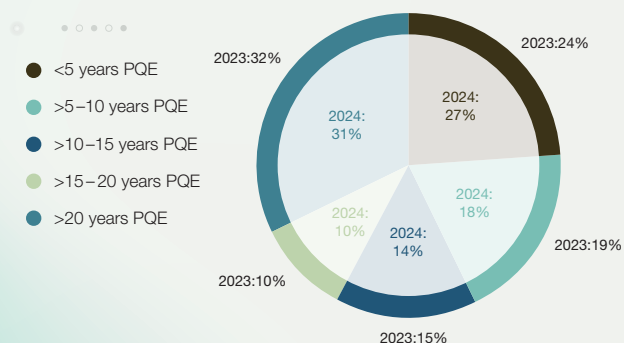
Nature of Practice 13,387

Solicitor Members in total
(2023: 13,234)



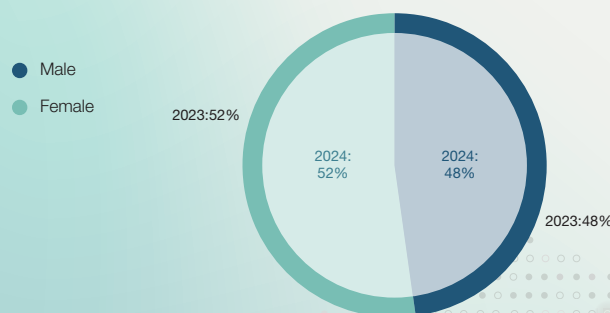
Seniority 11,758

Practising Certificate Holders
(2023: 11,589)



Gender 11,758

Practising Certificate Holders
(2023: 11,589)



The number of foreign law firms increased by 14.9% from 74 (from 19 jurisdictions) in 2023 to 85 (from 21 jurisdictions) in 2024. The top three jurisdictions where the most foreign law firms registered as their home jurisdictions in 2024 were Mainland China (38.3%, compared to 33.7% in 2023), the British Virgin Islands (10.6%, compared to 10.8% in 2023) and the Cayman Islands (9.6%, same as in 2023).

With the implementation of the *Legal Practitioners (Amendment) Ordinance 2012* introducing limited liability partnerships (“LLPs”) for law firms in Hong Kong since 1 March 2016 up to the end of 2024, a total of 101 law firms took advantage of the provisions and became LLPs, out of which nine were formed during 2024. Of these 101 LLPs, 19 ceased practice between 2017 and 2023 and five in 2024. Of the remaining 82 LLPs as of the end of 2024 (representing 8% of the total number of local and foreign law firms), 15 were foreign firms and 67 were local firms. LLPs afford limited liability protection to innocent partners pursuant to the provisions of the above Ordinance.

The jurisdiction of The Law Society Council extends to the conduct not only of a person who is, or was at the relevant time, a solicitor, a foreign lawyer or a trainee solicitor, but also of an employee of a solicitor or foreign lawyer. As of the end of 2024, 14,403 unqualified persons were employed by Hong Kong law firms and 665 by foreign law firms, decreasing by 2.5% for Hong Kong law firms and increasing by 1.1% for foreign law firms compared to 2023.

FINANCIAL POSITION

The Law Society recorded a surplus after tax of HK\$57.8 million for the year, compared to a surplus after tax of HK\$52.8 million in 2023.

Income

The major sources of income included fees for membership, solicitors’ practising certificates, foreign lawyers’ registration and miscellaneous applications. The income for the year was about HK\$217.8 million, representing an increase of about 16.2% from HK\$187.5 million in 2023.

The Law Society is empowered under the *LPO* to intervene in the practice of a law firm for protection of the interests of the clients of the firm and the public. Typically in an intervention, through its intervention agent, The Law Society takes control of the office and clients’ money of the intervened firm, makes arrangements for clients of the intervened firm to engage alternative solicitors and takes possession of the intervened firm’s documents. Subject to any court order for the payment of costs, any intervention costs incurred by The Law Society shall be paid by the solicitors whose practice is intervened.

The increase in income for 2024 was mainly attributable to the reimbursement of intervention costs of HK\$26.5 million received by The Law Society. Other factors included the increase in bank interest income by 23.9%, and OLQE application fees by 151.1% and registration fees by 123.3% in 2024, compared to 2023.

Expenditure

Expenditure increased by 15.1% from about HK\$131 million in 2023 to about HK\$151 million in 2024.

The increase in expenditure was mainly due to the effort made to strengthen the physical presence of The Law Society in international events, which aligns with the national strategy of enhancing Hong Kong’s influence in the international arena. Further, The Law Society was honoured to be the host of the POLA Summit, an important annual international event, in Hong Kong in June. In addition, to cultivate deeper understanding of the needs of our members and to foster a closer relationship with other stakeholders, The Law Society also increased the scale and frequency of networking events and professional activities.

To ensure that The Law Society has sufficient reserves to meet the necessary costs that may be incurred in carrying out its statutory regulatory functions, the Council has built up a special reserve for regulatory costs. Every year, the Council reviews the situation and decides if an amount is to be set aside for the reserve. In 2024, noting that the reserve had already accumulated HK\$70 million, the Council decided that no contribution be made to the reserve for 2025.

Taking into account the surplus of HK\$57.8 million for the year, the accumulated surplus (inclusive of the reserve) amounted to HK\$344.2 million with net current assets at about HK\$239.6 million.

Compared to 2023, our cash position as of the end of 2024 was about HK\$364 million, increasing by 21.4% from about HK\$300 million in 2023. The Law Society managed its cash reserves prudently and maintained them in fixed deposits spread among nine banks with no more than 22% of the total cash reserves in any one bank.

Liquidity is closely monitored to ensure sufficient resources to meet the operating needs of The Law Society and to maximise interest earnings. As of the end of 2024, about 92% of the total cash reserves were maintained with banks with maturity within three months. Details of the exposure to financial risks including credit, liquidity and interest rate risks and the policies and practices adopted to manage these risks are set out in Notes 16(a) to (c) of the Financial Statements on page 113.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The Law Society is committed to ensuring that its services and internal operations are carried out in an environmentally responsible manner.

The Law Society publishes a monthly journal, *Hong Kong Lawyer*. The journal is freely available in digital format. Members are notified of the journal's publication by weekly Circulars with the provision of a link to the online journal. In response to a readers' survey conducted by the *Hong Kong Lawyer* Editorial Board in 2023, which highlighted a strong demand for the return of print versions, The Law Society has been exploring ways to meet members' requests while remaining environmentally responsible. Starting from November, a limited number of the journal in print form, produced with environmentally friendly paper, are available for members' subscription at a nominal fee. For other publications of The Law Society such as weekly Circulars and the Law List, only electronic versions are available.

For The Law Society's Annual Report, an opt-in mechanism is adopted. A member who wishes to receive a printed version of the Annual Report may change the default option from "No" to "Yes" in the Members' Zone of The Law Society website.

Further, to facilitate electronic communication with all members, The Law Society has installed a webmail system by which every solicitor, trainee solicitor, registered foreign lawyer, associate member and student member is assigned a Law Society email account. The Law Society actively encourages members to take advantage of this facility. All communications from The Law Society to the general membership including surveys are sent electronically to members' Law Society correspondence email accounts.

Internally, measures to protect the environment are stipulated in The Law Society's staff manual. Staff are reminded to:

- (a) consider carefully whether there is a need to copy or print a document, and if there is, it should be done in the double-sided mode;
- (b) recycle and reuse envelopes and draft paper; and
- (c) switch off all lights, electrical equipment and appliances before leaving the office.

Staff are urged to recycle and reuse wherever possible and reminders to that effect are sent to staff by email regularly. There is a system in place to collect plastic and paper materials as well as toner and ink cartridges for recycling. Used envelopes are centrally stored for the staff to reuse.

Further, a column on "Love our Offices" has been introduced in the quarterly Staff Newsletter to remind colleagues to make efficient use of resources and energy and to minimise consumption of energy and paper. Comparison tables on paper consumption, electricity consumption and meter reading on print and copy for the past 12 months with the same period in the preceding two years are included in the column as a constant reminder of how the office has been doing in saving electricity and paper.

We fully support energy saving. We have participated in the "Energy Saving Charter" of the Environment and Ecology Bureau and received the Awards for Environmental Excellence by the Environmental Campaign Committee. We have renewed our pledge for 2024/2025 to maintain an average indoor temperature between 24°C and 26°C from June 2024 to September 2025, switch off electrical appliances and systems when not in use, and procure energy-efficient electrical appliances and systems.

The Law Society office and the Legal Hub successfully saved consumption of electricity by 2.57% and 2.75% respectively during the year, compared to 2023.

ABOUT OUR TEAM

Excellence, transparency, empathy and fairness are the guiding values embraced by our team in the Secretariat in every task we undertake and every service we offer. We implement the policies approved by the Council and provide support to the work of the committees.

To cope with the heavy workload in the Secretariat, six headcounts were added during 2024 and our total headcount for permanent staff stood at 136 at the end of the year. On personnel movement, the Secretariat had an overall turnover rate of 34.7% in 2024, compared to 23.3% in 2023.

Ms Gigi Liu joined us as Director of Professional Indemnity Scheme, Ms Alsace Chu as Assistant Director, Compliance, Ms Christine Choi as Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs and Ms Grace Lo as Assistant Director, Communications & External Affairs and Member Services. Ms Wendy Lee was appointed as Deputy Secretary General (Projects). Mr Eric Tse was promoted to Director of Communications & External Affairs and Member Services, Ms Kally Lam to Deputy Director of Practitioners Affairs and Ms Patrycja Kosci to Head of AML of the Standards and Development Department. Human capital is the most valuable asset of an organisation and we care a lot about retaining talent. During the year, seven members of our staff received long service awards in appreciation of their loyalty to The Law Society. Their years of service with us ranged from 10 to 30 years.

Staff functions organised during the year included team-building activities, monthly staff birthday parties and festive celebrations like Spring Dinner and Christmas Party. Staff seminars were conducted on a wide range of topics including environmental protection, cyber security, data privacy, anti-discrimination and harassment in workplace and managing changes. Staff recreational workshops on art, health and wellness were also held. In addition, an annual budget was set aside to sponsor staff training to enhance work-related knowledge and skills.

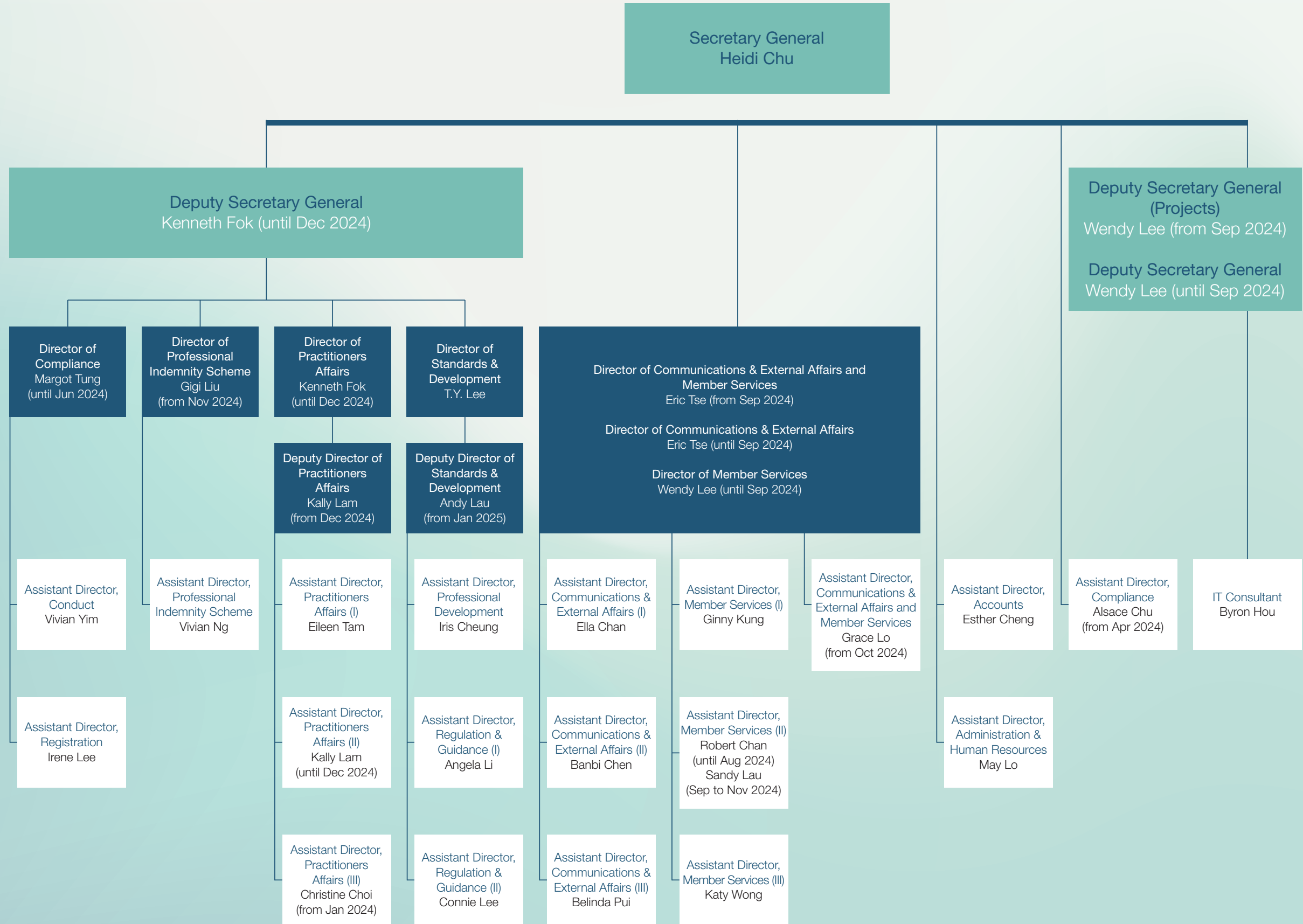
This concludes my 14th and last report as Secretary General. It has been a great honour to be trusted to lead The Law Society Secretariat. I am deeply grateful for the support and guidance generously given to me by everyone throughout my journey at The Law Society.

It has been a privilege for me to serve the legal profession.



Heidi CHU
Secretary General







SAFEGUARDING THE RULE OF LAW

One of the most important roles of The Law Society is to safeguard the rule of law and uphold the principles on which this core value is founded.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE

Judicial independence is a fundamental attribute of Hong Kong which is governed by the rule of law. The constitutional role of our judges and judicial officers is to apply only the law. Article 84 of the *Basic Law of the HKSAR* (“*Basic Law*”) expressly states that judges and judicial officers shall adjudicate cases in accordance with the law. Article 85 states that the courts of the HKSAR shall exercise judicial power independently, free from any interference. The Judicial Oath taken by all judges and judicial officers requires adherence to the law and safeguarding of the law without fear or favour.

The Law Society has full trust and confidence in the strength of our Judiciary in preserving its independence under “One Country, Two Systems” in accordance with the *Basic Law*. Our judges discharge their duties in full accordance with the law, honestly and with integrity, and safeguard the law and administer justice without fear, favour, self-interest or deceit.

Under the concept of “One Country, Two Systems” unique to Hong Kong, there is in place a distinguishing feature

in the constitution of Court of Final Appeal (“CFA”) as the final appellate court in Hong Kong: in addition to the Chief Justice and permanent judges, there is a panel of non-permanent judges (“NPJs”) from Hong Kong and other common law jurisdictions who are invited as necessary to sit on the CFA.

However, with the rising geopolitical tension, changes to the composition of the panel of NPJs as a result of retirement/resignation and appointment in the normal course have led to speculative commentaries about the rule of law situation in Hong Kong that could be misleading. On 11 June, The Law Society issued a statement upholding judicial integrity and independence. The Law Society expressed its gratitude to all current and former NPJs, who are all eminent judges from common law jurisdictions with the highest standing, for their faithful and fearless discharge of their important role in the administration of justice in accordance with the law. The Law Society further reiterated that their participation in the work of the CFA has made significant contributions and that The Law Society strongly supports the continuation of the role of the overseas NPJs in the administration of justice in Hong Kong as provided for in the *Basic Law*. The composition of the panel of overseas NPJs may vary over time, depending on the terms of appointment for individual NPJs. Notwithstanding changes in the composition, The Law Society Council has full confidence in the judicial system

and in the judicial officers appointed through the system from time to time in upholding the rule of law and judicial independence.

INDEPENDENCE OF LEGAL PROFESSION

All parties to a case are entitled to legal representation, and solicitors representing each party are subject to the same duty towards their own clients to ensure their respective rights and interests are properly protected. As such, solicitors play an important role in upholding the rule of law and the proper administration of justice for all, irrespective of a client’s race, colour, ethnic or national origins, sex or religious or political beliefs.

Any attempt to smear the reputation of law firms or lawyers and threaten their safety with violence because they happen to represent parties not to the liking of certain quarters is an affront to the rule of law and the independence of the legal profession.

In August, there were reports about widely circulated social media posts targeting immigration law firms for attack in England and Wales following the riots there. To uphold the independence of the legal profession, The Law Society immediately issued a public statement condemning any form of violence, wheresoever situate.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Article 23 of the *Basic Law* ("Article 23") stipulates that the HKSAR "shall enact laws on its own to prohibit any act of treason, secession, sedition, subversion against the Central People's Government, or theft of state secrets, to prohibit foreign political organisations or bodies from conducting political activities in the Region, and to prohibit political organisations or bodies of the Region from establishing ties with foreign political organisations or bodies."

The promulgation for implementation of the *Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in HKSAR* ("HKNSL") by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress on 30 June 2020 did not mean that the HKSAR's obligation to legislate under Article 23 could be set aside. In fact, Article 7 of HKNSL expressly requires the HKSAR to complete as early as possible legislation

for safeguarding national security as stipulated in the *Basic Law* and refine relevant laws.

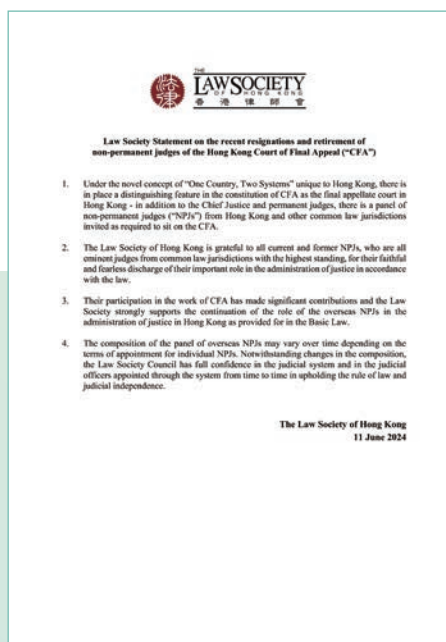
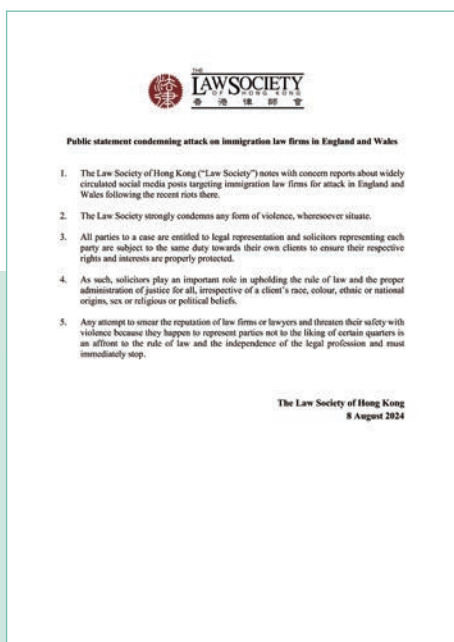
A public consultation document on Article 23 legislation was issued by the Government on 30 January. In response to the consultation, The Law Society made a written submission on 26 February reiterating that the protection of national security is fundamental and that it is necessary to enact legislation on Article 23. In the submission, The Law Society made several recommendations to the Government, for example, that the elements of offences relating to sedition be clearly defined, and that a "public interest" defence against state secrets offences be introduced.

On 8 March, the Government issued the *Safeguarding National Security Bill* ("SNS Bill"), which received its first and second readings on the same day of its gazettal. The debate of the SNS Bill at the

Legislative Council was adjourned for consideration by the Bills Committee, which finished its review on 13 March after 25 meetings. The SNS Bill was passed at a full Legislative Council meeting on 19 March and came into operation on 23 March.

Before the resumption of the second reading of the SNS Bill, The Law Society had a meeting with the Deputy Secretary for Justice, during which The Law Society's comments on the SNS Bill were conveyed including, for instance, the significance of legal professional privilege, rights of an accused during the detention periods, suspension of professional qualifications, freedom of speech and the power given to the Chief Executive in Council to make subsidiary legislation for the needs of safeguarding national security.

The Law Society is pleased that Hong Kong's constitutional responsibility has finally been fulfilled.



The Law Society issues public statements from time to time in upholding judicial integrity and independence

IMPROVING PRACTICE ENVIRONMENT

The fiercely competitive legal services market continues to pose many challenges to solicitors in practice. A key role of The Law Society is to ensure the sustainable development of the local practice environment so that the legal profession can remain strong, independent and effective and can continue to thrive.

REDUCTION OF OVERHEADS

Implementing measures to reduce overheads for law firms was a top priority of The Law Society this year.

One of the substantial overhead costs for operating a law firm is the mandatory contributions payable by the firm to the Hong Kong Solicitors Indemnity Fund ("Fund") under the Professional Indemnity Scheme ("PIS"). The amount of contribution is calculated in accordance with a statutory formula stipulated in the *Solicitors (Professional Indemnity) Rules* (Cap.159M) ("*PIS Rules*"). The Council had no discretion to deviate from the statutory formula until 2010 when the *PIS Rules* were amended to enable the Council to reduce the total amount of contributions due for the next indemnity year. Since then, with the assistance of professional actuarial projections, the Council has annually considered the projected Fund surplus for the following five years under different economic scenarios in conjunction with the Fund's loss history and investment

returns and decided if an adjustment to the contribution could be made. The PIS contributions payable by law firms were reduced by one-third in the indemnity years 2010/11, 2011/12, 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2017/18, 2018/19, 2021/22 and 2022/2023, by 50% in the indemnity year 2016/17, 2019/20 and 2023/24, and by 80% in the indemnity year 2020/21. In 2024, on the basis of the projections, the Council decided to exercise its power to reduce the contributions for the indemnity year 2024/25 by two-thirds. The amount of reduction provided to the profession since 2010/11 (including 2024/25) has totalled about HK\$2.71 billion.

PROMOTION OF LAWTECH

The legal profession has traditionally been considered a human-exclusive practice where machine automation had no meaningful role. However, the development of new technological tools has increasingly demonstrated technology's relevance and usefulness to legal service providers.

The Law Society has been helping members navigate this new world ethically and successfully. One of the ways is to collaborate with relevant stakeholders to promote the effective use of technology.

In October, in collaboration with Microsoft and its partner SoftwareOne

Hong Kong, The Law Society organised a workshop entitled "Unlocking the Potential of AI Power for Legal Professionals". It focused on the fundamentals of AI and its transformative applications in the legal field, aiming to equip members with the knowledge and skills needed to leverage AI technology in their practice to enhance efficiency and productivity. Approximately 100 legal practitioners participated in the session, which included real case sharing and discussions on AI tools.

The Law Society has also been helping with the promotion of the use of the integrated Court Case Management System (iCMS) launched by the Judiciary. The iCMS is a web-based e-system implemented in phases to streamline and standardise the electronic court processes across various levels of courts. The e-functions provided by the iCMS include, for example, commencing a new case, sending documents to an existing case, submitting case documents, creating summons and notices, conducting case enquiries, inspecting documents, making electronic payments, etc. The iCMS is implemented in two phases.

Under the first phase, the iCMS has been implemented in the District Court and the Magistrates' Courts since May and December 2022 respectively. The electronic mode can currently be used for personal injuries actions, tax claim proceedings, civil action proceedings

and employees' compensation cases in the District Court and summons cases in the Magistrates' Courts. Under the second phase, the iCMS has been extended to cover bulk claim cases of the Small Claims Tribunal starting from 31 October. The Judiciary plans to extend the use of the iCMS to the Court of Final Appeal, the High Court and the non-Summons Courts of the Magistrates' Courts incrementally from early 2025.

The Judiciary intends to start mandating the use of the iCMS starting from 2026 for all legally represented litigants in respect of case types where the electronic mode has been made available.

To raise the awareness of the iCMS and to familiarise potential users with handling court business in electronic mode, The Law Society assisted the

Judiciary with briefing-cum-hands-on demonstration sessions for law firms. From January to December, six demonstration sessions were held. The Law Society also assisted the Judiciary in inviting law firms to take part in pilot runs on iCMS functions. Around 43 law firms participated in the pilot runs and provided comments.



Workshop entitled "Unlocking the Potential of AI Power for Legal Professionals" in October



CONTRIBUTIONS TO LAW REFORMS

The Law Society, with the valuable input of the various specialist committees under the Standing Committee on Practitioners Affairs, has reflected the views of the solicitors' profession in consultations on law reforms.

In 2024, a total of 15 public submissions were made on a wide range of reforms which are set out below:

- (1) Consultation Paper on Proposed Amendments to the *Building Energy Efficiency Ordinance* (Cap.610)
- (2) Consultation Paper on Proposal on Severe Weather Trading of Hong Kong Securities and Derivatives Markets
- (3) Government Budget 2024-2025
- (4) Consultation Paper on Legislative Proposal to Implement the Regulatory Regime for Stablecoin Issuers in Hong Kong
- (5) *Basic Law* Article 23 Legislation
- (6) Public Consultation on Legislative Proposals to Regulate Over-the-Counter Trading of Virtual Assets
- (7) Public consultation on proposed subsidiary legislation under the *Copyright Ordinance* (Cap.528)
- (8) Joint further consultation on enhancements to the OTC derivatives reporting regime for Hong Kong to mandate (i) the use of Unique Transaction Identifier, (ii) the use of Unique Product Identifier, and (iii) the reporting of Critical Data Elements
- (9) Consultation on proposals to (i) introduce a statutory scheme of arrangement and compulsory acquisition mechanism for real estate investment trusts, and (ii) enhance the SFO market conduct regime for listed collective investment schemes



The Law Society makes public submissions on a wide range of reforms.

- (10) Consultation Paper on Review of Corporate Governance Code and Related Listing Rules
- (11) Public Consultation on Copyright and Artificial Intelligence
- (12) Consultation on Proposed Amendments to the *Private Columbaria Ordinance* (Cap.630)
- (13) 2024 Policy Address
- (14) Consultation on Proposed Amendments to the *Companies (Exemption of Companies and Prospectuses from Compliance with Provisions) Notice* (Cap.32L) regarding Mixed Media Offers

- (15) Consultation on Proposals to Further Expand the Paperless Listing Regime and Other Rule Amendments

SOLICITOR CORPORATION

Law firms in Hong Kong typically operate in the form of a sole proprietorship or a partnership. Partnership can be a general partnership or a limited liability partnership.

Solicitor corporation is an additional mode of operation. A solicitor corporation is a solicitors' firm incorporated as a limited liability

company to carry on the business and practice of solicitors. As the retainer is made between the client and the solicitor corporation, a claim against the solicitor corporation for breach of contract or tort would be limited to the paid-up capital of the solicitor corporation.

The Law Society has been working on the legislative amendments for the introduction of this additional mode of operation for solicitors. The bilingual texts of the draft *Solicitor Corporation Rules*, *Foreign Lawyer Corporation Rules* and all other relevant Amendment Rules have been sent to the Judiciary for final approval.

MAINTAINING THE HIGHEST STANDARDS

The solicitors' profession is self-regulatory. The Council of The Law Society is obliged to ensure the establishment and promotion of high standards of work within the profession, which includes encouraging legal practitioners to keep on studying and acquiring legal knowledge and skills.

NURTURING LIFELONG LEARNING

The Law Society has implemented the CPD Scheme since 1998 and the RME Programme since 2004. The CPD Scheme aims at providing a convenient framework for legal professionals to acquire new legal knowledge and skills so that the profession as a whole can continue to meet the ever-increasing demands of clients and society. The RME Programme aims at raising awareness of risk issues and promoting good risk management practices among legal practitioners.

The CPD Scheme provides a wide variety of courses to cater for the extensive needs of practitioners. In 2024, the Scheme organised courses under the following categories:

- (a) Courses on new or amended legislation and legal developments — for example, Briefing Session on Web Version of e-Memorial Form of the Land Registry;

Extension of Government Leases Ordinance in force — Streamlined Lease Extension Procedures
Facilitating Public and Businesses;

- (b) Updates on existing law and practice — for example, Recent Developments in Insolvency and Receivership; Recent Developments in Hong Kong Family Law Practice in the Greater Bay Area (GBA) and Update on Recent Cases; Update on Contract Cases 2024; Update on Handling Investigation in the Digital Era: Cybercrime and Virtual Assets; Update on Conveyancing Cases; Update on Intestate Succession; Update on Testate Succession; Property Law Cases 2024; Update on the Legal Aid Schemes; Update on Hong Kong Competition Law; Arbitration Law Update: Insolvency, Illegality, and Conflicting Arbitration Clauses; New Refresher Course on Property Management;

- (c) General courses on various areas of practice including Legal Tech, Company and Commercial Law, Practice Management, Professional Indemnity, Criminal Law, Professional Ethics, Building and Property Management, Anti-Money Laundering, Mediation, Mental Health Law, Mental Capacity Law of Hong Kong — Capacity Assessment, Personal Injury,

Family Law, Wills and Probate, Trust Law, Wealth Planning, Anti-Discrimination Law.

For the RME Programme, apart from the standard courses in the core programmes for principals, non-principals, trainees and registered foreign lawyers and a wide range of electives regularly offered throughout the year, special courses on RME were also organised from time to time during the year. They included, for example, Client & Third Party Engagement; Dispute Resolution Clauses in Cross Border Contracts; Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Issues for Law Firms; Privilege: Get it Right or Get it Very Wrong; Conflict of Interest for Solicitors; Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing Laws and Regulation; Anti-Money Laundering Update; What Every Lawyer Needs to Know about His/Her Anti-Money Laundering Obligations; The Firm's Risk Management; Data Protection and Direct Marketing; Property-Fraud Related Claims Against Solicitors; Managing Risks In Your Practice; Data Protection, Privacy and Cybersecurity; Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Terrorist Financing Compliance.

In 2024, The Law Society accredited 4,139 CPD courses, of which five courses were provided by The Law Society and 290 by the Academy of Law, and 206 were also RME

accredited. Of the total of 295 CPD and RME courses organised by The Law Society and the Academy of Law during the year, eight were conducted in Chinese and the remainder in English. These 295 courses attracted an attendance of approximately 26,685 participants.

Knowing the need for busy practitioners to have a variety of means by which they can comply with the CPD requirements, The Law Society permits and encourages methods of learning other than attendance at traditional lecture-based courses. During the year, The Law Society accredited four legal journals and books and 119 legal research projects for CPD purposes.

There were 59 accredited CPD providers under The Law Society's Provider Accreditation Scheme as of the end of 2024. The Law Society monitors the standard of accredited CPD courses by reviewing course evaluation records and attending selected accredited courses. 19 courses were monitored during the year.

The Law Society encourages the sharing of knowledge among fellow practitioners. 14 law firms accredited as RME elective course providers offered 14 RME electives to the general membership of The Law Society, in addition to the 82 RME electives that they offered in-house to their own law firm members.

GATEKEEPER OF ADMISSION STANDARDS

The Law Society is empowered under section 4 of the *LPO* to prescribe the requirements for admission as solicitors of Hong Kong. Solicitors are the backbone of society tasked with the important responsibility of ensuring the fair administration of justice, and The Law Society has a statutory duty to prescribe admission requirements to ensure those who enter the solicitors' profession are of the highest standards.

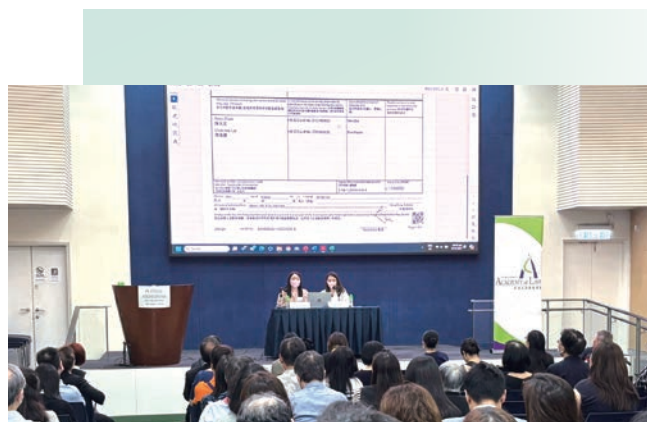
There are two routes to admission as a solicitor of Hong Kong, namely the trainee solicitor route and the overseas lawyers qualification route.

In respect of the overseas lawyers qualification route, The Law Society is responsible for administering the Overseas Lawyers Qualifying Examination ("OLQE") which has been held annually since its launch in 1995. In 2024, The Law Society administered the 30th OLQE. 267 candidates from 19 jurisdictions including Hong Kong (10 were common law jurisdictions and 9 were non-common law jurisdictions) sat the OLQE. One candidate was a Hong Kong barrister. The overall pass rate was 39%.

For the trainee solicitor route, prior to entering into a trainee solicitor contract, a person is currently required to complete the Postgraduate Certificate in Laws ("PCLL") programme provided by one of the three law schools in Hong Kong. Under rule 7 of the *Trainee Solicitors Rules* (Cap.159J), The Law Society is also empowered to set and/or approve an examination, as an alternative to PCLL, for anyone wishing to enter into a trainee solicitor contract.



"Sharing Session with Law Firm Interns" in July



Briefing Session on "Web Version of e-Memorial Form of the Land Registry" in May



"Academy of Law Lecturer Recruitment Campaign Information Session on Mainland University Lecture Series" in August

During the year, The Law Society considered proposals on the examinations required, set or approved under rule 7(a) of the Trainee Solicitors Rules and liaised with the stakeholders on the Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training on its proposals to introduce these qualifying examinations. The Law Society continued to monitor the implementation of the Protocol on the role of External Examiners and other aspects of the PCLL introduced in July 2021. The same External Examiners on the same or similar subjects across all three law schools and the same representatives on the governing bodies of the three law schools have been appointed.

In addition, CPD audit was conducted on 521 trainee solicitors.

ENSURING COMPLIANCE WITH RULES AND REGULATIONS

As a legal service hub in Asia, Hong Kong is blessed with legal talent from around the world. As of the end of 2024, there were 85 foreign law firms and 1,542 registered foreign lawyers from 31 overseas jurisdictions. For the protection of the public, foreign law firms and foreign lawyers who are qualified to practise the laws of their overseas jurisdictions of admission are prohibited from practising Hong Kong law.

The Investigation Counsel conducted 20 visits to 11 law firms during the year. In addition, two court inspections were conducted by inspectors at magistrates' courts. For these court inspections, the Council appointed inspectors to verify compliance with rule 5D of the *Solicitors' Practice Rules* (Cap.159H) and to monitor the proper completion of court attendance forms.

The Monitoring Accountants visit law firms to assist them in improving their accounting procedures/systems, give advice on the best use of the Manual on Solicitors' Accounting, and inspect their books and accounts to ensure their compliance with the rules relating to solicitors' accounting. In 2024, 88 visits were made to 48 solicitors' firms and foreign law firms; some firms required more than one visit.

A Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal is a statutory tribunal established by the *LPO*. It is independent of The Law Society which is the prosecuting body. Members of the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal Panel are appointed by the Chief Justice. The Chief Justice also appoints the Tribunal Convenor and the Deputy Tribunal Convenors who are responsible for appointing a panel of three or four members to sit as a Tribunal to determine applications, and who have the power to summarily dispose of certain classes of complaints.

In 2024, a total of nine matters were submitted to the Tribunal Convenor, and four disciplinary proceedings were determined by the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal, of which one was subject to appeal.

The Law Society is empowered under the *LPO* to intervene in the practice of a law firm to protect the interests of the firm's clients and the public. No intervention was conducted by The Law Society in 2024.

ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING ("AML") EFFORT

The Law Society has been actively engaged in the preparation of the 3rd Hong Kong Money Laundering/Terrorist Financing Risk Assessment Report coordinated by the HKSAR Government. The Risk Assessment Report covers the

period from 2021 to 2023 and examines the money laundering ("ML"), terrorist financing ("TF") and proliferation financing ("PF") threats and vulnerabilities across various sectors, including the legal sector, in Hong Kong. The risk assessment is crucial for identifying areas of risks associated with ML, TF and PF and implementing effective measures to mitigate these risks to ensure the integrity and security of Hong Kong's financial system.

During the year, The Law Society put significant effort into completing various worksheets and risk assessments that outline the ML/TF and PF threats and vulnerabilities specific to the legal sector, as well as the regulatory and control mechanisms established by The Law Society to mitigate those risks.

The Law Society also continued its efforts to develop a framework and methodology for a targeted supervisory

approach that addresses the specific risks and demographics of the legal profession in Hong Kong. This is an ongoing project which aims to refine AML risk-based supervision so as to ensure that it addresses the unique challenges and requirements of the legal sector.

Furthermore, The Law Society conducted two AML seminars for legal practitioners on 4 July and 5 December, attracting a total of 1,322 participants. Five AML courses under The Law Society's RME Programme were also held, attracting 1,982 participants in total.



Seminar on "RME Elective — Risk Management and Pitfalls in Mental Health Law Practice" in October

EXPLORING NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Exploring new business opportunities for members is one of The Law Society's major tasks.

The Law Society seizes every possible opportunity to promote legal and dispute resolution services of Hong Kong to the local and international communities by actively participating in various international and Greater China events physically and virtually. In 2024, these events included:

PROMOTION THROUGH PHYSICAL PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

- Opening of the Legal Year 2024 in Singapore in January;
- Opening of the Legal Year 2024 in Malaysia in January;
- Opening of the Legal Year 2024 in Sabah & Sarawak in January;
- The Borneo Rainforest Law Conference in Sabah in February;
- IPBA Regional Conference in Hong Kong in March;
- Deputy Secretary for Justice-led visit to Riyadh in March;
- Unveiling Ceremony for Guangzhou Lawyers Association Foreign-related Legal Services Chapter in Guangzhou in March;
- 32nd IPBA Annual Meeting and Conference in Tokyo in April;
- Networking Luncheon jointly organised by The Law Society of Hong Kong and Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Tokyo) in Tokyo in April;
- 26th International Council for Commercial Arbitration Congress in Hong Kong in May;
- Professional Indemnity for Law Societies Forum in Kuala Lumpur in May;
- Macau Lawyers' Day and Seminar on "Retrospectives and Prospects of the Legal Profession on the 25th Anniversary of Macau's Return" in Macau in May;
- Secretary for Justice-led delegation to the Middle East in May;
- Suzhou Legal Service Industry High Quality Development Promotion Conference in Qianhai in May;
- 34th POLA Summit in Hong Kong in June;
- Peking University Law School Graduation Ceremony in Beijing in June;
- Korean Internship Programme 2024 in Hong Kong in late July to early August;
- Resolve2Win — Legal Services of Hong Kong, Opportunities for All in Shenzhen and Foshan in August;
- Straits Law Forum in Fuzhou in August;
- SmartHK in Nanjing in August;
- The 4th Guangdong Hong Kong Macau Greater Bay Area (Guangdong) Enterprise Legal Services Forum in Zhuhai in August;
- Visit to Xinjiang counterparts and other legally related organisations in September;
- 62nd AIJA Congress in Madrid in September;
- AAIL Delegation to Bangkok in September;
- Belt and Road Summit 2024 co-organised by the HKSAR Government and HKTDC in Hong Kong in September;
- HKTDC Belt and Road Global Forum Annual Roundtable in Hong Kong in September;
- IBA Annual Conference 2024 in Mexico City in September;
- The 27th Beijing-Hong Kong Fair "Professional Services" Xicheng District Special Event in Beijing in September;
- Secretary for Justice-led delegation to Vietnam and Malaysia in September;
- The 33rd Symposium on Exploring Cutting-edge Issues on the Construction of Rule of Law in the Greater Bay Area and Signing Ceremony for Cooperation of on Nurturing of China-related Cross-border Legal Talents in Qianhai in September;
- Opening of the Legal Year 2024 in England and Wales in late September to early October;
- Student Event jointly organised by The Law Society of Hong Kong and Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (London) in London in October;

- 37th LAWASIA Conference in Kuala Lumpur in October;
- “Innovation Leads, Win-Win Future” Pudong Summit on Shanghai-Hong Kong Cooperation in Shanghai in October;
- Practical Training Course for Mediators of the Hengqin International Commercial Mediation Centre in Hengqin in October;
- 2024 Hainan Free Trade Port Legal Week in Hainan in October;
- Chinese-speaking Lawyers Convention 2024 in Qianhai in October;
- Establishment of the East China University of Political Science and Law (Common Law) in October;
- International Conference of Legal Regulators 2024 in Melbourne in October;
- AALCO-HKRAC South Africa-Egypt Mission Trip in October;
- 68th UIA Congress in Paris in late October to early November;
- Opening of the Legal Year 2024 in Paris in November;
- Visit to Guangzhou and Shenzhen by the Secretary for Justice and foreign-related legal talents from Hong Kong in December;
- IPBA Cocktail Reception in Hong Kong in December;
- Opening Ceremony of the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre Beijing Office in Beijing in December; and
- The Second Hainan-Hong Kong Dispute Resolution Dialogue Meeting in Hainan in December.



32nd IPBA Annual Meeting and Conference in Tokyo in April



14th Joint Meeting for Lawyers' Associations in the Greater Bay Area in December



Opening of the Legal Year 2024 in England and Wales in late September to early October



International Conference of Legal Regulators 2024 in Melbourne in October

PROMOTION THROUGH VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

- Inaugural Meeting and Installation of the “Legal G20” organised by Brazilian Bar Association in April;
- Commonwealth Lawyers Association—“AI and Ethics in Access to Justice” Webinar in May;
- IBA Impact Project Video Call in July; and
- UIA Capsule for Bar Leaders: “What Bar Associations need to know to train their lawyers on Data Protection, Cybersecurity, and AI” Webinar in September.

These duty visits have not only enabled The Law Society to keep abreast of the latest developments in the global legal arena, but have also presented opportunities for The Law Society representatives to update the international community on the legal landscape of Hong Kong. It is important for The Law Society to reach out and provide an objective first-hand factual account of the situation in Hong Kong in respect of continuously upholding the rule of law and judicial independence as well as safeguarding rights and freedoms.

PROMOTION THROUGH ORGANISING INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Hosted by The Law Society, the 34th Summit of Presidents of Law Associations in Asia (“POLA”) was successfully held in Hong Kong from 6 to 8 June. Themed “Sustainability of the Legal Profession Globally”, the Summit was attended by over 50 presidents, chairmen and head delegates from more than 20 lawyers’ associations and international legal organisations across the Asia-Pacific region, as well as leading local legal professionals.

POLA, established in 1990, comprises presidents of lawyers’ associations from across the Asia-Pacific region. The POLA Summit, hosted each year by a different POLA member organisation, is the principal platform where POLA delegates exchange updates in the legal landscape, discuss common issues and explore collaborative opportunities for the benefit of the legal profession. This significant international legal event returned to Hong Kong for the third time after the successful hosting by The Law Society in 1994 and 2003. This is a strong vote of confidence in Hong Kong as an international legal hub.

The Law Society also continued its work in enhancing the role of Hong Kong legal professionals under the Belt and Road Initiative and the development of the Greater Bay Area (“GBA”).

The Law Society has held an annual international Belt and Road Conference in Hong Kong since 2017, dedicated to exploring opportunities and discussing solutions to the challenges brought about by the Belt and Road Initiative for the legal profession.

Building on the success of the previous Conferences, and in commemoration of the Belt and Road Initiative entering its next decade, The Law Society’s 7th Belt and Road Conference was held on 21 November. The event attracted registration by over 500 participants from various sectors from 32 jurisdictions, including 23 representatives of Consulates-General, Honorary Consulates and other official bodies. Themed “Legal Professionals Joining Efforts in Advancing Eight Major Steps to Build High Quality Belt and Road Cooperation”, the Conference scrutinised, from various professional perspectives, how legal professionals could pragmatically incarnate multi-dimensional connectivity and bolster cooperation among the Belt and Road nations.

As the regulator of solicitors in Hong Kong, The Law Society acknowledges that artificial intelligence (“AI”) creates both breakthrough opportunities and significant challenges for the legal profession. We were pleased to have 16 legal organisations from 10 jurisdictions joining our Manifesto titled “The Legal Ethical Code of Conduct Regarding the Deployment of AI”, which emphasises the importance of responsible and ethical AI practices in the legal profession and outlines guiding principles for the development and deployment of AI technologies in this field.



7th Belt and Road Conference in November



GBA Express — Guangzhou in March

COLLABORATIONS IN THE GREATER CHINA REGION

The Law Society actively pursues new business opportunities for members through organising and/or participating in physical events on the Mainland. In addition, The Law Society remains committed to collaborating with its Mainland counterparts in promoting national strategies, particularly on the development of the GBA.

To promote exchanges on legal issues with Mainland counterparts and explore cross-boundary cooperation opportunities for its members, The Law Society organised the second and third events under the “GBA Express” event series in 2024, which took place in Guangzhou on 22 March 2024 and in Zhuhai 30 August 2024. In particular, more than 50 Law Society members joined the one-day event to Guangzhou, while more than 30 attended the GBA Express event in Zhuhai.

Under the “Joint Meeting System for Lawyers’ Associations in the GBA” established by The Law Society and lawyers’ associations in the GBA in 2018, The Law Society took its turn and acted as the secretariat of the Joint Meeting System responsible for the coordinating and liaising with lawyers’ associations in Guangdong and Macau during the year. The 13th and 14th joint meetings took place on 15 June in Guangzhou and 18 December in Hong Kong respectively.

In addition, The Law Society actively engaged with stakeholders to facilitate improvements on GBA lawyers’ practice and encouraged members to pursue cross-border collaborations. A sharing session was conducted on 29 June to help members prepare for the GBA Legal Professional Examination.

In April, the Chongqing Municipal Justice Bureau released the “Implementation Measures for Partnership Associations in Chongqing between Mainland Law Firms and Law Firms from the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and

Macau Special Administrative Region”. In light of this development, the “Matching and Exchange Session for Chongqing-Hong Kong Partnership Associations and Collaborations” co-organised by The Law Society and Chongqing Lawyers Association was successfully held on 25 September. The event attracted around 35 participants from six Hong Kong law firms and 18 Chongqing law firms.

In July, The Law Society published the “First Phase Report on Survey of the Current Situation of Hong Kong Legal Practitioners under the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area”, which was funded by the Hong Kong SAR Government’s “Professional Services Advancement Support Scheme”. In light of the release of this research report, a legal seminar was organised under the theme “Navigating the Legal Frontiers of the Greater Bay Area” in a hybrid format on 13 November. The seminar attracted in-person participation of over 70 Hong Kong and Guangdong lawyers, as well as representatives from various consulates and chambers of commerce.

The Cross Strait Four Regions Young Lawyers Forum (“CS4R Forum”) was successfully held on 20 September, which was the first CS4R Forum since the pandemic. The forum’s theme centered on Artificial Intelligence. Over 1,300 legal professionals from 113 law associations and government departments registered for the event, either virtually or in person.

During the year, The Law Society also continued its effort in collaborating with leading universities in the Greater China region. These collaborations included the following physical courses* taught in English:

- “International Commercial Dispute Resolution and Arbitration” for the School of Foreign Affairs and Law of East China University of Political Science and Law in Shanghai
- “An Introduction to Legal Services and Risk Management for Cross-border Transactions” for Peking University Law School in Beijing
- “International Commercial Arbitration Practice” for Renmin University of China Law School in Beijing

EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES UNDER RCEP AND BEYOND

Hong Kong has started proceedings to join the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (“RCEP”) Agreement, the world’s largest free trade agreement which came into force on 1 January 2022. In light of the importance of RCEP to Hong Kong and its legal profession, The Law Society formed a Committee on 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. In 2024, the Committee renamed itself as the Committee on Trade, Investment and RCEP to expand its role and functions, and to step up its collaboration with government-related organisations to promote lawyers’ global role in related areas.

The Islamic market has a worldwide appeal as an emerging market. In 2024, the Islamic Affairs Working Party organised two seminars in January and October respectively to provide a platform for exchanging insights on the latest development in Islamic affairs across various jurisdictions.

On 27 January, a seminar entitled “Islamic Finance and Sukuk Issuance” was held to provide general knowledge about the Muslim world, Islamic economics, the three sukuk issuance in Hong Kong, and future considerations for the development of Islamic finance in the local market. On 15 October, another seminar entitled “Ignite the New Silk Road with Sharia-Compliant Capital: Unleash Hong Kong’s Unparalleled Advantages” was held and it unveiled how to harness Hong Kong’s dynamic financial ecosystem and unique connectivity with the Mainland to fuel the intersection of Islamic finance and Belt and Road Initiative.



Cross Strait Four Regions Young Lawyers Forum 2024 in September



*Note: The courses are listed in alphabetical order of the English names of the universities.

BONDING WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS THROUGH MOUs

Through networking with law societies and bar associations around the world, The Law Society has established extensive connections with legal professional organisations in overseas jurisdictions, laying a good foundation for The Law Society to collaborate on future activities for the benefit of members.

The Law Society signed Memoranda of Understanding (“MOUs”) with 10 professional organisations in 2024, namely:

- Zhuhai Lawyers Association in January;
- Jiangsu Lawyers Association in May;

- Dubai International Financial Centre (“DIFC”) Courts in May;
- Suzhou Lawyers Association in May;
- Taoyuan Bar Association in July;
- East China University of Political Science and Law in July;
- Vietnam Bar Federation in October;
- Egyptian Bar Association in October;
- Xinjiang Lawyers Association in November; and
- China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission in December.

Notably, the MOU with DIFC Courts marks the first agreement of its kind between The Law Society and a Middle East court. As of the end of 2024, The Law Society had signed 60 MOUs with lawyers’ associations or organisations in the Greater China region and 47 MOUs with overseas lawyers’ associations and international legal organisations.



MOU signing with DIFC Courts in May



MOU signing with Xinjiang Lawyers Association in November

EXPLORING NEW PRACTICE AREAS

The Law Society has been actively exploring new opportunities for the development and promotion of new practice areas for members. Three new specialist committees were set up under the Standing Committee on Practitioners Affairs in the second quarter of 2024. They are the Privacy and Data Law Committee, the Committee on Charities and Trust, and the Family Office Practice Committee. They are tasked with reviewing and commenting on matters relating to their respective areas of law and practice and liaising with the government and other stakeholders in the process. The Family Office Practice Committee had a courtesy meeting with the Hong Kong Academy for Wealth Legacy (“HKAWL”) in November to receive a general review and update on the work of the HKAWL and exchange views on family office practice issues.

With the development of the sports industry and related activities, and the huge success of Mainland and Hong Kong athletes in the 33rd Summer Olympic Games held in Paris in 2024, sports law received much public attention and policy focus. This has been canvassed in the 2024 Policy Address. Against this backdrop, the Sports Law Committee is tasked with reviewing the development of this new practice area. In addition, The Law Society has been working on the preparation of a ground-breaking Sports Law Mega Event to be held from 20 to 23 February 2025, the first of its kind dedicated to discussions and exchanges about the interface among sports, law and business against the backdrop of “One Country, Two Systems, and Three Jurisdictions”. The mega event will serve as a platform for Hong Kong to showcase talents and will help enhance Hong Kong’s reputation in the regional sports arena as well as the city’s positioning as a key player in the world of sports and related industries.

THE LAW SOCIETY'S GLOBAL NETWORK



OVERSEAS

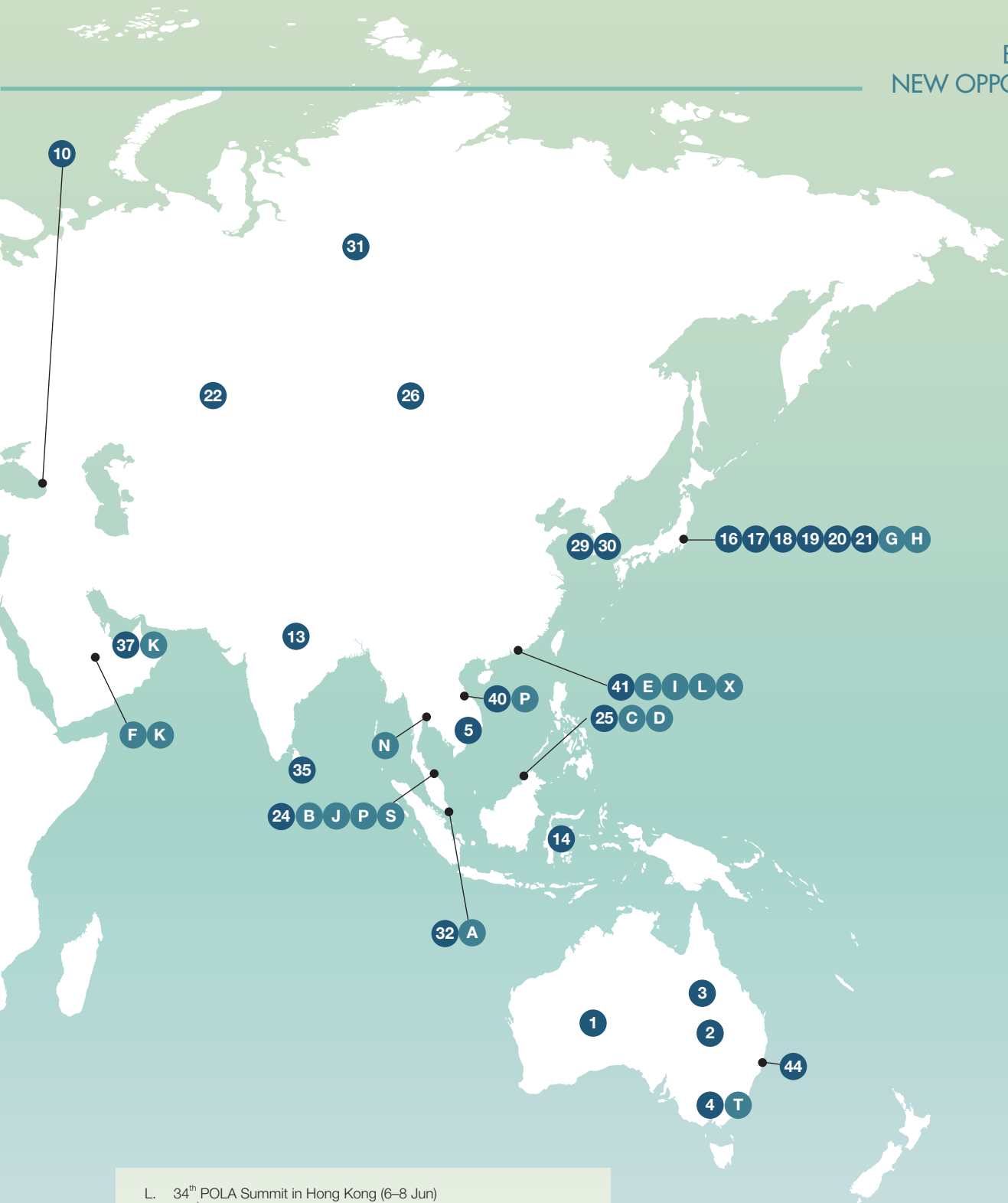
(I) MOUs signed with overseas organisations prior to 2024:

1. Australia — The Law Council of Australia
2. Australia (New South Wales) — The Law Society of New South Wales
3. Australia (Queensland) — Queensland Law Society
4. Australia (Victoria) — Law Institute of Victoria
5. Cambodia — The Bar Association of the Kingdom of Cambodia
6. Croatia — Croatian Bar Association
7. Czech Republic — Czech Bar Association
8. Egypt — Egyptian Bar Association
9. France — French National Bar Council
10. Georgia — Georgian Bar Association
11. Germany — The German Federal Bar
12. Hungary — Hungarian Bar Association
13. India — Bar Association of India
14. Indonesia — Indonesian Advocates Association
15. Italy (Milan) — Milan Bar Association
16. Japan — The Japan Federation of Bar Associations
17. Japan (Hyogo prefecture) — Hyogo Bar Association
18. Japan (Okinawa) — Okinawa Bar Association
19. Japan (Osaka) — Osaka Bar Association
20. Japan (Tokyo) — Tokyo Bar Association
21. Japan (Tokyo) — Daini Tokyo Bar Association
22. Kazakhstan — Astana International Financial Centre Authority
23. Luxembourg — Luxembourg Bar Association
24. Malaysia — Malaysian Bar
25. Malaysia (Sabah) — Sabah Law Society
26. Mongolia — Mongolian Bar Association
27. Poland — The Polish National Bar of Attorneys
28. Poland (Gdańsk) — Gdańsk Bar Association of Attorneys-at law
29. Republic of Korea — Korean Bar Association
30. Republic of Korea (Seoul) — Seoul Bar Association
31. Russia — The Russian Federal Bar Association
32. Singapore — The Law Society of Singapore
33. Slovenia — Slovenian Bar Association
34. Spain (Madrid) — Madrid Bar Association
35. Sri Lanka — Bar Association of Sri Lanka
36. United Kingdom (England and Wales) — The Law Society of England and Wales
37. United Arab Emirates (Dubai) — Dubai International Financial Centre Courts
38. United States (California) — California Lawyers Association (International Law and Immigration Section)
39. United States (Florida) — The Florida Bar (International Law Section)
40. Vietnam — Vietnam Bar Federation
41. Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) Hong Kong Regional Arbitration Centre (Based in Hong Kong)
42. Commonwealth Lawyers Association (Based in Bristol, United Kingdom)
43. International Association of Young Lawyers (AIJA) (Based in Brussels, Belgium)
44. LAWASIA (Based in Sydney, Australia)

(Note: in alphabetical order)

(II) International conferences and events attended in 2024 physically:

- A. Opening of the Legal Year 2024 in Singapore (7–8 Jan)
- B. Opening of the Legal Year 2024 in Malaysia (14–15 Jan)
- C. Opening of the Legal Year 2024 in Sabah & Sarawak (18–19 Jan)
- D. The Borneo Rainforest Law Conference in Sabah (26–28 Feb)
- E. IPBA Regional Conference in Hong Kong (1 Mar)
- F. Deputy Secretary for Justice-led visit to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (4–7 Mar)
- G. 32nd IPBA Annual Meeting and Conference in Tokyo (24–27 Apr)
- H. Networking Luncheon jointly organised by The Law Society of Hong Kong and Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Tokyo) in Tokyo (26 Apr)
- I. 26th International Council for Commercial Arbitration Congress in Hong Kong (5–8 May)
- J. Professional Indemnity for Law Societies Forum in Kuala Lumpur (16–17 May)
- K. Secretary for Justice-led delegation to Middle East (Riyadh, Abu Dhabi and Dubai) (18–24 May)



- L. 34th POLA Summit in Hong Kong (6–8 Jun)
- M. 62nd AIJA Congress in Madrid (3–7 Sep)
- N. AAIL Delegation to Bangkok (10–13 Sep)
- O. IBA Annual Conference 2024 in Mexico City (15–20 Sep)
- P. Secretary for Justice-led delegation to Vietnam and Malaysia (24–28 Sep)
- Q. Opening of the Legal Year 2024 in England and Wales (30 Sep–1 Oct)
- R. Student Event jointly organised by The Law Society of Hong Kong and Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (London) in London (1 Oct)
- S. 37th LAWASIA Conference in Kuala Lumpur (13–15 Oct)
- T. International Conference of Legal Regulators 2024 in Melbourne (16–18 Oct)
- U. AALCO-HKRAC South Africa-Egypt Mission Trip (Cairo, Cape Town and Johannesburg) (19–28 Oct)
- V. 68th UIA Congress in Paris (30 Oct–3 Nov)
- W. Opening of the Legal Year 2024 in Paris (28–29 Nov)
- X. IPBA Cocktail Reception in Hong Kong (13 Dec)

(II) International conferences and events attended in 2024 virtually:

- a. Inaugural Meeting and Installation of the “Legal G20” organised by Brazilian Bar Association, based in Brasilia (18–19 Apr)
- b. Commonwealth Lawyers Association — “AI and Ethics in Access to Justice” Webinar, based in Bristol (16 May)
- c. IBA Impact Project Video Call, based in London (17 Jul)
- d. UIA Capsule for Bar Leaders: “What Bar Associations need to know to train their lawyers on Data Protection, Cybersecurity, and AI” Webinar, based in Paris (11 Sep)

MOUs signed with the following organisations in the Greater China region

The Law Society signed an MOU with All China Lawyers Association in 2013 (lawyers' association on national level)

1. Anhui Lawyers Association
2. Beijing Lawyers Association
3. Changhua Bar Association
4. Changzhou Lawyers Association
5. Chongqing Lawyers Association
6. Dalian Lawyers Association
7. Dongguan Lawyers Association
8. Foshan Lawyers Association
9. Fujian Lawyers Association
10. Guangdong Lawyers Association
11. Guangxi Lawyers Association
12. Guangzhou Lawyers Association
13. Hainan Lawyers Association
14. Hangzhou Lawyers Association
15. Hebei Lawyers Association
16. Henan Lawyers Association
17. Hubei Lawyers Association
18. Huizhou Lawyers Association
19. Hunan Lawyers Association
20. Jiangmen Lawyers Association
21. Jiangsu Lawyers Association
22. Jiangxi Lawyers Association
23. Jilin Lawyers Association
24. Kaohsiung Bar Association
25. Liaoning Lawyers Association
26. Macau Lawyers Association
27. Nanjing Lawyers Association
28. Nantou Bar Association
29. Ningbo Lawyers Association
30. Qingdao Lawyers Association
31. Shaanxi Lawyers Association
32. Shandong Lawyers Association
33. Shanghai Bar Association
34. Shanxi Lawyers Association
35. Shenzhen Lawyers Association
36. Sichuan Lawyers Association
37. Suzhou Lawyers Association
38. Taichung Bar Association
39. Taipei Bar Association
40. Taiwan Bar Association
41. Taoyuan Bar Association
42. Tianjin Lawyers Association
43. Xi'an Lawyers Association
44. Xinjiang Lawyers Association
45. Zhaoqing Lawyers Association
46. Zhejiang Lawyers Association
47. Zhuhai Lawyers Association

Conferences and events attended in 2024

- A. Law Course for Peking University ("PKU") Law School in Beijing (24 Feb; 2, 9, 16, 23 Mar; 6, 13 Apr)
- B. Unveiling ceremony for Guangzhou Lawyers Association Foreign-related Legal Services Chapter in Guangzhou (22 Mar)
- C. GBA Express — Guangzhou in Guangzhou (22 Mar)
- D. Two-Day Visit to Dongguan for Young Solicitors in Dongguan (12–13 Apr)
- E. ICCA 2024 Hong Kong Shenzhen Side Events in Shenzhen (9 May)
- F. Seminar on High-Quality Development Legal Services in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area in Shanwei (9 and 10 May)
- G. Macau Lawyers' Day and Seminar on "Retrospectives and Prospects of the Legal Profession on the 25th Anniversary of Macau's Return" in Macau (17 May)
- H. Suzhou Legal Service Industry High Quality Development Promotion Conference in Qianhai (31 May)
- I. PKU Law School Graduation Ceremony in Beijing (20 Jun)
- J. Signing of Cooperation Agreement with the East China University of Political Science and Law in Shanghai (26–27 Jul)
- K. Resolve2Win — Legal Services of Hong Kong, Opportunities for All in Shenzhen and Foshan (6–8 Aug)
- L. Straits Law Forum in Fuzhou (18 Aug)
- M. SmartHK in Nanjing (28 Aug)

- N. GBA Express — Zhuhai: The 4th Guangdong Hong Kong Macau Greater Bay Area (Guangdong) Enterprise Legal Services Forum in Zhuhai (30 Aug)
- O. Visit to Xinjiang in Xinjiang (1–8 Sep)
- P. Celebration of the 27th Anniversary of the Establishment of the HKSAR in Guangzhou (20 Sep)
- Q. The 27th Beijing-Hong Kong Fair "Professional Services" Xicheng District Special Event in Beijing (21 Sep)
- R. The 33rd Symposium on Exploring Cutting-edge Issues on the Construction of Rule of Law in the Greater Bay Area and Signing Ceremony for Cooperation of on Nurturing of China-related Cross-border Legal Talents in Qianhai (26 Sep)
- S. Monthly Seminar in relation to Guangdong Province and Hong Kong in Nansha (27 Sep)
- T. "Innovation Leads, Win-Win Future" Pudong Summit on Shanghai-Hong Kong Cooperation in Shanghai (15 Oct)
- U. Practical Training Course for Mediators of the Hengqin International Commercial Mediation Centre in Hengqin (17 Oct)
- V. 2024 Hainan Free Trade Port Legal Week in Hainan (17–20 Oct)
- W. Chinese-speaking Lawyers Convention 2024 in Qianhai (20–23 Oct)
- X. Establishment of the East China University of Political Science and Law Common Law Centre in Shanghai (26 Oct)
- Y. Third Event under the "Seminar Series on Civil Code" — A Comparison of the Formation and Validity of Contracts under the Civil Code within the GBA in Zhongshan (26 Oct)
- Z. "Laws in the Greater Bay Area" Series (V) — New Trends in Cross-Border Data Flows in the Greater Bay Area in Huizhou (30 Nov)
- AA. Law Course for Renmin University of China Law School in Beijing (9–30 Nov)
- BB. Law Course for The School of Foreign-related Law of East China University of Political Science and Law in Shanghai (9 Nov–28 Dec)
- CC. Hong Kong Legal Delegation Visited Guangzhou and Shenzhen (5–7 Dec)
- DD. Zhuhai-Hong Kong-Macau Training Camp for Lawyers 2024 in Zhuhai (12 Dec)
- EE. Opening Ceremony of the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre Beijing Office in Beijing (16 Dec)
- FF. The Second Hainan-Hong Kong Dispute Resolution Dialogue Meeting in Hainan (20 Dec)
- GG. New Quality Rule of Law Forum in Panyu (20 Dec)

List of Events in Hong Kong in 2024

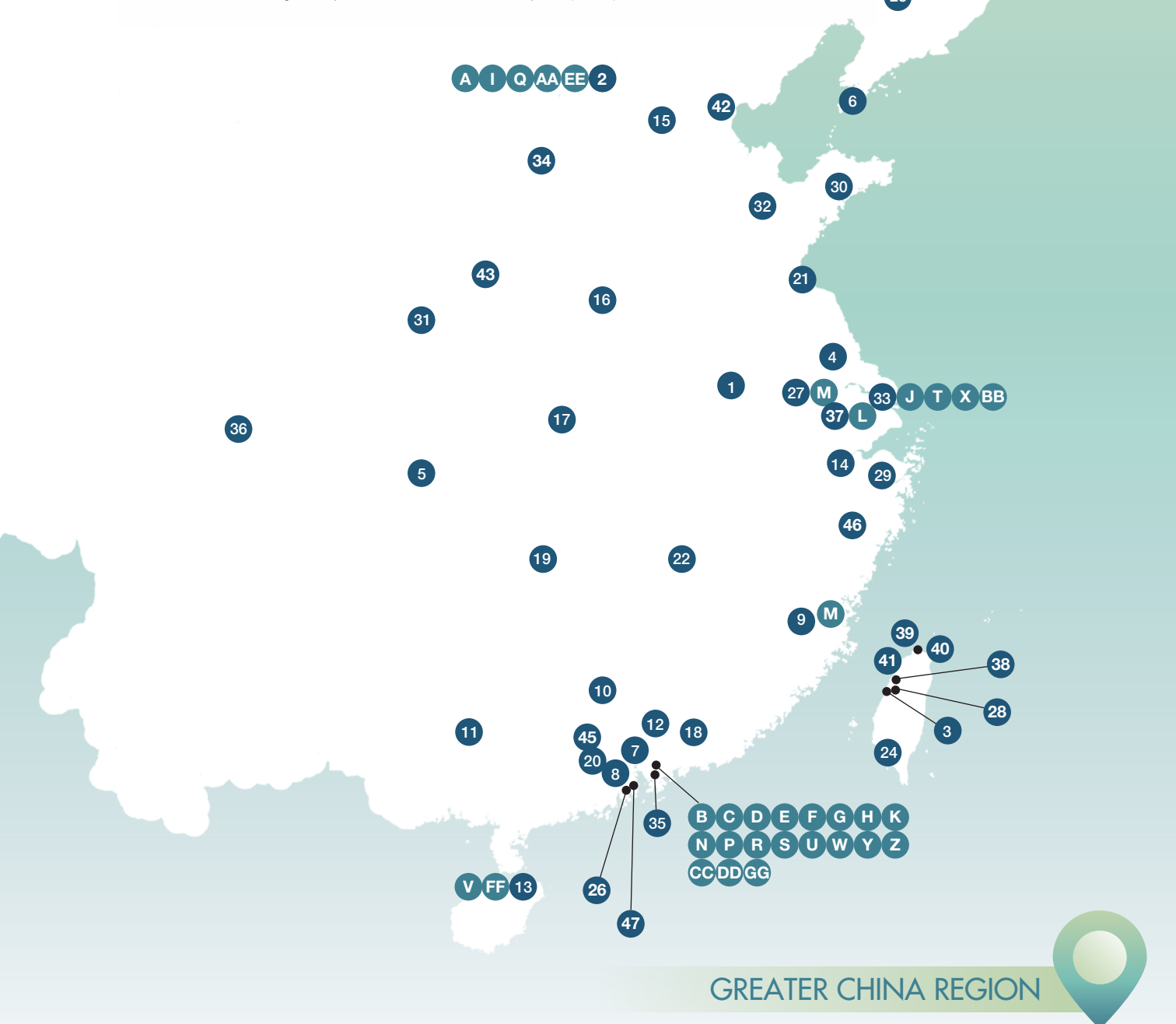
1. Seminar on the In-depth Integration and Development of Legal Services in Guangzhou and Hong Kong (23 Jan)
2. Webinar with Hainan Lawyers Association (28 Feb)
3. Establishment of Advisory Group of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area Lawyers and Exchange Session on Legal Practice in GBA (1 Mar)
4. 8th Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau Legal Seminar (7 Mar)
5. Seminar on "Introduction of Interception of Communications and Surveillance Ordinance" (20 Mar)
6. Jiangsu Province Foreign-related Legal Services Promotional Event (4 May)
7. 2024 CIETAC Greater Bay Area Summit (5 May)
8. Shanghai International Arbitration (Hong Kong) Center Inauguration (5 May)
9. The 26th ICCA Congress Shanghai International Arbitration Center Special Seminar (7 May)
10. 2024 Shandong Week Opening Ceremony and Shandong-Hong Kong Cooperation and Exchange Meeting (27 May)

11. Sharing Session on GBA Legal Professional Examination 2024 (13 Jun)
12. GoGBA Seminar for Legal Sector (23 Jul)
13. Joint Legal Workshop — Success for Korean Business Growth in Hong Kong and Beyond (30 Jul)
14. Cross Strait Four Regions Young Lawyers Forum 2024 (20 Sep)
15. Matching and Exchange Session for Chongqing-Hong Kong Partnership Associations and Collaborations (25 Sep)
16. Briefing Session for Mainland University Lecture Series (29 Oct)
17. GBA Lawyers Exchange Reception (7 Nov)
18. Signing Cooperation Agreement with Xinjiang Lawyers Association at the Hong Kong Legal Week 2024 (8 Nov)
19. GBA Legal Seminar (13 Nov)
20. The Second Business Conference on Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area Development (11 Dec)

List of Meetings with Counterparts in HKSAR or Greater China Region in 2024

- i. Meeting with Guizhou Lawyers Association (10 Jan)
- ii. Meeting and signing of Cooperation Agreement with Zhuhai Lawyers Association (24 Jan)
- iii. Courtesy Meeting with Guangdong Province Law Society (6 Mar)
- iv. Meeting with Chinese Judges (11 Apr)
- v. Courtesy Meeting with Nanjing Lawyers (23 Apr)
- vi. Meeting with Jiangsu Lawyers Association (6 May)
- vii. Courtesy Meeting with Hainan Representatives (10 May)
- viii. Visit to The Commissioner's Office of China's Foreign Ministry in the HKSAR (15 May)
- ix. Receiving a Delegation of Mainland Lawyers from Ningbo Lawyers Association, Jiaxing Lawyers Association and Zhoushan Lawyers Association (21 May)
- x. Visit by Mainland Officials via DoJ (3 Jun)
- xi. 13th Joint Meeting for Lawyers' Associations in the Greater Bay Area (13 Jun)
- xii. Visit by Students of Special Training Course on Legal Construction and Cross-Border Law in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area (19 Jun)
- xiii. Meeting with Renmin University Law School (20 Jun)
- xiv. Visit by Students of the Peking University Law School (8 Jul)
- xv. Meeting with Legal Affairs Bureau of Macau (8 Jul)
- xvi. Meeting and signing of Cooperation Agreement with Taoyuan Lawyers Association (9 Jul)

- xvii. Visit by a delegation of 19 lawyers and accountants from Shandong Province (12 Jul)
- xviii. Meeting with Shenzhen Reform and Opening up Executive Leadership Academy (2 Aug)
- xix. Meeting with the East China University of Political Science and Law (6 Aug)
- xx. Meeting with Students from Shanghai University of Political Science and Law (15 Aug)
- xxi. Receiving a Delegation of Mainland Legal Officials (3 Sep)
- xxii. Courtesy Meeting with Representatives from Shaanxi Province (4 Sep)
- xxiii. Meeting with Xinjiang Lawyers Association (19 Sep)
- xxiv. Meeting with Zhejiang Lawyers Association (19 Sep)
- xxv. Meeting with Chongqing Lawyers Association and representatives of Chongqing law firms (25 Sep)
- xxvi. Meeting with Chinese Senior Judges (27 Sep)
- xxvii. Meeting with the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office of Shandong Provincial People's Government (31 Oct)
- xxviii. Meeting with a delegation from the 2024 Hong Kong Training Programme on International Law Practice (31 Oct)
- xxix. Meeting with Shanghai Bar Association (1 Nov)
- xxx. Meeting with Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (4 Nov)
- xxxi. Meeting with Guangzhou Lawyers Association (6 Nov)
- xxxii. Meeting with Department of Justice of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region (6 Nov)
- xxxiii. Meeting with Zhongshan Lawyers Association (8 Nov)
- xxxiv. Meeting with Justice Bureau of Southern Qingdao Municipality (25 Nov)
- xxxv. Meeting with The Department of Justice of Shaanxi Province (4 Dec)
- xxxvi. Courtesy Meeting with China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission (11 Dec)
- xxxvii. Meeting with Tianfu Central Legal Services District (11 Dec)
- xxxviii. 14th Joint Meeting for Lawyers' Associations in the Greater Bay Area (18 Dec)



PROVIDING RELEVANT AND EFFECTIVE SUPPORT TO MEMBERS

The Law Society is dedicated to providing relevant and effective support to its members, which includes professional development and sector-specific initiatives, as well as programmes and activities designed to ensure the well-being of individual members.

PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

Law

The Law Society and the Academy of Law regularly organise seminars to update members on recent and imminent changes to the law and their practices. In 2024, 295 CPD and RME courses were organised on a diverse range of topics.

Ethics

The Law Society handles daily enquiries from members on matters relating to the LPO and its subsidiary legislation, The Law Society's *Practice Directions and the Conduct Guide*. An Online Enquiry Service platform is available to assist members, who can simply log in to the Members' Zone at The Law Society's website to access the platform. All necessary personal information of the member making the enquiry is embedded in the enquiry form and the member only has to write the query and click "Send". All enquiries will be forwarded to the responsible member of

the Secretariat staff for timely handling. Enquiries involving more complicated matters are referred to The Law Society's Guidance Committee for consideration.

In 2024, the Guidance Committee considered seven enquiries on professional conduct issues that were raised by members or referred from other Law Society committees.

Practice management

To assist members in enhancing their practice management skills, an interactive seminar titled "Common Challenges in Cyber Incident Response Simulation Seminar" was held on 11 March. The event included a cybersecurity incident simulation, allowing attendees to explore practical response steps and necessary resources. Participants also engaged in decision-making sessions that highlighted the complexities and business impact of cybersecurity incidents.

Accounts

One of the roles of The Law Society's Monitoring Accountants is to pay routine visits to newly established law firms, both local and foreign, to provide guidance on how they can ensure compliance with the *Solicitors' Accounts Rules* (Cap.159F). In 2024, a total of 88 visits to 48 Hong Kong and foreign law firms were conducted.

Technology

The Law Society issued its "Position Paper on the Impact of Artificial Intelligence on the Legal Profession" on 20 January. Through the issue of this Position Paper, The Law Society hopes to contribute to a comprehensive a understanding of the impact of artificial intelligence ("AI") on the legal profession and to impress upon our profession and other stakeholders (including, among others, the Government, the Judiciary and legal professional educators) the urgent need of coordinated timely proactive actions and reforms to guide the proper use of AI.

The Law Society/The Academy of Law regularly organised courses on AI to raise members' awareness on AI. Since January, a total of 13 courses on AI had been organised, attracting a total of nearly 3,000 participants. One of the courses moderated by the Chair of the relevant Working Party attracted about 2,000 registrants, breaking all Law Society records.

Articles on AI have been regularly written and contributed to *Hong Kong Lawyer*, the official journal of The Law Society. Since January 2024, 6 articles on AI contributed by the Secretary General had been published in *Hong Kong Lawyer* with over 4,500 views. A dedicated AI webpage has been set up. An AI logo design competition was also organised to raise AI awareness, and the selected design had been adopted for branding The Law Society AI webpage and all Law Society AI-related matters.

Further, an AI survey was conducted from 26 June to 30 September. Over 1,100 responses were received. The findings of the survey was subsequently published. Much effort had also been made to identify eligible AI tool providers for the benefit of general members.

Diversity and Inclusion

The Diversity and Inclusion Committee was established in 2023 to promote diversity and inclusion in the profession, focusing on removal of unconscious bias in the workplace, particularly in the employer's policies and practices relating to recruitment, training, development, retention and promotion.

Themed "Beyond Glass Ceilings: Women Leading with Vision", "Embrace a Diverse Community" Forum 2024 was held on 29 October featuring a keynote speech on gender equality delivered by Ms Linda Lam, Chairperson of the Equal Opportunities Commission.



The Law Society issued its "Position Paper on the Impact of Artificial Intelligence on the Legal Profession" in January

Legal development updates via *Hong Kong Lawyer*

Hong Kong Lawyer, is a monthly publication which contains analysis of recent law and legal practice-specific advice, with priority given to matters affecting legal practitioners in Hong Kong. With the digital version of *Hong Kong Lawyer* available on both The Law Society App and the *Hong Kong Lawyer* website, members can read it online via a computer, smart phone, tablet or other mobile device. The online content is also searchable with hyperlinked sources. The E-journal thus serves as a good source of reference materials for research. Individual stories (or the entire journal) can also be conveniently shared with others via social media and email.

In response to a readers' survey conducted by the *Hong Kong Lawyer* Editorial Board in 2023, which highlighted a strong demand for the return of printed versions, The Law Society explored ways to meet members' requests while remaining

environmentally responsible. Starting from November, a limited number of printed copies of the journal, produced with environmentally friendly paper, are available for subscription by members at a nominal fee.

Community engagement via social media platforms

The Law Society launched its official social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn & YouTube) on 8 April 2022 to enhance communication between The Law Society, its members and the public, and keep both members and the public updated on The Law Society's work and news relating to the profession. Since then, The Law Society has attracted 3,829 followers on Facebook, 1,900 followers on Instagram, 7,783 followers on LinkedIn and 590 subscribers on YouTube. Additionally, during the year, The Law Society recorded 165,804 visitors on Facebook, 26,575 visitors on Instagram, 4,307 visitors on LinkedIn and 22,448 video views on YouTube.



Webinar entitled "An Introduction to AI and the Impact on the Legal Profession" in August



14th Members and Family Fun Day in May

SUPPORT FOR MEMBERS' WELL- BEING

Maintaining a work-life balance is important to the well-being of members. The Law Society provides a framework for members to participate in a wide range of sports, recreational and social activities and to have some fun in between busy work schedules.

In 2024, The Law Society continued to administer 14 sports teams and nine recreational groups, who held practice sessions for members throughout the year.

A variety of members' functions were organised during the year, including:

- Themed "Mini Athlete in Paris," the 14th Members and Family Fun Day (12 May) was organised with around 400 attendees. Participants were also encouraged to join the "Most Popular Drawing Award" and the "Best Talent Show Performance Award".
- The Swimming Gala (18 August) gathered over 60 children of members and their family members to the pool to participate in 50 aquatic races, including individual competitions, family relays and children relays.

- The Law Society hosted the Recreation and Sports Club for Hong Kong Professional Bodies Tenpin Bowling Tournament 2024 (6 October) and Football Tournament (29 September).
- Additionally, around 620 activities were coordinated in 2024, including participation in the annual law community-specific Legal Professional Cup Dragon Boat Race (13 July), the 15th Law & Order Cup (9 November), the inaugural Operation Santa Claus Hong Kong Table Tennis Forum (HKTTF) Charity Table Tennis Tournament (22 December) and more.

A range of products and services under the categories of Culture & Lifestyle, Food & Dining, Health & Leisure, Household & Living, and IT Products & Services sourced for the benefit of members continued to be made available and were posted on The Law Society website and The Law Society App. A variety of events were also held for members' benefit during the year, including:

- Seven networking drinks under the new "MBC Thirsty Thursday" series
- In collaboration with The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animal (Hong Kong), one workshop under the "Pet Lovers Series": Big or Small, Love Them All (6 November)
- Two sessions under the Children's Programme: Hong Kong News-Expo Family Tour (3 August)
- Two wellness talks on the topics of "Demystifying Hypnotherapy" (27 March) and "Health and Wellness in Traditional Chinese Medicine" (25 September)
- One photography workshop "Transforming the Ordinary into the Extraordinary: A Journey to Enhance Your Macro Compositions" (23 October)
- The first-ever "Law Society Dining Week 2024" (18–29 November) was launched in collaboration with various local dining groups and reputable restaurants, fostering stronger connections and member engagement
- Annual Christmas Party (6 December)
- Distribution of Chinese New Year Lai See packets



Swimming Gala in August

SUPPORT FOR SECTOR-SPECIFIC NEEDS

In-house lawyers (“IHLs”)

A substantial number of Law Society members work as in-house lawyers. As of the end of 2024, around 30% of members holding a practising certificate were not in private practice.

The Law Society set up the In-House Lawyers Committee (“IHLC”) in February 2011 to provide a platform for IHLs to share their experiences and resources and exchange views and ideas, as well as to strengthen communication between IHLs and private legal practitioners. The IHLC organised and also co-organised with other organisations or law firms a variety of activities on topics relevant to in-house solicitors throughout the year, including:

- The 2024 Annual Conference of In-House Lawyers with the theme “Strategic Positioning of Hong Kong Lawyers” on 9 September, gathering over 400 members and delegates from the Greater China region and overseas joining in person or via Zoom.
- A seminar with the Independent Commission Against Corruption on “Navigating Business Integrity & Empowering In-House Lawyers’ Role in Corruption Prevention” on 26 March
- Two seminars under the “Sweat & Glory” series:
 - “Moving In-House at an Earlier Stage of Your Legal Career” on 16 April co-organised with the Young Solicitors’ Group (“YSG”)
 - “Working in the Department of Justice” on 25 June

- Three seminars under the “In-House Lawyers Training Programme (in collaboration with law firms)”:
 - “Outsourcing to SME Firms” on 18 June
 - “Cross-Border Fund Investments: A Focus on Asia and Europe” on 30 August
 - “The Latest Market Trends and Updates Regarding the Arrangement on Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters” on 27 November
- Company visit to Cainiao Smart Gateway, a logistics hub in Hong Kong to provide an understanding on the key regulatory challenges and opportunities in the logistics industry.

Small to medium law firms

As of 31 December, about 46% of law firms in Hong Kong were sole proprietorships and 43% were firms with up to five partners. The Law Society has set up a dedicated working party to consider issues relevant to small to medium law firms (“SME firms”). To step up the effort to support SME firms, a new Small and Medium Firms Committee was formed in 2023 to continue the work of the Working Party on SME Firms to maintain strong communication with various associations and organisations and to explore avenues of support and networking opportunities for SME firms including technological enhancements, accounting assistance, and more.



2024 Annual Conference of In-House Lawyers in September



“Joining Hands for a Prosperous Hong Kong: Business Interface Event for Legal Profession and SMEs” in December

In collaboration with the Department of Law of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR, the Coordination Department of the Liaison Office, China Resources (Holdings) Company Limited, and the Hong Kong Small and Medium Enterprises Association, an event entitled "Joining Hands for a Prosperous Hong Kong: Business Interface Event for Legal Profession and SMEs" was organised on 12 December to create business opportunities for SME firms.

Further, a thematic session on "Getting to Know the Diversity of Our SME Law Firms" was organised during the Annual Conference of In-House Lawyers on 8 September.

Senior members

The Law Society treasures the invaluable experiences of its very senior and significant members. The Working Party on Historical Archive launched the Oral History Project in 2020 to invite senior members to be interviewed, with the aim of establishing an archive that documents the inspirational stories of notable figures of our local profession.

During 2024, two notable figures in the legal community were interviewed under the Oral History Project to share their unique insights and wealth of experience. They were Past President Dr Junius Ho and The Law Society Roll of Honour member Mr Fred Kan. The video and/or audio recordings of the interviews were posted on a webpage dedicated to the Project at The Law Society website.

In celebration of the 115th anniversary of The Law Society, the Working Party on Historical Archive published *Changing Times, Steadfast Purpose: The Law Society At 115* in 2023. The Chinese version was published during the year. The Chinese e-book version was available on The Law Society website and the printed Chinese version was available for sale to members from April.

Roll of Honour

According to The Law Society's Articles of Association, the Council may as a special honour admit to membership of the Roll of Honour any solicitor whose name remains on the roll of solicitors and who, in the opinion of the Council, has made such distinguished contribution to The Law Society or its Council, the development of the legal profession in Hong Kong or the practice of law as to warrant recognition by The Law Society.

A member of the Roll of Honour shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of a member of The Law Society without being required to pay membership fee.

Dr Junius Ho, President of The Law Society from 2011 to 2012, Vice President from 2005 to 2011 and Council Member between 1995 and 2017, and Mr Richard Morris, Vice President of The Law Society in 1997 and Council Member between 1993 and 1997, were admitted to The Law Society's Roll of Honour on 30 May on the occasion of The Law Society's 2024 Annual General Meeting.

Dr Junius Ho and Mr Richard Morris are highly respected members of the profession whose distinguished contributions to The Law Society, the practice of law and the development of

the legal profession in Hong Kong as a whole have set a role model for the profession. As of the end of 2024, there were 42 members and four members respectively on The Law Society's Roll of Honour and Honorary Membership List.

Young solicitors, trainee solicitors and student members

As of 31 December, about 25.6% of Law Society members who held a practising certificate were admitted on or after 1 January 2020 (i.e. with post-admission experience of five years or less).

The YSG was set up to support the needs of this segment of members. In addition to organising activities to encourage young members to network with other solicitors and events to reach out to law students and trainee solicitors, the YSG also helps promote the culture of sharing in the profession.

The YSG Think Tank is a competition where participants work in teams to propose solutions to a selected theme and present their proposals to a judging panel. Four teams showcased solutions relevant to the theme of "Plugging the talent drain: Innovative retention strategies that law firms should adopt" through presenting their proposals to a judging panel on 22 June.



Formal ceremony at the 2024 Annual General Meeting to admit Dr Junius Ho and Mr Richard Morris to the Roll of Honour

The CONNECTED Programme continued for the 14th year. The purpose of the Programme is to provide trainee solicitors with opportunities to interact with both younger members (“buddies”) and senior members (“mentors”) of The Law Society with a view to fostering mutual understanding among members with diverse backgrounds. Under the CONNECTED Mentor and Buddy Scheme, the following were organised to keep mentors, buddies and mentees connected during the year:

- “CONNECTED 2024 Kick-off Event” (20 March)
- “CONNECTED 2024 Second Event — Brewery Tour” (17 August)

Other events organised or co-organised with other bodies during the year included:

- Welcome Reception for Trainee Solicitors (15 November)
- Five lunches under the “Meet & Greet — Trainees & New Members Friday Lunch”
- Joint Professional Networking Drinks (20 October)
- Frisbee Event with Hong Kong Police Force (8 November)

Student members

As of the end of December 2024, there were 337 student members.

The Law Society introduced the Mentorship Programme for Law Students to provide law students with the opportunity to establish long-term friendships with practitioners of various levels of seniority before they embark on their legal careers.



YSG CONNECTED Programme 2024 Kick-off Event in March



Seminar on “The ABCs of Practising Law in Hong Kong” in July

Further, The Law Society organised three career talks for students of the three local law schools and participated in the 2024 Hong Kong Law Fair (7 September).

The Law Society also proactively invited students of major law schools on the Mainland with an interest in developing a legal career in Hong Kong to sign up for The Law Society’s student membership.

Members with Mainland background

The Committee for Members with Mainland Background (“MMBC”) was set up in 2023 to meet the needs of members, trainee solicitors and registered foreign lawyers with Mainland background and support their social integration and personal development, as well as to promote Hong Kong’s common law system and legal services under the “One Country, Two Systems” principle and the complementary cooperation between Mainland and Hong Kong legal practitioners.

MMBC’s inaugural event, 2024 Chinese New Year Mass Greeting (23 February), was graced by the presence of

Mr Liu Chunhua, Director-General of the Department of Law of the Liaison Office of the Central People’s Government in the HKSAR, and Mr Chen Junsheng, Chairman of China Legal Services (H.K.) Ltd, along with over 80 members, to celebrate the Chinese New Year and the establishment of MMBC.

A survey with over 200 respondents was conducted in early 2024 to assess needs of members with Mainland background and address the challenges they face while working, studying and living in Hong Kong.

Further, a series of MMBC events were organised during the year, including: a seminar entitled “The ABCs of Practising Law in Hong Kong” (2 July); a sharing session on “Navigating OLQE: Insights & Experiences from Successful Candidates” (1 August); a lunchtime seminar entitled “Are you ready for the opportunities brought by the foreign-related legal affairs?” (9 September); and two career talks with the City University of Hong Kong and the University of Hong Kong (17 October and 11 November). These events aimed to provide valuable insights and support for members in their professional journey.

GIVING BACK TO COMMUNITY

Our members have been actively participating in pro bono and community work, often quietly fulfilling their social responsibilities in meaningful ways. The Law Society helps members do so by providing structured opportunities. To that end, The Law Society organised a number of projects both new and ongoing, including:

- Free Legal Helpline — The panel solicitors serving on the Helpline provide up to 45 minutes of free consultation in five areas of law, namely, personal injuries, matrimonial law, criminal law, wills and probate, and employment law. Since December 2014 a Pilot Scheme on Mediation has been in place to provide free telephone sessions on mediation. As of the end of December 2024, the Helpline had handled over 11,665 cases since its launch in August 2013. A temporary panel for JPEX cases under the Criminal Law Helpline, which was set up in September 2023 to handle public enquiries, received two cases as of the end of December 2024;
- Free Legal Advice Service on Building Management — Organised in collaboration with the Home Affairs Department, the Free Legal Advice Service provides one-stop referral service to owners and entities seeking free professional advice on building management issues. 171 cases were handled in 2024;
- Free Outreach Legal Advice Service on Building Management — Organised in collaboration with the Home Affairs Department, the Free Outreach Legal Advice Service strengthens legal support to owners' incorporations in conducting general meetings. Three cases were handled in 2024 with three other cases in progress;
- Directory of Hong Kong Law Firms 2024 — 90 listed law firms offered free legal consultation of up to 45 minutes to the public on 24 practice areas;
- Collaboration with Hong Kong Council of Social Services — a seminar was jointly conducted by The Law Society and Hong Kong Council of Social Services on “Intellectual property protection of innovative programme/project/ service idea” on 27 September;
- Information Pamphlets — The Law Society publishes information pamphlets explaining in plain language legal issues commonly encountered in everyday life. A booklet on “Managing Intellectual Property Assets” was jointly published by The Law Society and the Intellectual Property Department in 2024. It provides practical tips and tax considerations on managing intellectual property assets as well as suggestions for intellectual property managers on issues concerning collaborative innovation.
- Law Week
 - Through the Free Legal Advice Programme, 54 volunteer solicitors offered over 7,000 minutes of legal consultations to 300 citizens across Tin Shui Wai, Ma On Shan and Sham Shui Po in February, March and May. Legal talks covering topics such as anti-fraud, wills and probates, and property management had enhanced public legal awareness.
 - “Law For All” KOL Short Video Competition: With 140 entries across four categories, this competition promoted legal literacy through creative videos, culminating in a prize presentation ceremony on 25 May.
- Teen Talk 2024

Elite Mentorship Programme

 - The *Elite Mentorship Programme* brought together 46 volunteer solicitors as mentors and 140 secondary and tertiary students as mentees. Two Game Days were held at the Fire and Ambulance Services

Academy, Tseung Kwan O, on 20 April and the Hong Kong Customs College, Tuen Mun on 3 November. These events deepened students' understanding of the rule of law and reinforced anti-drug awareness. The programme concluded with a Grand Final and Closing Ceremony in November.

— The GBA *Study Tour*, themed “Deepening Legal Cooperation, Youth Shaping Tomorrow”, was an integral part of Teen Talk. Entirely conducted in English, it connected 60 Hong Kong elite students with 20 Shenzhen international school students for a two-day, one-night exchange, guided by 24 volunteer solicitors, fostering cross-border legal understanding and collaboration.

- Participation in Hong Kong Book Fair 2024
- The Law Society participated in the Hong Kong Book Fair 2024 for the first time, drawing approximately 2,000 visitors to its booth. 57 volunteer solicitors helped to man the booth introducing the legal profession and different aspects of the legal industry to visitors through interactive games and visually engaging information panels.

Law Week 2024



“Law For All” KOL Short Video Competition



Free Legal Advice Programme

Teen Talk 2024



Elite Mentorship Programme



GBA Study Tour



Participation in the Hong Kong Book Fair in July



Visits to elderly households in December

- The Law Society also took the opportunity to launch its new leaflet entitled “Dream Big: Be a Solicitor” which offers practical guidance on how to become a solicitor.
 - Schools talks: over 130 school talks were conducted by volunteer solicitors, reaching out to more than 34,000 secondary school students and covering topics relevant to the younger generation including “Rule of Law and Hong Kong Legal System”, “Introduction to the *Basic Law*”, “National Security 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”.
 - Other initiatives included visits to elderly households, a law firm visit for inspiring ethnic minority youth, and a legal forum attracting around 580 students, showcasing The Law Society’s commitment to serving diverse communities.
- The Law Society organises an annual Pro Bono and Community Work Recognition Programme to honour our members who have selflessly contributed their time and expertise for the benefit of the community. The 2024 Pro Bono and Community Service Recognition Programme (“2024 Programme”) was well received by members and law firms with over 400 applications. A total of 46 law firms and 309 lawyers received awards under the 2024 Programme. Apart from Individual Awards and Law Firm Awards, a number of Distinguished Awards and Special Awards were also presented. The Special Award for the Year was presented to an individual and a law firm for their remarkable contributions to the 2024 theme of “Diversity and Inclusion”.



2024 Pro Bono & Community Service Award Presentation Ceremony in December



MEMBERSHIP OF STANDING COMMITTEES, COMMITTEES, WORKING PARTIES AND ORGANISING COMMITTEES

Committees and Working Parties Reporting Directly to the Council

Honours Committee

Melissa K. PANG	(Chair)
Anthony W.K. CHOW	(joined in February)
Anson K.C. KAN	
Fred K.C. KAN	
S.H. LEUNG	
Amy Y.K. LIU	(resigned in January)
Amirali B. NASIR	
Roden M.L. TONG	
Herbert H.K. TSOI	

Secretary: Secretary General

LegCo Liaison Group

Roden M.L. TONG	(Chair from June)
C.M. CHAN	(Chair until June)
Heidi K.P. CHU	
Ambrose S.K. LAM	
Amirali B. NASIR	
Melissa K. PANG	(retired in June)
Careen H.Y. WONG	(joined in June)
Christopher K.K. YU	

Secretary: Deputy Secretary General and Director of
Practitioners Affairs (until December)
Deputy Director of Practitioners Affairs (from
December)

Hong Kong Solicitors Indemnity Fund Ltd

Amirali B. NASIR	(Chair)
Jimmy K.H. CHAN	
Colin B. COHEN	
Brian W. GILCHRIST	
Christopher G. HOWSE	
Richard KEADY	
Peter C.L. LO	
Simon J. McCONNELL	
Patrick R. MOSS	
Andrew W.Y. NG	
David G. SMYTH	
Ronald K.N. SUM	
Careen H.Y. WONG	(joined in January)
Norris H.C. YANG	

Secretary: Essar Insurance Services Ltd. (until October)
Consec Services Limited (from October)

PIS Claims Committee

Brian W. GILCHRIST	(Chair)
Colin B. COHEN	(Vice-Chair)
Simon P. CLARKE	(resigned in September)
Johnny C.M. FEE	
Olivia H.Y. KUNG	
George D. LAMPLOUGH	
Gary A. SEIB	
Jamie J. STRANGER	
Gareth H. THOMAS	
Ronald W.T. TONG	
Careen H.Y. WONG	
Felix K.Y. YAU	

Secretary: Essar Insurance Services Ltd.

PIS Investment Sub-Committee

Peter C.L. LO	(Chair)
C.M. CHAN	(joined in November)
John S. GALE	
IP Shing Hing	
Elen LAU	
LEE Kher Sheng	
Kevin C.K. SHUM	
Careen H.Y. WONG	(joined in November)
Norris H.C. YANG	

Secretary: Assistant Director, Professional Indemnity Scheme
(until December)
Director of Professional Indemnity Scheme (from
December)

PIS Panel Solicitors Selection Board

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Stephen W.S. HUNG	
Roden M.L. TONG	

Secretary: Assistant Director, Professional Indemnity Scheme

Working Party on Implementation of the Law Society's Position Paper on Impact of AI on the Legal Profession

Christopher K.K. YU	(Chair)
C.M. CHAN	
Joyce C. CHENG	
Amirali B. NASIR	
Hin Han SHUM	

Secretary: Secretary General

Professional Indemnity Advisory Committee

David G. SMYTH (Chair)
Ming L.M. CHUNG
Richard KEADY
Amirali B. NASIR
Andrew W.Y. NG
Peter K.H. NGAI
Thomas S.T. SO
Gareth H. THOMAS

Secretary: Assistant Director, Professional Indemnity Scheme
(until December)
Director of Professional Indemnity Scheme (from
December)

Working Party on PIS Gross Fee Income Reports and Contributors

Andrew W.Y. NG (Chair)
Amirali B. NASIR
Thomas S.T. SO
Huen WONG

Secretary: Assistant Director, Professional Indemnity Scheme

Belt and Road Committee

Thomas S.T. SO (Chair)
Nick CHAN (Vice-Chair)
Bonita B.Y. CHAN
C. M. CHAN
Heidi H.Y. CHUI (joined in March)
Julianne P. DOE
Stephen W.S. HUNG
Clarice M.T. KAN
Frederick K.C. KAN
Elaine Y.M. LO
Amirali B. NASIR
Melissa K. PANG
Robert C. RHODA
Hin Han SHUM (joined in March)
Ronald K.N. SUM (joined in March)
Vincent S. K. TSO (joined in March)
Careen H.Y. WONG

Secretary: Director of Communications and External Affairs (until
September)
Director of Communications & External Affairs and
Member Services (from September)

7th Belt and Road Conference Organising Committee

Nick CHAN (Chair)
Careen H.Y. WONG (Vice-Chair)
Hess CHAN
Roberta CHAN
Joyce C. CHENG
Franky K.W. FUNG
Tiffany H.K. HUI
Raphael Y. HUI
Stephen W.S. HUNG
Frederick K.C. KAN
Garry K.H. LAU
Stephanie W.Y. LAU
Winnie W.L. LEE WONG
Daphne F.Y. LO
Max T.F. LUI
David Y.C. LUK
Rosa C.S. PANG
Hin Han SHUM
Thomas S.T. SO
William W.L. TONG
Pan TSANG
Richard K.C. TSUN
James K.T. WONG
Sarah S.N. WONG
Philip W.C. WONG
Jacob T.K. YAU

Secretary: Assistant Director, Communications and External
Affairs

34th POLA Summit Organising Committee

C. M. CHAN (Chair)
Heidi K.P. CHU
Heidi H.Y. CHUI
Amirali B. NASIR
Melissa K. PANG
Hin Han SHUM
Ronald K.N. SUM
Roden M.L. TONG
Vincent S.K. TSO
Chris T. ZHAO

Secretary: Assistant Director, Communications and External
Affairs

Committee on Trade, Investment and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement

Frederick K.C. KAN	(Chair)
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Arthur C.Y. CHAN	
Simon M.Y. CHAN	
C. M. CHAN	
Nick CHAN	
Neville C.H. CHENG	
Heidi H.Y. CHUI	
Julianne P. DOE	
Deborah S.W. FONG	
Olivia H.Y. KUNG	
Jonathan T.W. LEE	
Daniel N.C. LEUNG	
David Y.C. LUK	
Patrick K.W. MAK	
Melissa K. PANG	
David N. TIANG	
Henry Y.H. WAI	
Careen H.Y. WONG	
Louise K.F. WONG	
Joanne N.W. WONG	(joined in November)

Secretary: Director of Communications and External Affairs (until September)
Director of Communications & External Affairs and Member Services (from September)

Greater China Legal Affairs Committee

Roden M.L. TONG	(Chair)
Neville C.H. CHENG	(Vice-Chair)
Heidi H.Y. CHUI	(Vice-Chair)
James K.T. WONG	(Vice-Chair)
C. M. CHAN	
Simon M.Y. CHAN	
Stanley W.L. CHAN	
Beverly Y. CHEUNG	(joined in October)
Natalia K.Y. CHEUNG	
Kyle K.P. HO	(joined in October)
Brian P.C. HO	(retired in October)
HUI Sui Hang	
Frederick K.C. KAN	(retired in October)
Ronald Y.H. KAN	(retired in October)
Susan K.M. LAI	
Karen LAM	
Stephanie W. LAU	
Karen K.Y. LEE	
Daniel N.C. LEUNG	
Eviana B.Y. LEUNG	
William W.S. LING	
Annie Y. LIU	(joined in October)
Celeste T.Y. LO	(joined in June)
Patrick K.W. MAK	(retired in October)
Anthony W.S. POON	(resigned in November)
David N. TIANG	
Careen H.Y. WONG	
Lawrence S.H. YEUNG	(retired in October)
Gary S.K. YIN	
Chris T. ZHAO	

Secretary: Assistant Director, Communications and External Affairs

Greater Bay Area Sub-Committee

Thomas S.T. SO (Chair)
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Neville C.H. CHENG
Natalia K.Y. CHEUNG
Brian P.C. HO (retired in October)
Frederick K.C. KAN (retired in October)
Ronald Y.H. KAN (retired in October)
Karen LAM
Patrick K.W. MAK (retired in October)
Careen H.Y. WONG
James K.T. WONG
Lawrence S.H. YEUNG (retired in October)

Secretary: Assistant Director, Communications and External Affairs

Greater Bay Area Lawyers Sub-Committee

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Hilarie LAM
Karen K.Y. LEE
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Sam S. LIU
MA Ho Fai
Matthew W.L. NG
Sharon S.Y. TAM
Pan TSANG
Wilfred K.P. TSUI
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Francois Y.H. TUNG
Kenneth K.H. WAN
Nathan S.K. WONG

Secretary: Assistant Director, Communications and External Affairs

Working Party on the Promotion of Law Society Courses and Initiatives in Greater China Region

C. M. CHAN
Neville C.H. CHENG
Natalia K.Y. CHEUNG
Frederick K.C. KAN (retired in October)
William W.S. LING
Careen H.Y. WONG
James K.T. WONG
Lawrence S.H. YEUNG (retired in October)

Secretary: Assistant Director, Communications and External Affairs

Working Party on Research on Greater Bay Area

Neville C.H. CHENG (Chair)
James K.T. WONG (Vice-Chair)
Natalia K.Y. CHEUNG
Heidi H.Y. CHUI
Brian P.C. HO (retired in October)
Ronald Y.H. KAN (retired in October)
Daniel N.C. LEUNG

Secretary: Assistant Director, Communications and External Affairs

Cross Strait Four Regions Young Lawyers Forum 2024 Organising Committee

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Eviana B.Y. LEUNG (Vice-Chair)
Roden M.L. TONG (Advisor)
James K.T. WONG (Advisor)
Bronco M.T. BUT
Do Do CHAN
Fiona H.T. CHAN
Roberta CHAN
Natalia K.Y. CHEUNG
Joyce C. CHENG
Sidney K.C. HO
Raphael Y. HUI
Frederick K.C. KAN
Susan K.M. LAI
Stephanie W. LAU
Karen K.Y. LEE
Daniel N.C. LEUNG
Daphne F.Y. LO
David Y.C. LUK
Hin Han SHUM
William W.L. TONG
Kenneth K.H. WAN
Joanne N.W. WONG
Winnie W.L. LEE WONG

Secretary: Assistant Director, Communications and External
Affairs

GBA Young Lawyers Forum Organising Committee

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Heidi H.Y. CHUI (Vice-Chair)
Roden M.L. TONG (Advisor)
Patrick K.W. MAK (Advisor)
Bronco M.T. BUT
Do Do CHAN
Neville C.H. CHENG
Sidney K.C. HO
Raphael Y. HUI
HUI Sui Hang
Olivia H.Y. KUNG
Victor N. LAU
Winnie W.L. LEE WONG
Daniel N.C. LEUNG
William W.S. LING
Daphne F.Y. LO
William W.L. TONG
Ina H.T. TSUI
Henry Y.H. WAI
Kenneth K.H. WAN

Secretary: Assistant Director, Communications and External
Affairs

Greater China Legal Affairs Young Solicitors Sub- Committee

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Fiona H.T. CHAN
Sally T.Y. CHEUNG
Nicola L.Y. CHOI
Conrad H.S. HO
Eric Y.N. HONG
Raphael Y. HUI
Ricky W.K. IP
Crystal KOO
Victor N. LAU
Leonard Y.L. LAW
LIU Tianqi
Kerri K.L. TANG
Kayla WAN
Kenneth K.H. WAN
WU Hao

Secretary: Assistant Director, Communications and External
Affairs

Greater China Interest Group

Neville C.H. CHENG (Chair)
May W.M. CHAN
Rico W.K. CHAN
Roberta CHAN
Selwyn C.Y. CHAN
Serina K.S. CHAN
Vincent W.H. CHAN
Julianne P. DOE
Byran FOK
Hannah C.L. HA
Brian P.C. HO (joined in October)
David S.K. HO
Lincoln S.Y. HO
Dennis S.K. HU
Stephen W.S. HUNG
Mable B.M. KAN
Frederick K.C. KAN (joined in October)
Ronald Y.H. KAN (joined in October)
KONG Chung Yau
Christine M.K. CHEUNG KOO
Emily Y.M. LAM
Alan Y.K. LAU
LEE Hung Sang
Jonathan T.W. LEE
Stevenc K. LEE
Alvin C.Y. LIM
Anny C.L. LO
Daphne F.Y. LO
Eric C.H. LUI
David Y.C. LUK
Patrick K.W. MAK (joined in October)
Melissa K. PANG
Anthony W.S. POON (joined in October)
SAUW Yim
Thomas S.T. SO
Sharon S.Y. TAM
TAN Luhua
Wilfred K.P. TSUI
Henry Y.H. WAI
Howard S.C. WONG
Jean H.C. WONG
Joanne N.W. WONG
WONG Lai Ming
Evan Y. XIAN
Bob X. YAN
YAU Chi Keung
Ann M.S. YEUNG

Greater China Interest Group (Continued)

Lawrence S.H. YEUNG (joined in October)
Simon S.M. YEUNG
Ernest K.L. YUEN
Anthea H. ZHANG

Secretary: Assistant Director, Communications and External Affairs

Greater Bay Area Lawyers Interest Group

Careen H.Y. WONG (Chair)
Arthur C.Y. CHAN
Sherman K.N. CHAN
Dennis K.K. CHAN
Gloria P.Y. CHAN
Thomas P.H. CHAN
Conrad H.S. HO
Eric K.T. HO
IP Shing Hing
Victor N. LAU
Wendy W.C. LAW
Daniel N.C. LEUNG
Raymond K.H. LI
Clement C.Y. TANG
Simon C.M. WONG
WONG Sincere
Margaret K.M. YAN

Secretary: Assistant Director, Communications and External Affairs

Working Party for the Celebration of the 25th Anniversary of HKSAR and the 115th Anniversary of The Law Society

Roden M.L. TONG (Chair)
CHAN Tze Chin
Eliza L.S. CHANG
Heidi H.Y. CHUI
Doreen Y.F. KONG (Resigned in October)
Karen LAM
Melissa K. PANG
Careen H.Y. WONG

Secretary: Director of Communications and External Affairs (until September)
Director of Communications & External Affairs and Member Services (from September)

Steering Committee on Compliance Reform

Christopher K.K. YU (Chair)
Jimmy K.H. CHAN
Calvin K. CHENG
Pak Sun HAU
Arthur K.H. HONG
Stephen W.S. HUNG
Anthony T.C. LAM
Simon J. McCONNELL
Hin Han SHUM
Ronald K.N. SUM
Vincent S.K. TSO
Annie P.Y. WONG
Careen H.Y. WONG
Davyd WONG
Justin H.Y. YUEN

Secretary: Director of Compliance (until June)
Assistant Director, Compliance (from July)

Working Party on Dreamvar's Case

Amirali B. NASIR (Chair)
C. M. CHAN
Debbie F. CHEUNG
Doreen Y.F. KONG
Simon S.C. LAI
Billy W.Y. MA
Rodan M.L. TONG

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (I)

Working Party on Review of Intervention

Calvin K. CHENG (Chair)
C. M. CHAN
Pak Sun HAU
Amirali B. NASIR
Melissa K. PANG
Christopher K.K. YU

Secretary: Director of Compliance

Working Party on Compliance Related Legislative Amendments

Christopher K.K. YU (Chair)
Stephen W.S. HUNG
Simon J. McCONNELL
Kevin K.W. NG
Janet H.Y. PANG
WONG Li Chien

Secretary: Assistant Director, Regulation and Guidance (II)

Working Party on Law Society Examination and Related Topics

Stephen W.S. HUNG (Chair)
Nick H.F. CHAN
Heidi K.P. CHU
Brian W. GILCHRIST
HAU Pak Sun (joined in July)
Simon S.C. LAI
Melissa K. PANG (resigned in June)
Thomas S.T. SO (resigned in June)
Careen H.Y. WONG (joined in July)
Dieter L.T. YIH
Christopher K.K. YU

Secretary: Director of Standards and Development

Working Party on Alternative Business Structures

Christopher K.K. YU (Chair)
Heidi K.P. CHU
Tom K.M. FU
Simon J. McCONNELL
Hin Han SHUM (joined in August)
Vincent S.K. TSO (joined in August)
Careen H.Y. Wong
Davyd WONG (resigned in August)
Justin H.Y. YUEN

Secretary: Deputy Secretary General and Director of Member Services (until September)
Deputy Secretary General (Projects) (from September)

Standing Committee on Compliance

Jimmy K.H. CHAN	(Chair from August; Vice-Chair until August)	(7/11)
Christopher K.K. YU	(Chair until August)	(9/11)
Calvin K. CHENG	(Vice-Chair from August; joined in August)	(5/6)
Simon J. McCONNELL	(Vice-Chair from August)	(7/11)
Paul K.Y. CHOW		(5/11)
Pak Sun HAU		(10/11)
Arthur K.H. HONG		(8/11)
Stephen W.S. HUNG		(10/11)
Alex T.H. LAI		(11/11)
Anthony T.C. LAM		(9/11)
Henson LAM		(5/11)
Andrew Y.B. LEE		(8/11)
Amirali B. NASIR		(7/11)
Hin Han SHUM		(6/11)
Roden M.L. TONG		(4/11)
Annie P.Y. WONG		(7/11)
Davyd WONG		(6/11)
Euphemia M.S. WONG		(7/11)
Justin H.Y. YUEN		(11/11)

Secretary: Director of Compliance (until June)

Acting Secretary: Assistant Director, Conduct (from July)
Assistant Director, Compliance (from July)

Consents Committee

Amirali B. NASIR	(Chair until July; resigned in July)
Pak Sun HAU	(Chair from July; joined in July)
Careen H.Y. WONG	(Vice-Chair until August)
Shing Hing IP	
Raymond M.S. KWOK	
Henry H.W. LAI	
Anthony T.C. LAM	
Billy Y.C. LAM	
Henson LAM	
Karen LAM	
Jonathan T.W. LEE	
Eddie K.F. LOOK	
Kelvin K.W. NG	
Hin Han SHUM	
Ronald K.N. SUM	
Vincent S.K. TSO	
Annie P.Y. WONG	
Li Chien WONG	
Ann M.S. YEUNG	

Secretary: Director of Compliance (until June)

Acting Secretary: Assistant Director, Registration

Investigation Committees

[Note: These Committees are Subcommittees of the Standing Committee on Compliance, consisting of three members, and consider agendas by circulation.]

Compliance Department



Standing Committee on External Affairs

Careen H.Y. WONG	(Chair)	(4/4)
Ronald K.N. SUM	(Vice-Chair)	(4/9)
C. M. CHAN		(2/9)
Jimmy K.H. CHAN		(2/9)
Joyce C. CHENG		(9/9)
Mark DALY		(2/9)
Tom K.M. FU		(4/9)
Stephen W.S. HUNG		(5/9)
Frederick K.C. KAN		(5/9)
Olivia H.Y. KUNG		(6/9)
Arthur Y.Y. LAW		(8/9)
Winnie W.L. LEE WONG (joined in November)		(1/1)
Eviana B.Y. LEUNG		(4/9)
Simon J. McCONNELL		(5/9)
Amirali B. NASIR		(7/9)
Melissa K. PANG		(0/9)
Robert C. RHODA		(1/9)
Hin Han SHUM		(9/9)
Thomas S.T. SO		(0/9)
Roden M.L. TONG		(8/9)
Richard K.C. TSUN		(9/9)
Karen H.L. WONG		(8/9)
Nathan S.K. WONG		(9/9)
Ann M.S. YEUNG (retired in November)		(6/8)
Christopher K.K. YU		(5/8)

Secretary: Director of Communications and External Affairs (until September)
Director of Communications & External Affairs and Member Services (from September)

Law Week 2024 Organising Committee

Calvin CHENG	(Chair)
Hin Han SHUM	(Vice-Chair)
Agnes H.C. CHAN	
Raphael Y. HUI	
Wing LAM	
Amanda NG	
Sharon S.Y. TAM	
Winnie TSE	
Richard K.C. TSUN	
James K.T. WONG	
Natalie S.W. WONG	
Beryl W. WU	
Sherman S.M. YEUNG	

Secretary: Assistant Director, Communications & External Affairs

Teen Talk 2024 Organising Committee

Sharon S.Y. TAM	(Chair)
Matthew W.L. NG	(Vice-Chair)
Catherine K.M. CHAN	
Fiona H.T. CHAN	
Emily H.Y. CHOW	
Lok Ching CHU	
Raphael Y. HUI	
Manly M.W. LAM	
Stanley C. LAM	
Wing LAM	
Winnie W.L. LEE WONG	
David Y.C. LUK	
Hovin Y.K. MOK	
Charmaine C.P. NG	
May NG	
Robert T.Y. SIT	
Heyman C. TANG	
William W.L. TONG	
Richard K.C. TSUN	
James K.T. WONG	
William W.K. WONG	
Man Fung YEUNG	

Secretary: Assistant Director, Communications & External Affairs (until September)

Community Relations Committee

Joyce C. CHENG	(Chair)
Carmen S.M. NG	(Vice-Chair)
George K.H. CHAN	
Gilbert K.S. CHAN	
Simon M.Y. CHAN	
Neville C.H. CHENG	
Raphael Y. HUI	
Anita P.F. LEUNG	
William W.S. LING	(resigned in October)
Celeste T.Y. LO	(joined in November)
Charmaine C.P. NG	
Sharon S.Y. TAM	
William W.L. TONG	
Winnie TSE	
Maggie Y.T. TSUI	
Jackie N.M. YEUNG	
Sherman S.M. YEUNG	

Secretary: Assistant Director, Communications & External Affairs

Sub-Committee on Abide by the Law Education

Joyce C. CHENG	(Chair)
William W.L. TONG	(Vice-Chair)
Francis M.B. AU YEUNG	
Isabella W.H. CHAN	
Jason W.P. CHOI	
Raphael Y. HUI	
Susan K.M. LAI	
Karen K.Y. LEE	
Anita P.F. LEUNG	
John C.Y. LO	
Carmen S.M. NG	
Charmaine C.P. NG	
SAUW Yim	
Hin Han SHUM	
Sharon S.Y. TAM	
James K.T. WONG	
Jackie N.M. YEUNG	
Sherman S.M. YEUNG	

Secretary: Communications and External Affairs Officer

Sub-Committee on Law and New Generation Programme and School Talks

William W.S. LING	(Chair, resigned in October)
Raphael Y. HUI	(Vice-Chair)
George K.H. CHAN	
Nick CHAN	
Joyce C. CHENG	
Crystal K.M. KONG	(joined in March)
Hilda LAM	
Carmen S.M. NG	
Hin Han SHUM	
Anderson H.P. SIU	(joined in October)
William W.L. TONG	
Gordon H.Y. TSANG	
Winnie TSE	
Maggie Y.T. TSUI	
Cecilia Grace L.A. WONG	(joined in October)
James K.T. WONG	

Secretary: Communications and External Affairs Officer

Sub-Committee on Community Talks and Services

George K.H. CHAN	(Chair)
Jackie N.M. YEUNG	(Vice-Chair)
Gilbert K.S. CHAN	
Neville C.H. CHENG	
Alex M.K. CHEUNG	
Jason W.P. CHOI	
Kyle K.P. HO	(joined in November)
Raphael Y. HUI	
Susan K.M. LAI	
Stephanie W.Y. LAU	
William W.S. LING	(resigned in October)
Emily T.Y. MOK	(joined in November)
Charmaine C.P. NG	
SAUW Yim	
Hin Han SHUM	
William W.L. TONG	
Maggie Y.T. TSUI	
Patricia WIJAYA	
James K.T. WONG	
Weijing WU	
Sherman S.M. YEUNG	

Secretary: Communications and External Affairs Officer

MEMBERSHIP OF STANDING COMMITTEES, COMMITTEES, WORKING PARTIES AND ORGANISING COMMITTEES

International Legal Affairs Committee

Amirali B. NASIR	(Chair until September; member from October)
Simon J. McCONNELL	(Chair from October)
Hin Han SHUM	(joined in March; Vice-Chair from November)
Stephen W.S. HUNG	(Vice-Chair until October; retired in October)
Neville C.H. CHENG	
Beverly Y. CHEUNG	
Heidi H.Y. CHUI	
Tom K.M. FU	
Raphael Y. HUI	(joined in November)
Munenori KAKU	(retired in October)
Frederick K.C. KAN	(retired in October)
Olivia H.Y. KUNG	(retired in October)
Karen LAM	
Karen S.K. LAM	(joined in November)
Winnie W.L. LEE WONG	

International Legal Affairs Committee (Continued)

David Y.C. LUK	(retired in October)
Charmaine C.P. NG	(resigned in April)
Winnie TSE	(joined in November)
Alison K.W. TSOI	
Careen H.Y. WONG	
Joanne N.W. WONG	(joined in November)
William W.K. WONG	
Ernest T.M. YANG	
Maggie M.Y. YIM	(retired in October)

Secretary: Assistant Director, Communications & External Affairs

Communications & External Affairs and Member Services Department (Communications and External Affairs)



Standing Committee on Member Services

Calvin K. CHENG	(Chair until August; resigned in August)	(7/7)
Christopher K.K. YU	(Chair from August; joined in August)	(3/4)
Hin Han SHUM	(Vice-Chair)	(11/12)
Chris T. ZHAO	(Vice-Chair)	(10/12)
Bonita B.Y. CHAN		(6/12)
Eliza L.S. CHANG		(9/12)
Joyce C. CHENG	(joined in August)	(3/4)
Neville C.H. CHENG		(10/12)
Constance H.M. CHOY		(8/12)
Heidi H.Y. CHUI		(9/12)
Karen LAM		(9/12)
Nancy B.Y. LEUNG		(0/12)
Melissa K. PANG		(3/12)
Sharon S.Y. TAM		(7/12)
Roden M.L. TONG		(8/12)
Winnie TSE	(joined in January)	(9/11)
Vincent S.K. TSO		(7/12)
Adamas K.S. WONG		(10/12)
Cecilia K.W. WONG		(9/12)

Secretary: Deputy Secretary General and Director of Member Services (until September)
Director of Communications & External Affairs and Member Services (from September)

Committee for Members with Mainland Background

Chris T. ZHAO	(Chair)
Helen H.Y. LIAO	(Vice-Chair from February)
Simon B.W. MUI	(Vice-Chair from February)
Jimmy K.H. CHAN	(joined in February)
Annie CHEN	(joined in February)
Ken J.G. CHEN	
Annie T.T. LING	
Annie Y. LIU	(joined in October)
Chris G.J. TANG	(joined in October)
Paul Y. WANG	(joined in October)
Alan J.H. XU	(joined in October)
Nancy N. YANG	
Chandy C.R. YE	
Cheryl X.C. YU	(joined in October)

Secretary: Assistant Director, Member Services (II) (until July)
Assistant Director, Member Services (I) (from July)

Diversity and Inclusion Committee

Melissa K. PANG	(Chair)
Bonita B.Y. CHAN	
Joyce C. CHENG	
Elaine Y.M. LO	
Rachael SHEK	
Roden M.L. TONG	
T.H. TRAN	
Adamas K.S. WONG	

Secretary: Assistant Director, Member Services (II) (until October)
Senior Member Services Officer (from October)

In-House Lawyers Committee

Adamas K.S. WONG	(Chair until September; member from October)
Joyce C. CHENG	(Chair from October)
Cerin N.T. YIP	(Vice-Chair)
Alexander AU	(Vice-Chair from October)
Agnes H.C. CHAN	
CHAN Wing Kit	(retired in September)
Vivian S.M. CHIU	(retired in September)
Ruby H.T. LEUNG	(joined in October)
David Y.C. LUK	
Rendy K.M. NG	(retired in September)
Christy P.W. MAK	(joined in October)
Anthony W.S. POON	(resigned in December)
Roden M.L. TONG	
Alison K.W. TSOI	
Toby C.T. WAI	
Karen H.L. WONG	
Nancy N. YANG	

Secretary: Assistant Director, Member Services (II) (until October)
Assistant Director, Communications & External Affairs and Member Services (from October)

InnoTech Committee

Amirali B. NASIR	(Chair)
Nick CHAN	(Vice-Chair)
Alan C.W. CHIU	
Joyce W.Y. CHOW	
Heidi H.Y. CHUI	
Grace C.M. HO	
Danny K.H. KAN	
Philip Z.F. KWOK	
Victoria K.M. LAM	
Andy K.T. LAU	(retired in September)
Arthur Y.Y. LAW	
Amy L.E. LEE	
Natalie C.L. LI	(resigned in October)
Hin Han SHUM	
Thomas S.T. SO	
Alice F.M. TSUI	(retired in September)
Karen H.L. WONG	(joined in October)
Maggie M.Y. YIM	(joined in October)
Henry P.H. YU	(retired in September)

Secretary: Deputy Secretary General and Director of Member Services (until September)
Assistant Director, Member Services (III) (from September)

Legal Talent Recruitment Scheme (Trainee Solicitors) Committee

Roden M.L. TONG	(Chair)
Bonita B.Y. CHAN	
Nick CHAN	
Calvin K. CHENG	
Karen LAM	
Adamas K.S. WONG	

Secretary: Senior Member Services Officer (until July)
Director of Communications & External Affairs and Member Services (from September)

Member Benefit Committee

Karen LAM	(Chair)
Simon S.M. CHAN	
Beverly Y. CHEUNG	
Raphael Y. HUI	
Crystal K.M. KONG	
Annie Y. LIU	
Jacky C.W. LIU	(joined in October)
Charmaine C.P. NG	
Sammy W.N. NG	(retired in September)
SAUW Yim	
Philip H.M. TSANG	
Sherman S.M. YEUNG	

Secretary: Assistant Director, Member Services (I)

Practice Management Committee

Philip W.C. WONG	(Chair)
Alan C.W. CHIU	(Vice-Chair)
Simon M.Y. CHAN	
Stanley W.L. CHAN	
Willa C.F. CHAN	
Eliza L.S. CHANG	
Junius K.Y. HO	
Elaine Y.M. LO	
Amirali B. NASIR	
Ludwig S.W. NG	
Victor C.K. YAU	
Henry P.H. YU	

Secretary: Deputy Secretary General and Director of Member Services (until September)
Assistant Director, Communications & External Affairs and Member Services (from October)

Islamic Affairs Working Party

Amirali B. NASIR (Chair)
John S. GALE
Daphne F.Y. LO
Kingsley T.W. ONG
William W.L. TONG
Toby C.T. WA (joined in October)
Edmond M.Y. YEUNG

Secretary: Assistant Director, Member Services (II) (until July)
Assistant Director, Member Services (III) (from July)

Working Party on Client Engagement Letters

Elaine Y.M. LO (Chair)
Eliza L.S. CHANG
Alan C.W. CHIU
Ludwig S.W. NG
Careen H.Y. WONG
Philip W.C. WONG
Victor C.K. YAU

Secretary: Deputy Secretary General and Director of Member Services (until April)
Assistant Director, Member Services (I) (from April)

Pro Bono Committee

Alan G. SCHIFFMAN (Chair)
Candy H.K. AU (Vice-Chair from October)
Arthur C.Y. CHAN (retired in September)
Hess CHAN
Eric T.M. CHEUNG (retired in September)
Joyce C. CHENG (joined in October)
Vincent Y.F. CHONG (joined in November)
Michelle Y.W. CHOW (retired in September)
E. John DAVISON (retired in September)
Sharon K.Y. FUNG
Nicole C.Y. HON (joined in November)
Vivian W.M. HUI (joined in November)
Maryellen N.Y. KO (retired in September)
Anthony W.M. KWAN (retired in September)
Jannice LAU (joined in November)
Gabriel Y.H. LEE
Tamara Y.Y. LIU (joined in November)
Bharati S. MANEK
Charmaine C.P. NG
Jonathan ROSS (retired in September)
Thomas S.T. SO
William W.L. TONG (retired in September)
Winnie TSE (joined in November)
Vincent S.K. TSO (joined in April)
Harrison C.S. TSOI
Simon C.M. WONG (joined in October)
Cecilia Grace L.A. WONG (joined in October)
Catherine K.Y. WONG
Davyd WONG (retired in September)
Jacob T.K. LAU (joined in November)
Stella M.H. YEUNG (joined in November)

Secretary: Assistant Director, Member Services (II) (until October)
Assistant Director, Communications & External Affairs and Member Services (from October)

Pro Bono and Community Work Recognition Committee

C. M. CHAN (Chair)
 Sherman K.N. CHAN
 Simon M.Y. CHAN
 Joyce C. CHENG (joined in October)
 IP Shing Hing
 Anita C.L. LI
 Daphne F.Y. LO
 Melissa K. PANG
 Sharon S.Y. TAM
 William W.L. TONG
 Catherine K.Y. WONG
 Christopher K.Y. WONG
 Philip W.C. WONG
 Ann M.S. YEUNG
 Vanessa Y.Y. YOUNG

Secretary: Assistant Director, Member Services (I)

Recreation and Sports Committee

Roden M.L. TONG (Chair)
 Alison C.Y. CHAN
 Simon S.M. CHAN (retired in September)
 CHAN Tze Chin (retired in September)
 Calvin K. CHENG
 Alex M.K. CHEUNG (resigned in June)
 Dora W.Y. CHEUNG (joined in October)
 Pak Sun HAU (joined in October)
 Raphael Y. HUI
 Karen LAM
 Terence Y.F. LAU
 Lee Ting LUI (joined in October)
 Charmaine C.P. NG
 Anthony W.S. POON
 Robert T.Y. SIT
 William W.L. TONG
 Collin K.L. WONG
 Nga Wun WONG (joined in October)
 Winston S.Q. YU
 Anson H.Y. CHAN (student representative;
 joined in February)
 Hilary Y.K. LEE (student representative;
 retired in February)
 Kacey C.Y. MA (student representative;
 joined in April)
 Gabi H.G. NG (student representative;
 joined in February; retired in
 April)
 Nathan W.H. POON (student representative;
 retired in February)

Secretary: Assistant Director, Member Services (III)

Small and Medium Firms Committee

Careen H.Y. WONG	(joined in September; Chair from September)
Bronson Y.H. CHAN	(joined in September)
C. F. CHAN	(joined in September)
Joseph W.K. CHAN	(joined in September)
P.M. CHEUNG	(joined in September)
Angela M.K. HO	(joined in September)
Raphael Y.H. HUI	(joined in September)
W. L. LEUNG	(joined in September)
Adrian LI	(joined in September)
Nickolas D.H.C. SAM	(joined in September)
Carmen K.M. TANG	(joined in September)
Victor C.K. YAU	(joined in September)
Ann M.S. YEUNG	(joined in September)

Secretary: Assistant Director, Member Services (III)

Working Party for In-House Lawyers

Chris T. ZHAO	(Chair)
Arthur C.W. CHEUNG	
Maggie K.K. CHEUNG	(resigned in June)
Melissa E.L. CHIM	
Albert T. DA ROSA Jr.	
Mohan DATWANI	
Bernardina J. KWOH	
Alice A.S. KWOK	
Johnathan C.Y. LAI	
Elaine Y.M. LO	
Philip M.H. NG	
Rendy K.M. NG	
Thomas S.T. SO	
Roden M.L. TONG	
Toby C.T. WAI	
Adamas K.S. WONG	
Nancy N. YANG	
Vanessa Y.S. ZIEA	
Peggy W.Y. AU YEUNG	(Observer)

Secretary: Deputy Secretary General and Director of Member Services (until January)
Assistant Director, Member Services (I) (from January)

Working Party on Historical Archive

Frederick K.C. KAN	(Chair)
Jenkin S.F. CHAN	
Stanley W.L. CHAN	
Anthony W.K. CHOW	
Eviana B.Y. LEUNG	
William W.S. LING	
Patrick R. MOSS	
Amirali B. NASIR	
Charmaine C.P. NG	
Melissa K. PANG	
Secretary: Assistant Director, Member Services (II) (until October)	
Assistant Director, Communications & External Affairs and Member Services (from October)	

Working Party on Law Society App (disbanded in October)

Calvin K. CHENG	(Chair)
Nick CHAN	
Karen LAM	
Richard K.S. LEE	
Secretary: Assistant Director, Member Services (III)	

MEMBERSHIP OF STANDING COMMITTEES, COMMITTEES, WORKING PARTIES AND ORGANISING COMMITTEES

Working Party on Retention of Talent

Calvin K. CHENG (Chair)
Raphael Y. HUI
Doreen Y.F. KONG
Stanley C. LAM
Charmaine C.P. NG
Sammy W.N. NG
Sherman S.M. YEUNG

Secretary: Assistant Director, Member Services (II) (until July)
Assistant Director, Member Services (III) (from July)

Young Solicitors' Group

Hin Han SHUM (Chair)
Arthur Y.Y. LAW (Vice-Chair)
Sherman S.M. YEUNG (Vice-Chair)
Crystal J. BEI
Alison C.Y. CHAN
Arthur C.Y. CHAN
Fiona H.T. CHAN (retired in September)
Katie T.W. CHAN
Calvin K. CHENG
Alex K.P. CHU
Zoe S.Y. CHUNG
Danny L.Y. EU (resigned in January)
Kyle K.P. HO (joined in December)
Tony H.Y. LAU (joined in November)
Victor C.T. LAM (joined in November)
Anita C.L. LI
Celeste T.Y. LO (joined in November)
Jacky C.W. LIU (retired in September)
Adrian C.K. LUK (joined in December)
Marcus T.C. NG
Joanna P.S. TONG
Salvador H.F. TSANG

Secretary: Assistant Director, Member Services (II) (until October)
Assistant Director, Communications & External Affairs and Member Services (from October)

Communications & External Affairs and Member Services Department (Member Services)



Standing Committee on Policy and Resources

Roden M.L. TONG	(Chair from June)	(11/11)
Amirali B. NASIR	(Vice-Chair)	(9/11)
C.M. CHAN	(Chair until June)	(6/7)
		(1/4)*
Jimmy K.H. CHAN		(5/7)
		(1/4)*
Calvin K. CHENG	(resigned in August)	(5/6)
Heidi K.P. CHU		(7/7)
		(3/4)*
Heidi H.Y. CHUI	(joined in August)	(0/1)
		(3/4)*
Tom K.M. FU		(4/7)
		(1/4)*
Simon J. McCONNELL	(joined in August)	(1/1)
		(3/4)*
Melissa K. PANG		(2/7)
		(2/4)*
Careen H.Y. WONG		(11/11)
Christopher K.K. YU		(9/11)
Justin H.Y. YUEN		(7/7)
		(3/4)*
Chris T. ZHAO	(joined in August)	(5/5)

Secretary: Assistant Director, Administration and Human Resources (until September)
Deputy Secretary General (Projects) (from October)

“*” denote unscheduled meetings.

Hong Kong Lawyer Editorial Board

Huen WONG	(Chair)
Jimmy K.H. CHAN	(joined in October)
Nick CHAN	
Peter C.H. CHAN	
Charles C.C. CHAU	
Joyce C. CHENG	(joined in October)
Michelle M.L. CHENG	(resigned in August)
Heidi K.P. CHU	
Julianne P. DOE	
Elliot FUNG	
Julienne JEN	
Karen LAM	
Sam LIU	(joined in October)
Stella S.Y. LEUNG	
Agnes LIU	
SAUW Yim	
Hin Han SHUM	(joined in February)
Toby C.T. WAI	(joined in October)
Adamas K.S. WONG	
Careen H.Y. WONG	(joined in October)
Christopher K.K. YU	(joined in February)
Justin H.Y. YUEN	(joined in October)

Secretary: Assistant Director, Member Services (I)

Remuneration Committee

Roden M.L. TONG	(Chair)
Jimmy K.H. CHAN	
Heidi K.P. CHU	
Tom K.M. FU	
Amirali B. NASIR	
Careen H.Y. WONG	
Christopher K.K. YU	
Justin H.Y. YUEN	

Secretary: Assistant Director, Administration and Human Resources

Working Party on The Law Society IT Systems

Amirali B. NASIR (Chair)
Nick CHAN
Sebastian Y.F. KO
Karen LAM
Steven K LEE
Charles H.W. TO
Rodén TONG

Secretary: IT Consultant

Working Party on Law Society Premises

Rodén M.L. Tong (Chair)
C.M. Chan
W.K. CHOW (joined in May; resigned in June)

Amirali B. Nasir
Melissa K. Pang
Careen H.Y. Wong

Secretary: Secretary General

Working Party on Review of The Law Society's Memorandum and Articles of Association

Huen WONG (Chair)
Jimmy K.H. CHAN
Julia F. CHARLTON
Simon S.C. LAI
Simon J. McCONNELL
Thomas S.T. SO
Ronald K.N. SUM
Rodén M.L. TONG
Careen H.Y. WONG
Christopher K.K. Yu

Secretary: Deputy Secretary General and Director of Member Services (until September)
Deputy Secretary General (Projects) (from September)

Working Party on Social Media

Rodén M.L. TONG (Chair)
Eliza L.S. CHANG
Calvin K. CHENG
Karen LAM

Secretary: Digital Media Executive

Finance and Administration Department



Standing Committee on Practitioners Affairs

Tom K.M. FU	(Chair)	(8/10)
P.S. HAU	(Vice-Chair)	(9/10)
Simon H. BERRY		(9/10)
Calvin K. CHENG	(joined in August)	(4/4)
Neville C.H. CHENG		(7/10)
Constance H.M. CHOY		(1/10)
Mark D. DALY		(4/10)
E. John DAVISON		(7/10)
Rebecca V.I. HO		(8/10)
IP Shing Hing		(8/10)
Richard KEADY		(8/10)
Karen LAM		(6/10)
Kenneth LAM		(8/10)
Jonathan C.Y. MOK		(7/10)
Carmen S.M. NG		(10/10)
Janet H.Y. PANG		(8/10)
Ludovic K.C. SHUM		(8/10)
Vincent S.K. TSO	(joined in August)	(4/4)
Cecilia K.W. WONG		(10/10)
Kenny K.S. WONG		(9/10)
Eric H.Y. WOO		(4/10)
Chris T. ZHAO		(6/10)

Secretary: Deputy Secretary General and Director of
Practitioners Affairs (until December)
Deputy Director of Practitioners Affairs (from
December)

Arbitration Committee

Huen WONG	(Chair)
Thomas S.T. SO	(Vice-Chair)
M.T. BUT	(joined in October)
Rachel C.W. CHAN	
Stephen H.N. CHAN	
Eugene H.K. CHENG	
Ian C.M. CHENG	
Andrew K.N. CHIN	
Mason Y.K. CHING	
H.Y. CHUI	
Joseph W.K. CHUNG	
P.S. HAU	
S.H. HUI	
Dominic Y.K. LAI	
Lily Y.Y. LAI	
John Y.C. LEE	
Lorraine L.Y. LEE	
T.W. LEE	(joined in October)
Eviana B.Y. LEUNG	
Anita C.L. LI	
Edward Y. LIU	
Adrian C.K. LUK	(joined in October)
Catherine L.M. MUN	(retired in October)
Billy Y.K. NG	
Robert C. RHODA	
H.H. SHUM	
Ronald K.N. SUM	
Y.S. TEOH	
Sam K.S. TSUI	
Francis T.S. WONG	
Janie L.Y. WONG	
Kenneth W.Y. WONG	
Simon C.M. WONG	(joined in October)
Eric H.Y. WOO	
Yifan XIAN	(retired in October)
Steven W.Y. YIP	

Secretary: Deputy Secretary General and Director of
Practitioners Affairs (until January)
Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (III) (from
January and until October)
Dispute Resolution Coordinator (from October)

Arbitrators Admission Sub-committee

M.S. YEUNG (Chair)
Glenn R.A. HALEY
James P. KWAN
Dominic Y.K. LAI
Steven W.Y. YIP

Secretary: Deputy Secretary General and Director of
Practitioners Affairs (until January)
Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (III) (from
January and until October)
Dispute Resolution Coordinator (from October)

Civil Litigation Committee

Kenneth W.Y. WONG (Chair)
Richard KEADY (Vice-Chair)
Roberta CHAN
Melissa E.L. CHIM
Johnny C.M. FEE
Dominic A. GEISER
Sally P.L. HO (retired in October)
Patrick M.K. HUI
Nicholas D. HUNSWORTH
Joseph S.M. KWAN
Karen LAM
Mark LIN
Daniel H. NG
Nathan S.K. WONG
Sherman C.N. YAN

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (II) (until
December)
Deputy Director of Practitioners Affairs (from
December)

Committee on Charities and Trust

E. John DAVISON (Chair)
C. M. CHAN
Lester G. HUANG
Jacqueline Y.M. SHEK
WONG Tak Shing
Ian H.C. YEUNG

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (II) (until
December)
Deputy Director of Practitioners Affairs (from
December)

Company Law Committee

Simon S.C. LAI (Chair)
Grace K.W. CHAN
Julia F. CHARLTON
Lisa M.C. CHUNG
Danny K.H. KAN
Daphne F.Y. LO
John Martin MAGUIRE
Alexander QUE
Psyche C.S. TAI
Kelvin K.Y. TAM (joined in October)
Vincent S.K. TSO (joined in October)
Patrick C.K. WONG
Christopher K.K. YU
Frank K.F. YUEN

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (I)

Competition Law Committee

Stephen R. CROSSWELL (Chair until April and resigned
in April)
Natalie YEUNG (Vice-Chair until April and
Chair from April)
(resigned in July)
Nick CHAN
CHU Man Wai
Sebastien J. EVRARD
Frederick L. GOOD
Amita K. HAYLOCK
Adelaide M.W.Z. LUKE
Philip F. MONAGHAN
Marcus P. POLLARD
Dominic S.C. WAI
WANG Yi Kat
Henry J.H. WHEARE

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (II) (until
December)
Deputy Director of Practitioners Affairs (from
December)

Constitutional Affairs and Human Rights Committee

Amirali B. NASIR (Chair)
Nick CHAN
Mark H.Y. CHIU
John J. CLANCEY
Mark D. DALY
Dr. James D. FRY
Junius K.Y. HO
IP Shing Hing
Elsie O.S. LEUNG
Melissa K. PANG
Thomas S.T. SO
Dr. Stephen THOMSON
Christopher K.K. YU

Secretary: Deputy Secretary General and Director of
Practitioners Affairs (until January)
Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (III) (from
January)

Criminal Law and Procedure Committee

Stephen W.S. HUNG (Chair)
Geoffrey N. BOOTH (Vice-Chair)
Benjamin K.Y. AU
Stanley W.L. CHAN (joined in January)
Eugene H.K. CHENG (joined in January)
Johnny C.H. HO
Jacky H.S. LEE
Kane K.F. MAK
Jonathan C.Y. MOK (resigned in October)
Kenneth H. S. NG
Kevin K.W. NG (joined in January)
Eric TANG
Ben K.K. WONG

Secretary: Deputy Secretary General and Director of
Practitioners Affairs (until January)
Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (III) (from
January)

Sub-Committee on Liaison with the CSD

Kenneth H.S. NG (Chair)
Benjamin K.Y. AU
Johnny C.H. HO
Jacky H.S. LEE
Eric TANG
Ben K.K. WONG

Secretary: Deputy Secretary General and Director of
Practitioners Affairs (until January)
Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (III)
(from January)

Sub-Committee on Liaison with the Police

Kenneth H.S. NG (Chair)
Benjamin K.Y. AU
Johnny C.H. HO
Jacky H.S. LEE
Eric TANG
Ben K.K. WONG

Secretary: Deputy Secretary General and Director of
Practitioners Affairs (until January)
Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (III)
(from January)

Employment Law Committee

Walter Y.W. LEE (Chair)
Fiona B.L. CHOW (Vice-Chair)
Duncan A.W. ABATE
Lily S.M. CHANG
Mark H.Y. CHIU (joined in October)
Paul R. HASWELL
Lily Y.Y. LAI
Adrian W.H. LAU
LIAO Haiyan
Fiona M. LOUGHREY
Melissa K. PANG
Eric A. SZWEDA
Charles H.W. TO

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (II)
(until January)
Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (III)
(from January)

Family Law Committee

Jonathan C.Y. MOK (Chair)
Anthony J. HUNG (Vice-Chair)
Winnie W.Y. CHOW
Barbara A. HUNG
Jennifer W.C. IP (retired in October)
Nancy M.C. KEUNG
Billy K.F. KO
KU Ming Wai
Lily Y.Y. LAI
Karen S.Y. LAM
LEUNG Shek Lim
Elsie H.S. LIU
Melissa K. PANG
Catherine K.G. POR
Cecilia K.W. WONG
Lisa W.Y. WONG
Kenneth K.S. YUNG

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (II)
(until December)
Deputy Director of Practitioners Affairs
(from December)

Family Office Practice Committee

C. M. CHAN (Chair)
CHAI Wenwen
CHAN Choi Fong
CHAN Lam Tan
Pierre T.H. CHAN
Alan C.W. CHIU
Michelle Y.W. CHOW
CHU Po King
Heidi H.Y. CHUI
FUNG Po Yee
HON Wai Ting
Lester G. HUANG
David S.L. LIN
SIM Sze Kuan
Robert T.Y. SIT
TSEN Hau Yen
TSOI Kai Wing
Kenneth K.S. YNG

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (II)
(until December)
Deputy Director of Practitioners Affairs
(from December)

Higher Rights of Audience Committee

Denis G. BROCK (Chair)
Jason D. KARAS (Vice-Chair)
Andrew N. HART
Patrick M.K. HUI
Jacky H.S. LEE
Kevin K.W. NG

Secretary: Deputy Secretary General and Director of
Practitioners Affairs (until January)
Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (III)
(from January)

Insolvency Law Committee

Keith M.K. HO (Chair)
Ludwig S.W. NG (Vice-Chair)
Ian R. DE WITT
Junius K.Y. HO
Camille JOJO
LAU Hon Yiu (joined in October)
LEE Hung Sang
Eviana B.Y. LEUNG
Edmund M.S. MA
Alexander H.L. TANG
Catherine K.Y. WONG

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (II)
(until December)
Deputy Director of Practitioners Affairs
(from December)

Insurance Law Committee

David G. ADAMS	(Chair)
Jan BUSCHMANN	(Vice-Chair)
Denis G. BROCK	(retired in January)
Christine M. KOO	
MAK Hon Ming	
Gary MEGGITT	
Hideo NAKAMURA	
Mark F. REEVES	
Antony R. SASSI	
Rupert C. SKRINE	(retired in January)
Roden M.L. TONG	
TSUI Kwok Sum	
Stuart J. VALENTINE	
Shane F. WEIR	
Angela S.Y. YIM	

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (II)
(until December)
Deputy Director of Practitioners Affairs
(from December)

Intellectual Property Committee

Kenny K.S. WONG	(Chair)
Anita P.F. LEUNG	(Vice-Chair)
Steven J. BIRT	
Ella S.K. CHEONG	
A. Clinton D. EVANS	
Chloe Y.F. LEE	
Rebecca M.C. LO	
Philip H.M. TSANG	(joined in October)
Annie TSOI	
Annie S.T. TSOI	(resigned in December)
Adelaide H.M. YU	
Christopher K.K. YU	

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (I)
(until January)
Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (III)
(from January)

Investment Products and Financial Services Committee

Simon H. BERRY	(Chair)
Augustine K.C. CHAN	
Vincent N.H. CHAN	
Winnie W.K. CHAN	
Cherry M.S. CHOW	
Danny K.H. KAN	
Christopher H. KNIGHT	
Jason C.Y. LEE	
Alan H. LINNING	(resigned in January)
Charmaine C.Y. NG	(joined in June)
Sara S.M. OR	
Padraig L. WALSH	
Adamas K.S. WONG	

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (I)

Land Use Planning and Environmental Law Committee

E. John DAVISON	(Chair)
Andrew W.Y. NG	(Vice-Chair)
CHAN Do Do	(joined in December)
Benjamin S.F. CHOI	
Menachem M. HASOFER	
Diana P.Y. HO	
Keith K.W. HUNG	
IP Shing Hing	
Winnie Y.W. MA	(joined in December)
Winky W.K. SIT	
Christopher TUNG	
Jessica S.W. VAN DER KAMP	
Maggie M.Y. YIM	(joined in December)

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (I)

Legal Aid Committee

Melissa K. PANG	(Chair)
Dr. WAN Charn Wing	(Vice-Chair)
Patrick M. BURKE	(retired in April)
BUT Man Tai	(joined in June)
Johnny C.H. HO	(joined in June)
Junius K.Y. HO	(retired in April)
Rebecca V.I. HO	
J.C. Nicholas MILLAR	(retired in April)
NG Kin Wah	(joined in June)
TANG Chi Keung	(retired in April)
Cecilia Grace L.A. WONG	(joined in October)

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (II)
(until December)
Deputy Director of Practitioners Affairs
(from December)

Mediation Committee

Cecilia K.W. WONG	(Chair)
Sylvia W.Y. SIU	(Vice-Chair)
Geoffrey N. BOOTH	
M.T. BUT	(joined in October)
Karen LAM	
Daphne F.Y. LO	(retired in October)
Maureen E. MUELLER	
Melissa K. PANG	
Catherine K.G. POR	
H.H. SHUM	
Jody K.Y. SIN	
Ronald K.N. SUM	

Secretary: Deputy Secretary General and Director of
Practitioners Affairs (until January)
Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (III)
(from January and until October)
Dispute Resolution Coordinator (from October)

Mental Health Law Committee

Sherlynn G. CHAN	(Chair)
E. John DAVISON	(Vice-Chair)
Jason M.K. CHAN	(resigned in May)
Daisy T.M. CHEUNG	
Heidi H.Y. CHUI	(joined in November)
Dr. Gabriel B.K. HUNG	
LEE Kwok Ming	(joined in May)
Walter Y.W. LEE	
Olivia S.M. LEUNG	
Claudia Christian W.S. LING	
Szwina S.K. PANG	
Kevin K.Y. SO	
Herbert H.K. TSOI	
Cecilia K.W. WONG	
Hazel H.S. WONG	(joined in May)

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (I)
(until January)
Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (III)
(from January)

Personal Injuries Committee

Mark F. REEVES	(Chair)
Patrick M. BURKE	
Bronco M.T. BUT	
Eliza L.S. CHANG	
CHIU Koon G	
Christina W.C. HUNG	
Kenneth LAM	
Dennis K.K. LEUNG	
Vitus W.H. LEUNG	
J.C. Nicholas MILLAR	
Amirali B. NASIR	
Szwina S.K. PANG	
Tommy K.M. WONG	

Secretary: Deputy Secretary General and Director of
Practitioners Affairs (until January)
Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (III)
(from January)

Privacy and Data Law Committee

Simon H. BERRY (Chair)
Mark H.Y. CHIU
Paul R. HASWELL
Crystal K.M. KONG
Philip Z.F. KWOK
Chloe Y.F. LEE
Mark LIN
Rebecca M.C. LO
Eric T.Y. TANG
Kenneth K.S. YUNG

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (II)
(until December)
Deputy Director of Practitioners Affairs
(from December)

Probate Committee

Herbert H.K. TSOI (Chair)
AU Miu Po
Viola HUNG
Xenia S.M. LO
Billy W.Y. MA
NG Kin Yuen
TAM Sau Hing
TSANG Kam Chuen
WONG Tak Shing

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (I)

Property Committee

Lilian S.F. CHIANG (Chair)
Debbie F. CHEUNG
Keith P.K. CHEUNG
Carol P.W. CHOW
Tommy K.K. CHUNG
Emily Y.M. LAM
Amanda L.Y. LIU
Lilian P.Y. MAK
Rodan M.L. TONG
Cleresa P.Y. WONG
WONG Man Wa
Mary Teresa T.L. WONG

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (I)

Solicitor Advocates Interest Group

Geoffrey N. BOOTH
Denis G. BROCK
Christopher J. DOBBY
Matthew P. GEARING
Nicholas D. HUNSWORTH
Jason D. KARAS
KWAN Tak Hong
Yang Ing LOONG
Jonathan N. MIDGLEY
Gerald S.P. MITCHARD
Ludwig S.W. NG
Gary A. SEIB
Kareena P.G. TEH

Secretary: Deputy Secretary General and Director of
Practitioners Affairs (until January)
Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (III)
(from January)

Retirement Schemes Committee

Sophia W.Y. MAN (Chair)
BUT Mau Sum (Vice-Chair)
David G. ADAMS
Camella W.M. CHEUNG
Cynthia W.S. CHUNG
Christine M. KOO
Joe W.C. NG
TAM Chi Wai (retired in October)
WEI Chung Yin
Judy YANG

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (I)
(until January)
Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (III)
(from January)

Revenue Law Committee

Pierre T.H. CHAN (Chair)
C. M. CHAN
Winnie W.K. CHAN
Sally S.W. IP
Vincent P.C. KWAN
Angela Y.L. LAU
Simon J.G. RAE
Jacqueline Y.M. SHEK

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (II)
(until December)
Deputy Director of Practitioners Affairs
(from December)

Reverse Mortgage Committee

Emily Y.M. LAM (Chair)
Steven M.W. SHUM (Vice-Chair)
Heidi K.P. CHU
Billy W.Y. MA
Sharon S.Y. TAM

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (I)

Sports Law Committee

Ronald K.N. SUM (Chair)
Tom K.M. FU (Vice-Chair)
Denis G. BROCK
C. M. CHAN
Calvin K. CHENG (joined in March)
Colin B. COHEN
P.S. HAU (joined in August)
Kevin K.W. HONG (joined in March)
Richard KEADY
Anthony M.C. LAI (joined in March)
Anita P.F. LEUNG
Rebecca M.C. LO
Hideo NAKAMURA
Mark F. REEVES
H.H. SHUM (joined in March)
Cecilia K.W. WONG
Huen WONG
Justin H.Y. YUEN

Secretary: Deputy Secretary General and Director of
Practitioners Affairs (until January)
Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (III)
(from January)

Transportation and Logistics Committee

Steven J. WISE (Chair)
Victor S.H. CHAN
Matthew H.Y. LAM
Eviana B.Y. LEUNG
LEUNG Wai Lim
LI Lianjun
Gillian E. MELLER
Robert C. RHODA
Elizabeth A. SLOANE
TSUI Kwok Sum
Jason H. WEBBER
Eric H.Y. WOO

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (II)
(until December)
Deputy Director of Practitioners Affairs
(from December)

Working Party on Charities and Trust

(Disbanded in June)

E. John DAVISON (Chair)
C. M. CHAN
Lester G. HUANG
Jacqueline Y.M. SHEK
WONG Tak Shing
Ian H.C. YEUNG

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (II)

Working Party on Enduring Powers of Attorney

Billy W.Y. MA (Chair)
E. John DAVISON
Angelina LUK
Herbert H.K. TSOI
Cecilia K.W. WONG
Natalie S.W. WONG
Ian H.C. YEUNG

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (I)

Working Party on Paper Admission of Solicitors

Dominic A. GEISER (Chair)
Melissa E.L. CHIM
Sally P.L. HO (retired in October)
Joseph S.M. KWAN
Karen LAM

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (II)
(until December)
Deputy Director of Practitioners Affairs
(from December)

Working Party on Review of Non-Consent Scheme Forms

Amanda L.Y. LIU (Chair)
CHENG Kwok Wai
Christy S.T. IP (joined in March)
LUI Yiu Fai
WAN Shiu Man
WONG Man Wa

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (I)

Working Party on Revised DMC Guidelines

Amanda L.Y. LIU (Chair)
Diana P.Y. HO
Christy S.T. IP (joined in March)
WAN Shiu Man

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (I)

Working Party on Taxation in Civil Proceedings

(Disbanded in September)

Amirali B. NASIR (Chair)
Patrick M. BURKE
Ian R. DE WITT
Nicholas D. HUNSWORTH
Kenneth W.Y. WONG

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (II)

Working Party on Data Privacy and Records Management

(Disbanded in May)

Simon H. BERRY (Chair)
Mark H.Y. CHIU
Paul R. HASWELL
Crystal K.M. KONG
Philip Z.F. KWOK
Chloe Y.F. LEE
Mark LIN
Rebecca M.C. LO
Eric TANG
Kenneth K.S. YUNG

Secretary: Deputy Secretary General and Director of
Practitioners Affairs (until January)
Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (III)
(from January)

Working Party on Use of IT in Judicial Process

Amirali B. NASIR (Chair)
Nick CHAN
Dominic A. GEISER
Johnny C.H. HO
Richard KEADY
Philip Z.F. KWOK
SIM Sze Kuan
Lisa W.Y. WONG

Secretary: Assistant Director, Practitioners Affairs (II)
(until December)
Deputy Director of Practitioners Affairs
(from December)

Practitioners Affairs Department



Standing Committee on Standards and Development

Justin H.Y. YUEN	(Vice-Chair until August)	(10/11)
	(Chair from August)	
Careen H.Y. WONG	(Chair until August)	(10/11)
Heidi H.Y. CHUI	(Vice-Chair from August)	(9/11)
Denis G. BROCK		(1/11)
Bonita B.Y. CHAN		(4/11)
C. M. CHAN	(joined in August)	(1/5)
Calvin K. CHENG		(7/11)
Joyce C. CHENG		(9/11)
Albert T. DA ROSA JR.		(10/11)
HAU Pak Sun		(9/11)
Stephen W.S. HUNG		(9/11)
IP Shing Hing		(7/11)
Simon S.C. LAI		(1/11)
Kenneth LAM		(9/11)
Simon J. McCONNELL	(retired in August)	(3/6)
Catherine L.M. MUN		(4/11)
Janet H.Y. PANG		(9/11)
Ronald K.N. SUM		(5/11)
Simon S.P. TANG		(3/11)
Vincent S.K. TSO		(5/11)
Adamas K.S. WONG		(8/11)

Secretary: Director of Standards and Development

Anti-Money Laundering Committee

C. M. CHAN	(joined in August)
	(Chair from November)
Michael J. LINTERN-SMITH	(Chair until November)
	(resigned in November)
Constance H.M. CHOY	(joined in August)
	(Vice-Chair from November)
Alan H. LINNING	(Vice-Chair until July)
	(resigned in July)
Jason D. CARMICHAEL	
Jimmy K.H. CHAN	(joined in August)
Simon R. DEANE	
Danny C.M. LEUNG	
Hin Han SHUM	
Ronald K.N. SUM	
Kareena P.G. TEH	
Careen H.Y. WONG	(resigned in August)

Secretary: Head of AML

Continuing Professional Development Committee

Adamas K.S. WONG	(Chair)
Professor Douglas ARNER	
Ram D. BIALA	
Janice K.C. CHANG	
Iris CHEUNG	
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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF HONG KONG

(Incorporated in Hong Kong and limited by guarantee)

OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of The Law Society of Hong Kong ("The Law Society") set out on pages 92 to 115, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2024, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the cash flow statement for the year then ended and notes, comprising material accounting policy information and other explanatory information.

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of The Law Society as at 31 December 2024 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the applicable Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards ("HKFRSs") issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("HKICPA") that are relevant to these financial statements and have been properly prepared in compliance with the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance.

BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with Hong Kong Standards on Auditing ("HKSA") issued by the HKICPA. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of The Law Society in accordance with the HKICPA's *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* ("the Code") and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

INFORMATION OTHER THAN THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND AUDITOR'S REPORT THEREON

The Council Members are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises all the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF HONG KONG

(Incorporated in Hong Kong and limited by guarantee)

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Council Members are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the applicable HKFRSs issued by the HKICPA that are relevant to these financial statements and the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance and for such internal control as the Council Members determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Council Members are responsible for assessing The Law Society's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Council Members either intend to liquidate The Law Society or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. This report is made solely to you, as a body, in accordance with section 405 of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance, and for no other purpose. We do not assume responsibility towards or accept liability to any other person for the contents of this report.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with HKSAAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with HKSAAs, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of The Law Society's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Council Members.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Council Members' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on The Law Society's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause The Law Society to cease to continue as a going concern.

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Council Members regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

KPMG

Certified Public Accountants

8th Floor, Prince's Building
10 Chater Road
Central, Hong Kong

11 March 2025

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the year ended 31 December 2024 (Expressed in Hong Kong dollars)

	Note	2024	2023
Income	3	\$ 217,807,959	\$ 187,478,917
Staff costs	4(a)	(92,397,938)	(84,274,235)
Office expenses	4(b)	(6,679,966)	(5,829,495)
Depreciation	7	(2,915,104)	(3,413,152)
Amortisation	8	(1,471,034)	(1,152,971)
Members' expenses	4(c)	(9,664,334)	(8,367,968)
Other operating expenses	4(d)	(37,695,680)	(27,986,407)
Surplus before taxation	4	\$ 66,983,903	\$ 56,454,689
Income tax	6(a)	(9,205,070)	(3,608,841)
Surplus and total comprehensive income for the year		\$ 57,778,833	\$ 52,845,848

The notes on pages 96 to 115 form part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

At 31 December 2024 (Expressed in Hong Kong dollars)

	Note	2024	2023
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	7	\$ 101,262,210	\$ 103,703,953
Intangible assets	8	4,296,440	5,324,974
Investment in a subsidiary	9	20	20
		\$ 105,558,670	\$ 109,028,947
Current assets			
Deposits, prepayments and other receivables	10	\$ 10,349,405	\$ 10,582,661
Amount due from a related company	11	1,112,644	1,312,250
Cash and deposits with banks	12(a)	364,206,207	300,019,359
		\$ 375,668,256	\$ 311,914,270
Current liabilities			
Membership, practising certificate and other fees received in advance	13(a)	\$ 114,847,919	\$ 111,544,908
Creditors and accrued charges	13	18,995,063	18,921,526
Current tax payable	14(a)	2,234,893	2,765,059
		\$ 136,077,875	\$ 133,231,493
Net current assets		\$ 239,590,381	\$ 178,682,777
Total assets less current liabilities		\$ 345,149,051	\$ 287,711,724
Non-current liability			
Deferred tax liabilities	14(b)	929,176	1,270,682
Net assets		\$ 344,219,875	\$ 286,441,042
Representing:			
Accumulated surpluses and reserves		\$ 344,219,875	\$ 286,441,042

Approved and authorised for issue by the Council on 11 March 2025.

Council Members		Secretary General
Roden M. L. Tong	Amirali B. Nasir	Heidi K. P. Chu

The notes on pages 96 to 115 form part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

For the year ended 31 December 2024 (Expressed in Hong Kong dollars)

	Accumulated surpluses	Reserve for regulatory costs (Note)	Total
Balance at 1 January 2023:	\$ 173,595,194	\$ 60,000,000	\$ 233,595,194
Changes in equity for 2023:			
Surplus and total comprehensive income	52,845,848	—	52,845,848
Transfer from accumulated surpluses to reserve for regulatory costs	(10,000,000)	10,000,000	—
Balance at 31 December 2023 and 1 January 2024	\$ 216,441,042	\$ 70,000,000	\$ 286,441,042
Change in equity for 2024:			
Surplus and total comprehensive income	57,778,833	—	57,778,833
Balance at 31 December 2024	\$ 274,219,875	\$ 70,000,000	\$ 344,219,875

Note: The Law Society has built up a special reserve for regulatory costs from its accumulated surpluses to ensure that it has available financial resources to fulfil its statutory regulatory functions.

The Council resolved on 3 December 2024 (2023: 19 December 2023) that no amount (2023: HK\$ 10 million) be transferred from The Law Society's accumulated surpluses to the reserve for regulatory costs.

The notes on pages 96 to 115 form part of these financial statements.

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

For the year ended 31 December 2024 (Expressed in Hong Kong dollars)

	Note	2024	2023
Operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	12(b)	\$ 60,228,271	\$ 47,351,864
Hong Kong Profits Tax paid		(10,076,742)	(58,776)
Net cash generated from operating activities		\$ 50,151,529	\$ 47,293,088
Investing activities			
Decrease/(Increase) in deposits with banks with maturity of more than three months at acquisition		\$ 133,163,310	\$ (135,111,135)
Interest received		14,951,180	9,595,460
Payment for the purchase of property, plant and equipment		(473,361)	(1,431,361)
Payment for the purchase of intangible assets		(442,500)	(2,295,050)
Net cash generated from/(used in) investing activities		\$ 147,198,629	\$ (129,242,086)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		\$ 197,350,158	\$ (81,948,998)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January		138,801,295	220,750,293
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December	12(a)	\$ 336,151,453	\$ 138,801,295

The notes on pages 96 to 115 form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Expressed in Hong Kong dollars)

1 STATUS OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF HONG KONG ("THE LAW SOCIETY")

The Law Society is a company limited by guarantee with no share capital. The liability of each member is limited to an amount not exceeding \$50. As at 31 December 2024, The Law Society had 13,387 (2023: 13,234) members.

2 MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Statement of compliance

For the purposes of compliance with section 379 and 380 of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance (Cap. 622), these financial statements have been prepared to present a true and fair view of the financial position and financial performance of The Law Society only. Consequently, they have been prepared in accordance with all applicable Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards ("HKFRSs", which comprise all applicable individual Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards, Hong Kong Accounting Standards ("HKASs") and Interpretations) issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("HKICPA") and the requirements of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance (Cap. 622) that are relevant to the preparation of company level financial statements by a parent company.

The Law Society is a holding company as it has one subsidiary. However, The Law Society regards this subsidiary as immaterial and therefore, in accordance with section 381(3) of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance (Cap. 622), is not required to prepare consolidated financial statements.

Given the above, these financial statements are not prepared for the purposes of compliance with HKFRS 10, *Consolidated financial statements*, so far as the preparation of consolidated financial statements of a holding company is concerned. As a consequence, the financial statements do not give all the information required by HKFRS 10 about the economic activities of the group of which The Law Society is the parent. Furthermore, as these financial statements are prepared in respect of The Law Society only, disclosures required by HKFRS 12, *Disclosures of interests in other entities*, does not apply to the financial statements.

A summary of the material accounting policies adopted by The Law Society is set out below.

The HKICPA has issued certain amendments to HKFRSs that are first effective or available for early adoption for the current accounting period of The Law Society. Note 2(c) provides information on any changes in accounting policies resulting from initial application of these developments to the extent that they are relevant to The Law Society for the current accounting period reflected in these financial statements.

2 MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(b) Basis of preparation of the financial statements

The measurement basis used in the preparation of the financial statements is the historical cost basis.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with HKFRSs requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis of making the judgements about carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

(c) Changes in accounting policies

The HKICPA has issued a number of amendments to HKFRSs that are first effective for the current accounting period of The Law Society.

None of these developments have had a material effect on how The Law Society's results and financial position for the current or prior periods have been prepared or presented. The Law Society has not applied any new standard or interpretation that is not yet effective for the current accounting period.

(d) Subsidiaries

Subsidiaries are entities controlled by The Law Society. The Law Society controls an entity when it is exposed or has rights to variable returns from its involvement with the entity and has the ability to affect those returns through its power over the entity. When assessing whether The Law Society has power, only substantive rights (held by The Law Society and other parties) are considered.

In The Law Society's statement of financial position, an investment in a subsidiary is stated at cost less impairment losses (see note 2(h)).

(e) Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment, including right-of-use assets arising from leases of underlying property, plant and equipment (see note 2(g)), are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses (see note 2(h)).

(e) Property, plant and equipment (Continued)

- Leasehold land is depreciated over the unexpired terms of lease;
- Buildings situated on leasehold land are depreciated over the shorter of their estimated useful lives, being 25 years from the date of purchase, and the unexpired terms of lease;
- Leasehold improvements 5 years
- Furniture, fixtures and equipment 3–5 years

Gains or losses arising from the retirement or disposal of an item of property, plant and equipment are determined as the difference between the net disposal proceeds and the carrying amount of the item and are recognised in profit or loss on the date of retirement or disposal.

Intangible assets that are acquired by The Law Society are stated at cost less accumulated amortisation (where the estimated useful life is finite) and impairment losses (see note 2(h)).

- Website costs 5 years
- Membership database system costs 5 years

(g) Leased assets

At the lease commencement date, The Law Society recognises a right-of-use asset and a lease liability, except for short-term leases that have a lease term of 12 months or less and leases of low-value assets. When The Law Society enters into a lease in respect of a low-value asset, The Law Society decides whether to capitalise the lease on a lease-by-lease basis. The lease payments associated with those leases which are not capitalised are recognised as an expense on a systematic basis over the lease term.

2 MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(g) Leased assets (Continued)

Where the lease is capitalised, the lease liability is initially recognised at the present value of the lease payments payable over the lease term, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease or, if that rate cannot be readily determined, using a relevant incremental borrowing rate. After initial recognition, the lease liability is measured at amortised cost and interest expense is calculated using the effective interest method. Variable lease payments that do not depend on an index or rate are not included in the measurement of the lease liability and hence are charged to profit or loss in the accounting period in which they are incurred.

The right-of-use asset recognised when a lease is capitalised is initially measured at cost, which comprises the initial amount of the lease liability plus any lease payments made at or before the commencement date, and any initial direct costs incurred. Where applicable, the cost of the right-of-use assets also includes an estimate of costs to dismantle and remove the underlying asset or to restore the underlying asset or the site on which it is located, discounted to their present value, less any lease incentives received. The right-of-use asset is subsequently stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses (see note 2(h)).

The lease liability is remeasured when there is a change in future lease payments arising from a change in an index or rate, or there is a change in The Law Society's estimate of the amount expected to be payable under a residual value guarantee, or there is a change arising from the reassessment of whether The Law Society will be reasonably certain to exercise a purchase, extension or termination option. When the lease liability is remeasured in this way, a corresponding adjustment is made to the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset, or is recorded in profit or loss if the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset has been reduced to zero.

(h) Impairment of non-current assets

Internal and external sources of information are reviewed at the end of each reporting period to identify indications that the following assets may be impaired or an impairment loss previously recognised no longer exists or may have decreased:

- property, plant and equipment including right-of-use assets;
- intangible assets; and
- investments in subsidiaries.

If any such indication exists, the asset's recoverable amount is estimated.

(i) Calculation of recoverable amount

The recoverable amount of an asset is the greater of its fair value less cost of disposal and value in use. In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset. Where an asset does not generate cash inflows largely independent of those from other assets, the recoverable amount is determined for the smallest group of assets that generates cash inflows independently (i.e. a cash-generating unit).

2 MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(h) Impairment of non-current assets (Continued)

(ii) Recognition of impairment losses

An impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss if the carrying amount of an asset, or the cash-generating unit to which it belongs, exceeds its recoverable amount. Impairment losses are recognised to reduce the carrying amount of the asset or assets in the cash-generating unit on a pro rata basis, except that the carrying value of an asset will not be reduced below its individual fair value less costs of disposal (if measurable) or value in use (if determinable).

(iii) Reversal of impairment losses

An impairment loss is reversed if there has been a favourable change in the estimates used to determine the recoverable amount.

A reversal of an impairment loss is limited to the asset's carrying amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised in prior years. Reversals of impairment losses are credited to profit or loss in the year in which the reversals are recognised.

(i) Disciplinary proceedings and ancillary costs

Disciplinary proceedings and ancillary costs are recognised in profit or loss in the year in which they are incurred. Whilst every effort is made by The Law Society to secure reimbursement of such amounts, due to the uncertainty as to whether such costs will be recovered by reference to the provisions of section 25(1) of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance, reimbursements of such costs are recognised in profit or loss only to the extent that they have been received. Also included in the financial statements under this heading are the costs incurred in respect of interventions within solicitors' practices. Such costs are only recoverable from the solicitors concerned and, in view of their nature, such costs are unlikely to be recovered in full.

(j) Deposits, prepayments and other receivables

A receivable is recognised when The Law Society has an unconditional right to receive consideration. A right to receive consideration is unconditional if only the passage of time is required before payment of that consideration is due. If revenue has been recognised before The Law Society has an unconditional right to receive consideration, the amount is presented as a contract asset.

Receivables are stated at amortised cost using the effective interest method less allowance for credit losses as determined below:

The loss allowance is measured at an amount equal to lifetime expected credit losses ("ECLs"), which are those losses that are expected to occur over the expected life of the trade receivables. The loss allowance is estimated using a provision matrix based on The Law Society's historical credit loss experience, adjusted for factors that are specific to the debtors and an assessment of both the current and forecast general economic conditions at the reporting date.

2 MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(j) Deposits, prepayments and other receivables (Continued)

ECLs are remeasured at each reporting date with any changes recognised as an impairment gain or loss in profit or loss. The Law Society recognises an impairment gain or loss with a corresponding adjustment to the carrying amount of trade and other receivables through a loss allowance account.

The gross carrying amount of a trade debtor or other receivable is written off (either partially or in full) to the extent that there is no realistic prospect of recovery. This is generally the case when The Law Society determines that the debtor does not have assets or sources of income that could generate sufficient cash flows to repay the amounts subject to the write-off.

(k) Creditors and accrued charges

Creditors and accrued charges are initially recognised at fair value and subsequently stated at amortised cost unless the effect of discounting would be immaterial, in which case they are stated at invoice amounts.

(l) Contract liabilities

Membership, practising certificate and other fees received in advance are recognised when the customer pays non-refundable consideration before The Law Society recognises the related revenue (see note 2(q)). A contract liability would also be recognised if The Law Society has an unconditional right to receive non-refundable consideration before The Law Society recognises the related revenue. In such cases, a corresponding receivable would also be recognised.

(m) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at bank and on hand, demand deposits with banks and other financial institutions, and short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible into known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value, having been within three months of maturity at acquisition.

(n) Employee benefits

Salaries, annual bonuses, paid annual leave, contributions to defined contribution retirement plans and the cost of non-monetary benefits are accrued in the year in which the associated services are rendered by employees. Where payment or settlement is deferred and the effect would be material, these amounts are stated at their present values.

2 MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(o) Income tax

Income tax expense comprises current tax and deferred tax. It is recognised in profit or loss except to the extent that it relates to items recognised directly in equity or other comprehensive income.

Current tax comprises the estimated tax payable or receivable on the taxable income or loss for the year and any adjustments to the tax payable or receivable in respect of previous years. It is measured using tax rates enacted or substantively enacted at the reporting date.

Current tax assets and liabilities are offset only if certain criteria are met.

Deferred tax is recognised in respect of temporary differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities for financial reporting purposes and the amounts used for taxation purposes. Deferred tax is not recognised for temporary differences on the initial recognition of assets or liabilities in a transaction that is not a business combination and that affects neither accounting nor taxable profit or loss and does not give rise to equal taxable and deductible temporary differences.

Deferred tax assets are recognised for unused tax losses, unused tax credits and deductible temporary differences to the extent that it is probable that future taxable profits will be available against which they can be used.

The measurement of deferred tax reflects the tax consequences that would follow from the manner in which the company expects, at the reporting date, to recover or settle the carrying amount of its assets and liabilities.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are offset only if certain criteria are met.

(p) Provisions and contingent liabilities

Generally provisions are determined by discounting the expected future cash flows at a pre-tax rate that reflects current market assessment of the time value of money and the risks specific to the liability.

Where it is not probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required, or the amount cannot be estimated reliably, the obligation is disclosed as a contingent liability, unless the probability of outflow of economic benefits is remote. Possible obligations, whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more future events are also disclosed as contingent liabilities unless the probability of outflow of economic benefits is remote.

(q) Revenue recognition

Income is classified by The Law Society as revenue when it arises from the provision of services in the ordinary course of The Law Society's business.

Revenue is recognised when control over a product or service is transferred to the customer, at the amount of promised consideration to which The Law Society is expected to be entitled, excluding those amounts collected on behalf of third parties. Revenue excludes value added tax or other sales taxes and is after deduction of any trade discounts.

2 MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(q) Revenue recognition (Continued)

Further details of The Law Society's revenue recognition policies are as follows:

- (i) Annual membership subscriptions, practising certificate fees, registration fees and other fees are recognised ratably over the period to which they relate.
- (ii) Tuition fees for continuing professional development are recognised over the period of instruction.
- (iii) Interest income from bank deposits is recognised as it accrues using the effective interest method.

(r) Related parties

- (a) A person, or a close member of that person's family, is related to The Law Society if that person:
 - (i) has control or joint control over The Law Society;
 - (ii) has significant influence over The Law Society; or
 - (iii) is a member of the key management personnel of The Law Society or The Law Society's parent.
- (b) An entity is related to The Law Society if any of the following conditions applies:
 - (i) The entity and The Law Society are members of the same group (which means that each parent, subsidiary and fellow subsidiary is related to the others).
 - (ii) One entity is an associate or joint venture of the other entity (or an associate or joint venture of a member of a group of which the other entity is a member).
 - (iii) Both entities are joint ventures of the same third party.
 - (iv) One entity is a joint venture of a third entity and the other entity is an associate of the third entity.
 - (v) The entity is a post-employment benefit plan for the benefit of employees of either The Law Society or an entity related to The Law Society.
 - (vi) The entity is controlled or jointly-controlled by a person identified in (a).
 - (vii) A person identified in (a)(i) has significant influence over the entity or is a member of the key management personnel of the entity (or of a parent of the entity).
 - (viii) The entity, or any member of a group of which it is a part, provides key management personnel services to The Law Society or to The Law Society's parent.

Close members of the family of a person are those family members who may be expected to influence, or be influenced by, that person in their dealings with the entity.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Expressed in Hong Kong dollars)

3 INCOME

The principal activity of The Law Society is to act as the professional and regulatory body for solicitors in Hong Kong.

Income consists of:

	Note	2024	2023
Income from contracts with customers within the scope of HKFRS 15			
Annual membership fees		\$ 32,307,500	\$ 31,800,000
Practising certificate fees		76,089,000	74,961,250
Foreign lawyer registration fees		16,114,500	15,403,500
Foreign law firm registration fees		1,274,000	994,500
Other fees	3(a)	42,571,636	41,955,050
Continuing professional development		2,815,900	3,143,416
Miscellaneous income	3(b)	4,967,125	5,026,486
		\$ 176,139,661	\$ 173,284,202
Income from other sources			
Disciplinary proceedings and ancillary costs reimbursed		29,775,551	4,599,255
Bank interest income	12(b)	11,892,747	9,595,460
		\$ 41,668,298	\$ 14,194,715
		\$ 217,807,959	\$ 187,478,917

- (a) Other fees include fees received for applications for will search, applications for waivers from compliance with guidelines on drafting Deeds of Mutual Covenant, applications and registration for examinations and applications for certificates of standing.
- (b) Miscellaneous income comprises principally income from advertisements in The Law Society's circulars, recharges to the Professional Indemnity Scheme for The Law Society's salaries and overheads incurred during the year in administering the Scheme.

(Expressed in Hong Kong dollars)

4 SURPLUS BEFORE TAXATION

Surplus before taxation is arrived at after charging/(crediting):

	2024	2023
(a) Staff costs		
Salaries and allowances	\$ 81,797,568	\$ 74,229,154
Contributions to defined contribution retirement plan	9,157,892	8,431,302
Provident fund contribution forfeitures	(646,320)	(917,822)
Recruitment and training	2,088,798	2,531,601
	\$ 92,397,938	\$ 84,274,235
(b) Office expenses		
Expense relating to short-term lease	\$ 384,097	\$ –
Rates and service charges	1,722,607	1,674,172
Electricity and telephone	606,638	649,345
Postage	199,655	185,557
Printing and stationery	2,358,923	2,109,978
Repairs and maintenance	652,175	559,744
Office cleaning and others	755,871	650,699
	\$ 6,679,966	\$ 5,829,495
(c) Members' expenses		
Issue of membership cards	\$ 140,000	\$ 122,700
Functions	6,293,954	4,972,539
Meetings	2,387,506	2,305,266
Facilities	842,874	967,463
	\$ 9,664,334	\$ 8,367,968
(d) Other operating expenses		
Disciplinary proceedings and ancillary costs*	\$ 9,614,715	\$ 9,088,405
Professional education	3,695	21,470
Professional and consultancy fees	2,907,892	1,500,768
Professional development	13,623,490	7,877,563
Auditor's remuneration	191,000	171,000
Insurance and medical	4,622,340	4,419,263
Sundry	6,732,548	4,907,938
	\$ 37,695,680	\$ 27,986,407

* \$3,255,982 (2023: \$3,734,341) was incurred in respect of interventions within solicitors' practices, and \$1,497,709 (2023: \$1,898,616) was incurred in respect of litigation cases.

(Expressed in Hong Kong dollars)

5 REMUNERATION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Remuneration of Council Members disclosed pursuant to section 383(1) of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance and Part 2 of the Companies (Disclosure of Information about Benefits of Directors) Regulation are as follows:

	2024	2023
Council Members' fees	\$ –	\$ –
Salaries, allowances and benefits in kind	–	–
Discretionary bonuses	–	–
Retirement scheme contributions	–	–
	\$ –	\$ –

6 INCOME TAX IN THE STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

(a) Taxation charged to profit or loss:

	2024	2023
Current tax – Hong Kong Profits Tax		
Provision for the year	\$ 9,549,576	\$ 2,823,835
Over-provision in prior years	(3,000)	–
Deferred tax		
Origination and reversal of temporary differences	(341,506)	785,006
	\$ 9,205,070	\$ 3,608,841

Under the two-tiered profits tax rate regime, the first HK\$2 million of assessable profits of qualifying corporations are taxed at 8.25% and the remaining assessable profits are taxed at 16.5%. The provision for Hong Kong Profits Tax for The Law Society was calculated at the same basis in 2023.

(Expressed in Hong Kong dollars)

6 INCOME TAX IN THE STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (CONTINUED)

(b) Reconciliation between tax expense charged to profit or loss and accounting surplus at the applicable tax rate:

	2024	2023
Surplus before taxation	\$ 66,983,903	\$ 56,454,689
Notional tax on surplus before taxation (Note)	\$ 10,887,344	\$ 9,150,024
Tax effect of non-deductible expenses	283,029	198,087
Tax effect of non-taxable income	(1,962,303)	(1,583,251)
Tax effect of utilisation of tax losses	—	(4,490,849)
Tax effect of temporary difference on intangible assets	—	334,830
Over-provision in prior years	(3,000)	—
Actual tax expense charged to profit or loss	\$ 9,205,070	\$ 3,608,841

Note: For the years ended 31 December 2024 and 31 December 2023, the notional tax is calculated in accordance with the two-tiered profits rate regime under which tax on the first \$2 million of profits is calculated at 8.25% and tax on the remaining profits is calculated at 16.5%.

7 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	Interest in leasehold land held for own use	Buildings held for own use	Leasehold improvements	Furniture, fixtures and equipment	Total
Cost:					
At 1 January 2024	\$ 105,885,279	\$ 45,062,601	\$ 17,568,116	\$ 13,024,902	\$ 181,540,898
Additions	—	—	—	473,361	473,361
Disposals	—	—	—	(1,606,934)	(1,606,934)
At 31 December 2024	\$ 105,885,279	\$ 45,062,601	\$ 17,568,116	\$ 11,891,329	\$ 180,407,325
Accumulated depreciation:					
At 1 January 2024	\$ 10,171,298	\$ 40,755,865	\$ 16,643,279	\$ 10,266,503	\$ 77,836,945
Charge for the year	970,127	269,171	321,126	1,354,680	2,915,104
Written back on disposals	—	—	—	(1,606,934)	(1,606,934)
At 31 December 2024	\$ 11,141,425	\$ 41,025,036	\$ 16,964,405	\$ 10,014,249	\$ 79,145,115
Net book value:					
At 31 December 2024	\$ 94,743,854	\$ 4,037,565	\$ 603,711	\$ 1,877,080	\$ 101,262,210

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Expressed in Hong Kong dollars)

7 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (CONTINUED)

	Interest in leasehold land held for own use	Buildings held for own use	Leasehold improvements	Furniture, fixtures and equipment	Total
Cost:					
At 1 January 2023	\$ 105,885,279	\$ 45,062,601	\$ 17,490,273	\$ 13,000,109	\$ 181,438,262
Additions	—	—	77,843	1,353,518	1,431,361
Disposals	—	—	—	(1,328,725)	(1,328,725)
At 31 December 2023	\$ 105,885,279	\$ 45,062,601	\$ 17,568,116	\$ 13,024,902	\$ 181,540,898
Accumulated depreciation:					
At 1 January 2023	\$ 9,201,171	\$ 40,486,694	\$ 16,304,300	\$ 9,760,353	\$ 75,752,518
Charge for the year	970,127	269,171	338,979	1,834,875	3,413,152
Written back on disposals	—	—	—	(1,328,725)	(1,328,725)
At 31 December 2023	\$ 10,171,298	\$ 40,755,865	\$ 16,643,279	\$ 10,266,503	\$ 77,836,945
Net book value:					
At 31 December 2023	\$ 95,713,981	\$ 4,306,736	\$ 924,837	\$ 2,758,399	\$ 103,703,953

The leasehold land and buildings are held in Hong Kong under medium term and long term leases.

Right-of-use assets

The analysis of the net book value of right-of-use assets by class of underlying asset is as follows:

	Note	2024	2023
Interests in leasehold land and buildings held for own use, carried at depreciated cost in Hong Kong, with remaining lease term of:			
– 50 years or more	(i)	\$ 74,379,362	\$ 74,464,077
– between 10 and 50 years		24,402,057	25,556,640
		\$ 98,781,419	\$ 100,020,717

The analysis of expense items in relation to leases recognised in profit or loss is as follows:

	2024	2023
Depreciation charge of right-of-use assets by class of underlying asset:		
Interests in leasehold land and buildings	\$ 1,239,298	\$ 1,239,298
Expense relating to short-term lease	\$ 384,097	\$ –

7 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (CONTINUED)

Right-of-use assets (Continued)

(i) Interests in leasehold land and buildings held for own use

The Law Society holds two building units for its business. The Law Society is the registered owner of these property interests, including part of undivided share in the underlying land. Lump sum payments were made upfront to acquire these property interests from their previous registered owners, and there are no ongoing payments to be made under the terms of the land lease, other than payments based on rateable values set by the relevant government authorities. These payments vary from time to time and are payable to the relevant government authorities.

8 INTANGIBLE ASSETS

	Website costs	Membership database system costs	Total
Cost:			
At 1 January 2023	\$ 2,826,575	\$ –	\$ 2,826,575
Additions	66,000	4,382,675	4,448,675
At 31 December 2023 and 1 January 2024	\$ 2,892,575	\$ 4,382,675	\$ 7,275,250
Additions	5,500	437,000	442,500
At 31 December 2024	\$ 2,898,075	\$ 4,819,675	\$ 7,717,750
Accumulated amortisation:			
At 1 January 2023	\$ 797,305	\$ –	\$ 797,305
Charge for the year	568,615	584,356	1,152,971
At 31 December 2023 and 1 January 2024	\$ 1,365,920	\$ 584,356	\$ 1,950,276
Charge for the year	578,882	892,152	1,471,034
At 31 December 2024	\$ 1,944,802	\$ 1,476,508	\$ 3,421,310
Net book value:			
At 31 December 2023	\$ 1,526,655	\$ 3,798,319	\$ 5,324,974
At 31 December 2024	\$ 953,273	\$ 3,343,167	\$ 4,296,440

9 INVESTMENT IN A SUBSIDIARY

	2024	2023
Unlisted shares at cost	\$ 20	\$ 20

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Expressed in Hong Kong dollars)

9 INVESTMENT IN A SUBSIDIARY (CONTINUED)

Details of the subsidiary are as follows:

Name of company	Place of incorporation and operation	Proportion of ownership interest held by the company	Principal activity
The Law Society of Hong Kong Publications Limited *	Hong Kong	100%	Publishing the journal of The Law Society

* Not audited by KPMG.

10 DEPOSITS, PREPAYMENTS AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

	2024	2023
Deposits and prepayments	\$ 8,144,486	\$ 5,446,385
Other receivables	2,204,919	5,136,276
	\$ 10,349,405	\$ 10,582,661

Deposits, prepayments and other receivables are expected to be recovered or recognised as an expense within one year.

11 AMOUNT DUE FROM A RELATED COMPANY

The amount due from a related company is unsecured, interest-free and recoverable on demand.

12 CASH AND DEPOSITS WITH BANKS

(a) Cash and deposits with banks comprise:

	2024	2023
Deposits with banks with maturity within three months at acquisition	\$ 324,766,591	\$ 128,843,794
Cash at bank and on hand	11,384,862	9,957,501
Cash and cash equivalents in the cash flow statement	\$ 336,151,453	\$ 138,801,295
Deposits with banks with maturity of more than three months at acquisition	28,054,754	161,218,064
Cash and deposits with banks in the statement of financial position	\$ 364,206,207	\$ 300,019,359

(b) Reconciliation of surplus before taxation to cash generated from operations:

	Note	2024	2023
Surplus before taxation		\$ 66,983,903	\$ 56,454,689
Adjustments for:			
Bank interest income	3	(11,892,747)	(9,595,460)
Depreciation	7	2,915,104	3,413,152
Amortisation	8	1,471,034	1,152,971
Changes in working capital:			
Increase in deposits, prepayments and other receivables		(2,825,177)	(4,423,364)
Decrease/(Increase) in amount due from a related company		199,606	(936,807)
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors and accrued charges		73,537	(162,556)
Increase in membership, practising certificate and other fees received in advance		3,303,011	1,449,239
Cash generated from operations		\$ 60,228,271	\$ 47,351,864

As at 31 December 2024, The Law Society had cash and deposits of \$58,747,342 (2023: \$100,983,544) with banks which were unclaimed client monies held on behalf of law firms pursuant to the Council's directions under section 8(2) of the Solicitors' Accounts Rules (Cap 159, sub leg) and to section 2(1) of Schedule 2 of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance (Cap. 159). These unclaimed client monies are not recognised in these financial statements given its nature of trust monies.

As at 31 December 2024, The Law Society had cash and deposits of \$41 (2023: \$4,246,594) with a bank which were held on behalf of the HKSAR Government pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding between Department of Justice of the HKSAR Government and The Law Society on Legal Talent Recruitment Scheme (Trainee Solicitors) and Legal Talent Recruitment Scheme (Trainee Solicitors) 2022. These monies are not recognised in these statements given its nature of trust monies.

13 CREDITORS AND ACCRUED CHARGES AND CONTRACT LIABILITIES

Creditors and accrued charges are expected to be settled within one year or are repayable on demand.

(a) Contract liabilities in respect of membership, practising certificate and other fees received in advance

The contract liabilities mainly relate to the fees received in advance from members, foreign lawyers, and foreign law firms which represent the unearned fees income to be recognised as revenue after the end of the reporting period.

Movements in contract liabilities	2024	2023
Balance at 1 January	\$ 111,544,908	\$ 110,095,669
Decrease in contract liabilities as a result of recognising revenue during the year that was included in the contract liabilities at the beginning of the year	(111,544,908)	(110,095,669)
Increase in contract liabilities as a result of fees received in advance	114,847,919	111,544,908
Balance at 31 December	\$ 114,847,919	\$ 111,544,908

14 INCOME TAX IN THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

(a) Current taxation in the statement of financial position represents:

	2024	2023
Provision for Hong Kong Profits Tax	\$ 2,234,893	\$ 2,765,059

(b) Deferred tax liabilities recognised:

The components of deferred tax liabilities recognised in the statement of financial position and the movements during the year are as follows:

	Depreciation less than the related depreciation allowances
Deferred tax arising from:	
At 1 January 2023	\$ (485,676)
Charged to profit or loss	(785,006)
At 31 December 2023	\$ (1,270,682)
At 1 January 2024	\$ (1,270,682)
Charged to profit or loss	341,506
At 31 December 2024	\$ (929,176)

15 CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

The Law Society is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The Law Society considers its capital to be the accumulated surpluses. The Law Society's primary objectives when managing its accumulated surpluses is to safeguard The Law Society's ability to continue as a going concern, so that it can continue to provide support and protect the interest of its members.

Adjustments are made to the capital structure in light of changes in economic conditions affecting The Law Society to the extent that these do not conflict with the Council Members' fiduciary duties towards The Law Society or the requirements of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance.

There has been no change in The Law Society's capital management practices as compared to prior year and The Law Society is not subject to any externally imposed capital requirements in both current and prior years.

16 FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT AND FAIR VALUES OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Exposure to credit, liquidity and interest rate risks arises in the normal course of The Law Society's operation. The Law Society's exposure to these risks and the financial risk management policies and practices used by The Law Society to manage these risks are described below.

(a) Credit risk

The Law Society does not have any significant credit risk with respect to amount due from a related company and other receivables as they relate to a wide range of entities with no recent history of default.

The major exposure to credit risk is represented by deposits with banks. The Law Society's policy is to place its deposits with banks with major financial institutions with good credit rating.

(b) Liquidity risk

The Law Society's policy is to regularly monitor its liquidity requirements to ensure that it maintains sufficient reserves of cash to meet its liquidity requirements in the short and longer term.

(c) Interest rate risk

The Law Society's interest rate risk arises primarily from deposits with bank at fixed rates that expose The Law Society to cash flow interest rate risk. The Law Society's bank deposits had an effective interest rate of 3.70% (2023: 3.81%) during the year.

At 31 December 2024, it is estimated that a general decrease/increase of 100 basis points (2023: 100 basis points) in interest rates, with all other variables held constant, would have decreased/increased The Law Society's surplus and equity by approximately \$3,214,416 and \$3,214,416 (2023: \$2,515,324 and \$2,515,324).

The sensitivity analysis above indicates the annualised impact on The Law Society's interest income assuming the change in interest rates had occurred at the end of the reporting period and had been applied to the exposure to interest rate risk for financial instruments in existence at that date. The analysis has been performed on the same basis as for 2023.

(Expressed in Hong Kong dollars)

16 FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT AND FAIR VALUES OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONTINUED)

(d) Fair value measurement

All financial instruments carried at amortised costs are not materially different from their fair values as at 31 December 2024 and 2023.

17 PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY SCHEME

The Solicitors (Professional Indemnity) Rules (Cap 159, sub leg) provide that The Law Society is authorised to establish and maintain a fund to provide the indemnity mentioned in section 73A of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance (Cap 159). This fund is known as the Hong Kong Solicitors Indemnity Fund (“the Fund”). Pursuant to the Solicitors (Professional Indemnity) Rules, the Fund is held and administered by Hong Kong Solicitors Indemnity Fund Limited which is a company limited by guarantee. The assets and liabilities of the Fund are not those of The Law Society and accordingly, they are not included in these financial statements.

18 MATERIAL RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

In addition to the transactions and balances disclosed elsewhere in these financial statements, The Law Society entered into the following material related party transactions during the year.

- (a) Charges for legal services in relation to intervention, disciplinary, litigation proceedings and professional and consultancy fees rendered to The Law Society by the firms of solicitors in which Council Members are interested totalled \$3.3 million (2023: \$3.2 million) for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Amounts due to these firms of solicitors as at 31 December 2024 amounted to \$0.2 million (2023: \$1.0 million) which are included in creditors and accrued charges.

(b)	Note	2024	2023
Expenses borne on behalf of a subsidiary		\$ 1,891,256	\$ 1,592,804
Recharge of office expenses to:			
Hong Kong Solicitors Indemnity Fund Limited	(i)	3,363,341	3,071,404

Note:

- (i) The entity is a related party to The Law Society as its board is appointed by the Council of The Law Society.

19 POSSIBLE IMPACT OF AMENDMENTS, NEW STANDARDS AND INTERPRETATIONS ISSUED BUT NOT YET EFFECTIVE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Up to the date of issue of these financial statements, the HKICPA has issued a number of new or amended standards, which are not yet effective for the year ended 31 December 2024 and which have not been adopted in these financial statements. These developments include the following which may be relevant to The Law Society.

	Effective for accounting periods beginning on or after
Amendments to HKAS 21, <i>The effects of changes in foreign exchange rates – Lack of exchangeability</i>	1 January 2025
Amendments to HKFRS 9, <i>Financial instruments</i> and HKFRS 7, <i>Financial instruments: disclosures – Amendments to the classification and measurement of financial instruments</i>	1 January 2026
Annual improvements to HKFRS Accounting Standards – Volume 11	1 January 2026
HKFRS 18, <i>Presentation and disclosure in financial statements</i>	1 January 2027

The Law Society is in the process of making an assessment of what the impact of these amendments is expected to be in the period of initial application. So far, it has concluded that the adoption of them is unlikely to have a significant impact on The Law Society's financial statements.

ABBREVIATED TERMS USED IN THIS REPORT

AAIL	Asian Academy of International Law
AALCO	Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization
ABS	Alternative Business Structures
AI	Artificial Intelligence
AIJA	International Association of Young Lawyers
AML	Anti-Money Laundering
Article 23	Article 23 of The Basic Law
CFA	Court of Final Appeal
CPD	Continuing Professional Development
CS4R Forum	Cross Strait Four Regions Young Lawyers Forum
Fund	Hong Kong Solicitors Indemnity Fund
GBA	Greater Bay Area
HKAWL	Hong Kong Academy For Wealth Legacy
HKNSL	Law of The People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security In HKSAR
HKRAC	Hong Kong Regional Arbitration Centre
HKSAR	Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
HKTDC	Hong Kong Trade Development Council
IBA	International Bar Association
iCMS	Integrated Court Case Management System
IHLC	In-House Lawyers Committee
IPBA	Inter-Pacific Bar Association
LegCo	Legislative Council
LLPs	Limited Liability Partnerships
LPO	Legal Practitioners Ordinance (Cap. 159)
ML	Money Laundering
MMBC	Committee For Members With Mainland Background
MOUs	Memoranda of Understanding
NPJs	Non-Permanent Judges
OLQE	Overseas Lawyers Qualification Examination
OTC	Over The-Counter
PCLL	Postgraduate Certificate In Laws
PF	Proliferation Financing
PIS	Professional Indemnity Scheme
PIS Rules	Solicitors (Professional Indemnity) Rules (Cap.159m)
POLA	Presidents of Law Associations In Asia
RCEP	Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership
RME	Risk Management Education
SFO	Securities And Futures Ordinance
SME	Small To Medium Enterprises
SNS Bill	Safeguarding National Security Bill
TF	Terrorist Financing
UIA	International Association of Lawyers
YSG	Young Solicitors' Group



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