

## **Report of the Special Committee on Legal Education**

1. The Special Committee on Legal Education (“the Committee”) has the following members for 2012:

Edward Chan SC (Chairman)  
Lisa Wong SC  
Godfrey Lam SC  
Selwyn Yu SC  
Lisa Remedios  
Michael Liu  
Richard Khaw  
Cheung Kam-Chuen  
Michael Yin  
Colin Wong  
Elaine Liu

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

2. As the courses for the PCLL programmes of the 3 universities have now been settled and the courses are running rather smoothly, the work of the Committee in relation to the supervision of the courses has been very much reduced for this year.

3. 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 and the practice adopted by the Committee was that the views of the members would be solicited through e mail or fax exchanges and it was only when there were divergences of views which could not be resolved by circulation that formal meetings were held to discuss the matter. Fortunately for this year the views of the members were unanimous for all applications. Most of the applications were for the grant of ALE points on the strength of the candidates having attended similar courses elsewhere. Over the years, the Committee had in fact formulated certain policy in relation to the criteria for the grant of ALE points in such circumstances. Likewise there was an established policy for the grant of exemption from obtaining ALE points in relation to candidates whose pupillage period was reduced to 3 months by the Chief Justice.

4. Also it was part of the work of the members of this Committee to consider the award of ALE points to various programmes, talks or seminars organized by outside organizations. Again most of these applications were dealt with by circulation and exchange of e mail.

5. The Committee however had to meet to discuss the proposal from the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training for an overall review on legal education in Hong Kong since the last time when this was done was the Roper and Redmond Report some 10 years ago. The Committee recommended to the Bar Council that such overall study was to be welcome but

the Bar should not be sharing any part of the costs for such overall review. The Committee had also identified certain areas of particular concern and the Chairman of the Committee would raise them with the Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training when the overall review is being undertaken.

6. The Committee had also considered the proposals of the Law Society of setting up another examination for qualification to enter into practice as solicitors. The recommendation of the Committee was that the Bar should not support such proposal and in any event it would not be in the interest of the Bar to set up any examination similar to the one suggested by the Law Society.

Edward Chan SC  
Chairman  
Special Committee on Legal Education

5 December 2012