

Report of the Committee on Criminal Law & Practice 2020

The Committee on Criminal Law & Practice ("CCrimLP") do hereby report to the Chairman of the Hong Kong Bar Association on the work undertaken by the Committee in the year 2020 as follows.

1. The CCrimLP was involved in the discussion with the Judiciary concerning the Court Arrangement during the General Adjournment Period (GAP) as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Views were collated from members and suggestions were made to the Judiciary on the proposed measures and arrangements to be implemented during this unprecedented period.
2. Further to the GAP arrangement, the CCrimLP has followed up with the Judiciary and offered views concerning hygiene measures in courts during the post-GAP period.
3. In response to the Consultation on Sexual Offences Reform led by The Law Reform Commission of Hong Kong, a task force was set up within the CCrimLP which helped compile a set of views for submission to the AJLS Panel for consideration.
4. In response to the Judiciary's invitation, the CCrimLP was tasked to help collate members' views and prepare a reply to the Judiciary's "Proposed Measures for Expeditious Processing of Court Cases related to the Recent Social Events Consultation". Some of the views were taken on board by the Judiciary.
5. To further the development of young barristers, the CCrimLP has collaborated with the YBC and shared its views concerning the proposed scheme to match junior members with senior members in criminal practice. It is believed that the scheme should benefit both ends of the criminal bar.
6. Lastly, as part of an ongoing initiative to hold regular meetings with the Chief Magistrate, the Chairman and Vice Chairman of CCrimLP paid a visit to the Chief Magistrate on 1 December 2020 to discuss issues relating to practice at the Magistrates' Courts and to exchange views about concerns raised by some members of the criminal bar. We expect to continue these useful meetings regularly in the future.

Membership:

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Graham Harris SC
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Kim Joseph McCoy.

Martin Hui S.C.
Chairman
Committee on Criminal Law and Procedure

2 December 2020