

Report of the Standing Committee on Overseas Admissions 2020

1. As of 31 December 2020, there were a total of 16 applications for the admission of overseas counsel to practise as a barrister in Hong Kong on an *ad hoc* basis, compared to 17 in 2019. Of the 16 applications, 5 were for criminal cases.
2. This year the Standing Committee consented to 8 applications, 3 of which were criminal cases. It opposed 6 applications, including 2 criminal cases. Of the 6 opposed applications, the Court dismissed one, with four pending and one withdrawn.
3. The total number of applications allowed by the Court was 7 (of which 3 were criminal cases).
4. Members are referred to the judgment of Poon ACJHC in *Simpson QC* [2019] HKCFI 2689, where an application for admission by an overseas silk proposed to lead only local solicitor-advocates was only approved on condition that local barristers were to be instructed. The judgment is under appeal, with the appeal having been heard on 30 November 2020 and the Court of Appeal's judgment pending.
5. Members of the Standing Committee are:

Civil proceedings: Abraham Chan SC (Chairman), Gladys Li SC, Robert Whitehead SC, Clifford Smith SC, Paul Shieh SC, Stewart Wong SC, Eugene Fung SC, Hectar Pun SC, Douglas Lam SC, Benjamin Chain, Liza Jane Cruden, P Y Lo, Sanjay Sakhrani, Ling Chun-wai and Hew Yang-wahn.

Criminal proceedings: Selwyn Yu SC (Chairman), Derek Chan SC, John Reading SC, Wong Man Kit SC, Peter Duncan SC, Joseph Tse SC, Graham Harris SC, James McGowan, David Boyton, Charles J. Chan and Tony C.Y. Li.
6. We would like to express our thanks to all members of the Standing Committee for their valuable time spent in considering these applications, to every member of the Bar who appeared for the Bar Council in contested applications before the Court, and to Ms Amy Lee and Ms Ava Wong of the Bar Secretariat for their invaluable support and assistance.

Selwyn Yu SC
Chairman (Criminal)

Abraham Chan SC
Chairman (Civil)

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