Report of the Committee on Construction Law 2020

Membership of the Committee

Anthony Houghton SC (Chairman), Thomas Lee (Vice Chairman), Calvin Cheuk (Vice Chairman), Nicholas Cooney SC, Jonathan Wong, Paul Barrett, Derek Fung, Stanley Ma, James Niehorster, Harrison Cheung, Julian Cohen, Kim Rooney, Matthew Cheung, Adela Mao, Ronald Pang, Christopher To, HF Leung, Keith Tam, Victor Lui, Kaiser Leung, Charles Chan, Jonathan Chan, Alan Lo, Pakco Chan, Simon Ho

1. The Construction Law Committee has currently 25 members.

2. As may perhaps be the case with other committees, the activities which had been planned for this year by the Committee have been hampered considerably by the social distancing measures required over most of this year. Nevertheless, one webinar for junior barristers, "Liquidated Damages and the Prevention Principle", was presented (by a committee member) on 13th May 2020.

3. The 'main' event planned for 2020 was a demonstration arbitration, which was to have been presented by the Bar in conjunction with the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. Original planning was for this to have been a 'live' event, but this had to be deferred because of COVID-19 restrictions. Work has been undertaken towards presenting this as an online event.

4. The Committee has also given initial consideration to raising with the Judge in charge of the Construction and Arbitration List the possibility of setting up a consultative committee of legal practitioners - akin to the TCC Users' Committee in England & Wales (as provided for under paragraph 6 of PD 6.1) to facilitate the smooth running of the list. No decision has been taken on this to date.

5. The Committee continues to explore other options in the promotion of construction law within and outside the Bar.

Anthony Houghton SC
Chairman
Committee on Construction Law

4 December 2020