

Hong Kong Bar Association  
Special Committee on Legal Education  
Report for 2015

1. The Special Committee on Legal Education (“the Committee”) has the following members for 2015:

Edward Chan SC (Chairman)  
Lisa Wong SC  
Selwyn Yu SC  
Lisa Remedios  
Michael Liu  
Richard Khaw  
Cheung Kam Chuen  
Michael Yin  
Elaine Liu  
Hew Yang Wahn

Ka Wong, the Director of ALE of the Hong Kong Bar Association is the Secretary of the Committee

2. The Committee had three meetings in 2015. Apart from formal meetings there were also exchanges of views of members and decisions reached by e mail circulation.

3. As the courses for the PCLL programmes of the 3 universities are now well settled and the courses are running smoothly, the work of the Committee in relation to the supervision of the courses is very much reduced.

4. During the year 2015, the Committee had considered and recommended to the Bar Council candidates to be nominated to act as the chief external examiner of the PCLL courses of the three universities, i.e. University of Hong Kong, The Chinese University of Hong Kong and the City University of Hong Kong.

5. In the course of this year, the Standing Committee on Legal Education has appointed 3 consultants to carry out a comprehensive review on the system of legal education and training in Hong Kong. The Bar being one of the stake holders in this area was consulted for its views. The Committee met on 2 occasions to discuss on the stance and position of the Bar in relation to the various issues concerning legal education in Hong Kong.

6. At the specific request of the Bar Chairman, the Committee has also carried out another specific discussion on the issue of whether the Bar should implement a compulsory professional development in the light of the IBA Policy Guidelines for Training and Education of the Legal Profession published by the International Bar Association.

7. The Committee after thorough discussions on the various issues raised by the Consultants and also the issue of compulsory profession development has drafted a position paper for the endorsement of the Bar Council. The paper was adopted by the Bar Council with some amendments and the same was submitted to the Consultants. Two members of the Committee together with a member of the Young Bar have also met the Consultant to explain the position of the Bar and to answer the queries from the Consultants on the paper submitted by the Bar.

8. From time to time during this year members of the Committee had been asked to consider applications for waiver or relaxation of the ALE requirements. The practice adopted by the Committee was that the views of the members would be solicited through e mail exchanges. Over the years the Committee had formulated certain policy in relation to the criteria for the grant of waiver and throughout 2014 decisions on waiver of ALE requirements had always been unanimous.

9. It was also part of the work of the Committee to consider the award of ALE points to programmes, talks or seminars organized by outside organizations. The decisions were made by e mail circulation.

Dated this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December 2015.

Edward Chan SC  
Chairman