

## **Report of the Charles Ching Memorial Scholarship Committee**

1. This year we had a total of 23 applicants, 13 of which attended local universities to complete their undergraduate law degrees and 15 of which spent some time at either Cambridge or Oxford University as under or post graduates.
2. The Committee noted, once again, that many of the applicants were at the very beginning of their pupillage or had not yet begun their membership. The Committee is of the view that the Middle Temple advocacy course would most benefit those who have begun their pupillage and therefore priority should be given to those who have or are expected to have begun their pupillage by the time of the advocacy course.
3. As a result, only two of the applicants, Mr Brar Harprabdeep Singh and Ms Holly Hoi Ching Cheng, were called for an interview this year. Eleven of them were informed that they would be requested to attend an interview sometime next year when they would have started their pupillage. Two of the applicants do not plan to commence pupillage until August 2016. They have been advised to apply again in the year they propose to commence their pupillage. The remaining 8 were rejected.
4. Interviews took place on Thursday 5 November 2015 at the Bar Secretariat. Both the applicants were highly motivated individuals. The Committee was very impressed by the fluent and articulate way in which they explained their plans and professional ambitions. It was unanimously resolved that an award be made to each of them. Taking into account the fact that both of them are already working the Committee has decided to award each of them \$50,000. This is intended to contribute to their air fare and accommodation for 3 weeks.
5. In view of the high number of candidates this year, the Committee considered whether it would be necessary to change the rules for application to limit applications to students who have or are about to begin their pupillage. After discussion, the Committee decided to wait one year to see whether this might be necessary.
6. The Committee also considered the underlying purpose of the scholarship and whether there was a better way to help the junior members 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, with the accommodation being paid for by the scholarship. The Committee considered the possibility of offering other advocacy courses of equivalent standing but which may be less expensive because of location or otherwise. Informal enquiries as to viability will be made at this stage, the results of which will be for further discussions.

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

23 November 2015

The Hon Mr. Justice Bharwaney  
Chairman  
Charles Ching Memorial Scholarship