

Report on Standing Committee on Bar Insurance 2017

With effect from 1 January 2017, the mandatory coverage of the Bar Professional Indemnity Insurance was increased from a limit of HK\$5,000,000 to HK\$10,000,000. With the great effort of Mr Martin Giggins of Millis, our insurance broker, we managed to obtain from our Insurer, Chubb HK Ltd a further reduction in our renewal premium for 2018. The total renewal premium with a mandatory coverage of HK\$10,000,000 under the Master Policy for the year of 2018 is HK\$2,222,652.00 which represents roughly a 5% reduction from the premium of HK\$2,340,687.00 for the year of 2017.

Another change that took place in 2017 was the resolution passed by the Bar Council on 26 October 2017 whereby the distinction in premium between Sole Criminal Practitioners and Non-Sole Criminal Practitioners was abolished with effect from 1 January 2018. It was our past practice that members (other than Senior Counsel) who were Sole Criminal Practitioners would pay a lower premium for their Mandatory Bar Indemnity Insurance compared with members who engaged in Civil or Mixed practice. A review of the claims from 2009 to 2017 shows that the total amount paid for claims arising from criminal cases (i.e. HK\$6,891,570) accounts for 47% of the total amount paid out for all the claims (i.e. HK\$14,635,488). Therefore we see no grounds for thinking that Sole Criminal Practitioners would require less coverage or have a lower claim ratio. Hence the Bar Council took the view that there was no good reason to maintain the distinction in premiums between Sole Criminal Practitioners and Non-Sole Criminal Practitioners and passed the resolution to the effect on 26 October 2017.

In 2016 a pilot scheme for electronic renewal of the Bar Insurance was introduced providing an option to members to have their Insurance renewed on the internet. The Electronic Platform has since been re-designed and re-launched with hyperlinks to the Bar website members area. The feedback on the new Electronic Platform has so far been quite positive. All members of this Committee were working very hard in the past year with a view to meeting members' needs and improving all aspects of the Bar Insurance. It remains for me to thank all of them for their assistance and contributions: Richard Khaw SC, Vanessa Kwok (Vice Chairman), Vincent Lung and Lincoln Cheung.

Kenny C. P. Lin
Chairman
Standing Committee on Bar Insurance

3 January 2018