

Report of the Charles Ching Memorial Scholarship Committee

1. This year the Committee received only 4 applications for financial assistance to attend an advocacy training course in the United Kingdom. One of those applicants had applied far too early in her legal training and was asked to re-apply next year. The remaining three applicants had received their secondary education in Hong Kong and two out of the three had received their undergraduate training in Hong Kong before going on to undertake postgraduate studies abroad. Two applicants had attended Oxford University and one of the applicants had professional qualifications in Linguistics as well as extended legal studies at Dalian Maritime University in Mainland China.
2. After viewing the video recorded interviews, the Committee decided to ask all 3 candidates for interview, which was carried out on Tuesday 20th September 2011. All candidates conducted themselves well and were articulate and conscious of their responsibilities to the fund. All three candidates presented themselves as deserving of assistance from the fund for different reasons. Jason Yu for his outstanding academic record, Ebony Ling for her extensive breadth of interest and achievements both at the University of Hong Kong and at Oxford University and Margaret Tsau for her dedication to achieving academic success in very difficult financial circumstances.
3. The Committee resolved to award \$75,000 to all three candidates in cognizance of the fact that air travel to, and accommodation in, the United Kingdom is more expensive than was previously the case.
4. Whilst significant awards were made to all three candidates this year, the Committee was mindful of the limited resources of the fund and resolved to recommend to the Bar Council that an award may be made *Honoris Causa* where the personal circumstances of a candidate suggested that no financial assistance was in fact required.
5. Further to the above, the Committee was conscious of its duty to promote the characteristics demonstrated by Charles Ching and was determined to continue to nurture such qualities in the future Bar. In pursuance of that the Committee recommended amendments to the Rules of the fund which could reflect the committee's view that scholars would be more likely to make the fullest use of any advocacy training course only after they have completed the pupils advocacy training course in Hong Kong and have had some opportunity to either be on their feet themselves or have seen a cross section of practitioners on their feet in varying circumstances. That being the case, it would be unlikely that any scholar would be able to take full advantage of this unrivalled opportunity until after completion of pupillage. Accordingly it was recommended, and accepted by the Bar Council, that in future the advocacy training provided under the Scholarship should only be taken up after pupillage had been completed.

6. It was further resolved to encourage a greater number of applications for this very special scholarship in memory of a very special practitioner. To this end the Committee has written to all of the relevant universities reminding them of the availability of the Scholarship and encouraging future members of the Bar from all backgrounds to apply for consideration as a Scholar at the appropriate time in their training.

Committee: **The Hon. Mr Justice Bharwaney (Chairman)**
 Mr Patrick Fung S.C.
 Mrs Audrey Campbell-Moffat

28 November 2011