

## Report of the Charles Ching Memorial Scholarship Committee

1. This year we had a total of 11 applicants, 5 of whom were locally educated but only one had not undertaken any tertiary education abroad. We were pleased to note that we had applications from all three local providers. Without question the quality of the applicants this year was very high and all of them were called for interview.
2. We did note that all of the applicants were at the very beginning of their pupillage and, as a consequence, would not be able to take advantage of the scholarship for another year; however we decided to interview them nevertheless and resolved to take another look at the wording of the HKBA website to encourage applicants who were at the end of their pupillage or just in the early stages of practice. It appeared to the committee that the advocacy training on offer under the scholarship was not suitable for those who had not yet undertaken our own advocacy programme, and who had little experience at the Bar.
3. Interviews took place on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2012 and Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2012 at the Bar Secretariat. The first interview with Isabel Tam was carried out by the Chairman and Patrick Fung SC. The interviews with all the remaining candidates were carried out by the full committee. All of the applicants were of good quality and some were truly exceptional. We were very impressed in the interview with their commitment to their legal education, extra-curricular activities and to their future careers.
4. The Committee was conscious of its duty to the fund and the desire of the HKBA to further the legal education of junior members of the Bar in respect of advocacy training. Successful candidates currently attend a two week course offered by the Middle Temple and are also given the opportunity to carry out a mini-pupillage in London chambers.
5. Of the 11 candidates, 7 were so impressive that the committee felt that it had to make an award to each of them. The committee was aware that there was some small disparity in the personal financial circumstances of some of the candidates and, therefore, resolved to make the following awards:

Carol Wong	\$60,000
Ernest Ng	\$60,000
Patricia Lam	\$60,000
Justin Ho	\$50,000
Justin Lam	\$50,000
Heather Lam	\$50,000
Isabel Tam	\$50,000

6. The Chairman also suggested that, given the exceptional nature of this scholarship and the high regard in which it was held, there should be some form of ceremony marking the awards. He kindly offered to hold such a ceremony in High Court Judge's Mess in the hope that we could also invite prominent members of the Bar and Judiciary to celebrate the occasion. A date is yet to be fixed. At such time the Charles Ching scholars will be awarded a suitable certificate.
  
7. The committee welcomed the continued financial support of the HKBA and also discussed the need to remind past scholars of their moral obligation to make suitable donations, no matter how small, to the fund for the benefit of future scholars.

Committee: The Hon. Mr Justice Bharwaney (Chairman)  
Patrick Fung SC  
Audrey Campbell-Moffat

19 December 2012