

REPORT OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON YOUNG BARRISTERS 2017

A. Introduction

1. The Standing Committee on Young Barristers (the “YBC” or the “Standing Committee”) was established in 1993. Its primary objectives are as follows.
 - (1) To represent Young Barristers (i.e. barristers within 7 years of call) and pupils (collectively, the “YBs”).
 - (2) To convey the views of YBs to other parties, in particular, other members of the Bar, the Hong Kong Bar Association (the “HKBA”) (in particular, its Council (the “Council’’)), the Judiciary, the local faculties of law, law students, other (young) professionals and other professional associations, and to convey the views of other parties, in particular, the aforementioned, to YBs.
 - (3) To promote the interests and wellbeing of YBs, including but not limited to their fraternity with other YBs and other members of the Bar, their involvement in the Bar, the HKBA and the wider community, their continuing education, their networks with other (young) professionals, public awareness of YBs and their roles and, more generally, their development as barristers.
 - (4) To assist YBs with their queries and concerns regarding their profession.
 - (5) To contribute to furthering the objectives of the Bar and the HKBA.
 - (6) To organise, make arrangements regarding, and participate in, events that further the objectives above and / or with the objectives above in mind.
2. There are presently 555 YBs (i.e. 453 barristers within 7 years of call and 102 pupils). There are presently 1,525 members of the Bar and pupils. YBs thus constitute 36.4% of the Bar inclusive of pupils.

3. This year, the YBC has consisted of 20 members, all being YBs themselves. This report aims to summarise the work of the Standing Committee in 2017.

B. Survey on the Young Bar 2017

4. The YBC is presently conducting a survey on the state of the Hong Kong Young Bar. This is the first time that the YBC / the HKBA has conducted a general study on the Young Bar.
5. The Survey on the Young Bar 2017 (the “Survey”) is open for answer by all members of the Bar called in 2011 and thereafter who hold a full practising certificate and is being conducted by an online questionnaire. It contains 46 questions on, for example, the background, pupillage, tenancy, areas of practice, working hours, income, present concerns, and future aspirations, of YBs.
6. The Survey aims to provide objective and reliable data on the Young Bar, such information being presently unavailable. It is hoped that the valuable data collected will assist in the following manners.
 - (1) Such data could assist the Council and the HKBA’s Committees in the formulation of their policies and activities for the Young Bar.
 - (2) Such data could also assist YBs to better assess how they are faring in their own careers.
 - (3) Such data could, further, assist pupil masters in seeking to structure pupillages to better cater for the needs of their pupils.
 - (4) Finally, such data could assist students in considering whether to join the Bar. (In career talks with university law students in recent years, members of the YBC have been asked questions on numerous occasions in relation to career and livelihood prospects at the Bar but have only been able to share personal experiences and observations rather than comprehensive and objective data.)

7. The YBC aims to present and analyse the data in a report to be published in 2018, which report will be made available to all members of the Bar.

C. YBC Pupil Mentorship Programme

8. This year, the YBC launched a mentorship programme for pupils. This was also a new initiative conducted for the first time.
9. The YBC Pupil Mentorship Programme (the “Programme”) is aimed firstly at providing an additional helping hand to pupils as they cope with the challenges and uncertainties of pupillage. Mentors, being YBC members (i.e. with relatively recent experience of pupillage themselves), will seek to provide suggestions on issues related to pupillage, tenancy, substantive practice, professional development and the Bar generally as well as answer any questions that pupils may have (in particular, those that may be difficult to ask pupil masters and / or fellow pupils).
10. Secondly, it is hoped that the Programme will promote long term fraternity and camaraderie between YBs by fostering a strong and meaningful relationship between mentors and mentees and amongst mentees themselves.
11. And thirdly, the Programme provides a channel for the YBC to find out the latest developments of, and problems faced by, pupils. Thus, for example, it was through the Programme that the YBC came to realise that a number of pupils were being charged substantial sums by law firms for handling their admission papers. A circular (Circular No. 198/17) was then issued by the YBC reminding pupils that it was possible to seek the help of friendly solicitors for this to be done complimentary. This in turn led to various members of the Bar very kindly offering to assist pupils to find such solicitors if they are unable to do so themselves or through their pupil masters.
12. Recruitment took place in September 2017 and as of now, 31 current pupils have signed on to the Programme. Almost all of them have now had at least one physical meeting with their mentor. (Mentors are required to reach out to pupils and meet with them at least twice during pupillage year and regular communications throughout that time are encouraged.) The feedback has been very positive so far from the pupils and a new round of recruitment will

take place in March 2018 (to cater for those who have begun pupillage after September 2017).

D. Charity Work

13. This year, as another new endeavour for the Standing Committee, the YBC has introduced volunteering opportunities for YBs and other members of the Bar. The aim is to facilitate participation in charitable works by providing an easy platform to do so. Such activities also raise public awareness of the Bar's commitment to contributing back to society.
14. Specifically, the YBC organised three volunteering opportunities, all in cooperation with the Hong Kong Salvation Army, with whom the YBC hopes to build a strong working relationship. The events took place on 23 September 2017, 9 December 2017 and 21 December 2017. Each event involved members of the Bar visiting elderly people living alone in the Yau Ma Tei area who are in the low income bracket and / or have mobility difficulties. Volunteers had friendly conversations with the elderly and wished them well for the Mid-Autumn Festival, for the Winter Solstice and for Christmas. Volunteers also distributed 'care packages' consisting of useful household items and shared soup with them. The first two events were attended by 15 volunteers each time and the third by 39.
15. Many members of the Bar participating were greatly moved by their visits and the elderly visited expressed deep gratitude for their kindness, as does the YBC. The YBC would like to thank sincerely the Hong Kong Salvation Army for kindly organising such meaningful visits for the Bar and Mr. Selwyn Yu S.C. for actively encouraging members to join the visits. The YBC certainly intends to continue organising charitable activities in the future.

E. Policy Matters

E1. Council Representation

16. By convention, the Chairman of the YBC is invited to sit on the Council to reflect the views of YBs in the governing body of the HKBA. This year, the Chairman of the YBC shared views during Council meetings and / or with Council members (particularly the Chairman of the HKBA) on other occasions on a wide variety of

issues and promoted the interests of YBs on issues relevant to YBs, including the expenditure of HKBA funds, compulsory continuing professional development, mandatory paid pupillage, future changes to the Department of Justice's programme of prosecution on fiat (the "Fiat Scheme") (as detailed below), the treatment and experiences of YBs in the Magistrates' Courts, the prevention of sexual harassment and the funding of YBs to attend international conferences amongst others.

E2. Prosecution Work in the Magistrates' Courts

17. On 22 May 2017, the Legislative Council Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services discussed the future development of the Fiat Scheme.
18. Prior to the meeting, the YBC wrote at length to Mr. Graham Harris S.C., who attended the meeting on behalf of the HKBA, to convey its views on a matter of great concern to many YBs.
19. This was followed by a meeting with Mr. Graham Harris S.C. as Chairman of the HKBA's Committee on Criminal Law & Procedure on 9 July 2017 where Mr. Harris S.C. explained the position of the Department of Justice (the "DOJ") as regards the scheme and further views were exchanged.
20. Mr. Harris S.C. then kindly arranged for the YBC to meet with the then Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr. Keith Yeung S.C., as well as members of the DOJ in charge of the Fiat Scheme, to discuss the future changes to the scheme. The YBC also raised concerns over various difficulties YBs undertaking prosecution work under the scheme, such as the late delivery of papers, the last minute briefing of counsel, the relative lack of opportunities for counsel who are only English speaking and the procedures governing various matters such as arrest warrants. The YBC will continue to monitor and follow up on these issues.
21. The YBC would like to thank sincerely Mr. Harris S.C., Mr. Yeung S.C. and members of the DOJ that the YBC met for their time and their genuine concern in ensuring that YBs maintain a high standard of professionalism and work when participating in the Fiat Scheme, that the scheme remains an important avenue for the professional development of YBs and that YBs are able to prosecute thereunder as smoothly as possible.

E3. Meeting with the HKBA's Committee on Family Law

22. On 18 August 2017, members of the YBC met with members of the HKBA's Committee on Family Law to discuss topics for talks which would be useful to YBs and what could be done to better assist YBs practising family law. The meeting was very productive and the YBC would like to thank sincerely the Committee for its commitment to helping YBs.

F. YBC Talks

23. The YBC organised a talk by the Hon. Mr. Justice Anthony Chan on 4 August 2017. The focus of the talk was the work of a civil judge and how practitioners could be of greater assistance to civil judges. Thus, for example, there was discussion on the structure and contents of skeleton submissions, the nature of court hearings and the appropriateness of informal applications by correspondence.
24. The talk was attended by over 100 members of the Bar. Further, the YBC arranged for pupils attending the talk to be accredited with 1 general Advanced Legal Education point.
25. The YBC would like to thank sincerely the Hon. Mr. Justice Anthony Chan for his time and his sharing. Those attending benefitted greatly from the occasion.

G. Educational Tours

26. On 1 November 2017, the YBC held a guided visit to Stanley Prison and Cape Collinson Correctional Institution, enabling YBs to observe first hand the realities of these two facilities, as well as to compare the two. This was the second time such a visit was arranged. As with last year, the visit was very popular and heavily oversubscribed (given that access to these facilities is highly restricted, the Correctional Services Department (the "CSD") imposed a 25 person limit).
27. Participating YBs first visited Stanley Prison (a maximum security institution), where the Deputy Commissioner of the CSD kindly led the guided tour personally. YBs visited cells of different security levels and were introduced to the different jobs given to inmates, which ranged from the manufacturing of leather boots to the

printing of paper materials for different government departments to the graphic designing of posters.

28. Participating YBs then moved on to the Cape Collinson Correctional Institution, where young male offenders undergo correctional training. The inmates gave a presentation of what they learned through their educational courses and participating YBs were also introduced to the vocational classes offered, which include hair cutting, electrical work, and basic cooking. Indeed, participating YBs were treated to a full service afternoon tea, prepared and served by the young male offenders themselves, at 'Cafe Collinson', the in-house Hong Kong style cafe within the institution. The YBs were encouraged to speak to the inmates before leaving, providing words of encouragement and support.
29. The YBC would like to thank sincerely the CSD for kindly organising this visit that allowed YBs to gain a greater understanding of the criminal justice system in Hong Kong. Given the popularity of the visit and the positive feedback received, the YBC intends to organise the event again in the near future.

H. Social Events

30. The YBC has a longstanding tradition of hosting social events (open to all members of the Bar and not just YBs) that are aimed at enabling YBs to meet, catch up and share views with each other and with other members of the Bar.

H1. Informal Drinks – April 2017

31. This year, to start with, an informal drinks event was hosted on 27 April 2017 at Plat Du Jour in Pacific Place, Admiralty. This was an occasion in particular for YBs to meet with the new YBC and for the newly called pupils to celebrate their joining of the Bar. Approximately 60 members of the Bar, including some more senior members, attended and had a good time mingling with each other in this easy, friendly and relaxed setting.

H2. Welcome Drinks for Pupils 2017 – September 2017

32. The YBC then organised drinks on 28 September 2017 at Bitters and Sweets in Central in particular to welcome and congratulate the new batch of pupils as they commenced pupillage and to allow

mentors to meet and greet those pupils who had signed on to the Pupil Mentorship Programme. This occasion was also an attempt to host a social event at a chic venue that had not been visited by the HKBA and YBC before and this was appreciated by participants. 75 members of the Bar attended the event.

33. The YBC would like to thank sincerely Mr. Steven Kwan of the Bar for his generous sponsorship towards the funding of this event.

H3. YBC Christmas Drinks – December 2017

34. Every year, the YBC hosts the YBC Christmas Drinks as an occasion for members of the Bar to celebrate the festive season together as well as with members of the Judiciary. The YBC Christmas Drinks is the Standing Committee's largest social event of the year.

35. This year, the YBC Christmas Drinks was hosted on 1 December 2017 at the China Club in Central. The YBC was most honoured that the Hon. Mr. Justice Tang, SBS, Permanent Judge of the Court of Final Appeal; various judges from the High Court and District Court, the Chairman of the HKBA, various Senior Counsel as well as many members of the Bar graced the event with their presence. In spite of multiple other HKBA / legal industry events taking place at the same time, 146 members of the Bench and the Bar attended, the largest number yet for this event, and the YBC would like to thank sincerely all guests for coming.

I. Outreach to Other Professionals

36. The YBC is well aware of the need to provide opportunities for YBs to meet with other (young) professionals to foster knowledge and professional development. To this end, the YBC has worked to bring about the events listed in Sections I1 to I4 below, which were open to, and indeed, attended by, YBs. Further, to ensure the smooth participation of YBs in them, YBC members were present at each of the mentioned events.

37. The YBC is also aware of the need to develop good relations with, and be visibly present before, the young committees of different professional associations (in part to ensure that the YBC / YBs are involved in and / or invited to joint professional events) and to this

end, the YBC took part in the matters and events listed in Sections I5 to I6 below.

I1. Macau Study Trip with the Young Solicitors' Group of the Law Society of Hong Kong

38. On 14 January 2017, at the invitation of the Young Solicitors' Group of the Law Society of Hong Kong (the "YSG"), through the arrangement of the YBC and with full sponsorship from the Council, 16 YBs participated in a one day study trip in Macau.
39. The day began at the Macau Lawyers Association, with an opening address by the President thereof, followed by short seminars on the Macanese legal system, business opportunities in Portuguese speaking countries and the relationship between Macau and Europe. A panel discussion then ensued as to ways in which Hong Kong and Portuguese lawyers could cooperate to mutual benefit. The conversations then continued at a luncheon before an extended tour of the Historic Centre of Macau took place.
40. Participating YBs gained great insight and were able to take advantage of the opportunities to network with the over 30 young solicitors from Hong Kong as well as many young lawyers from Macau. The YBC would like to thank sincerely the YSG for their kind invitation to participate in this tour.

I2. Joint Professional Art Appreciation and Networking Drinks

41. On 27 May 2017, at the invitation of the YSG, through the arrangement of the YBC and with full sponsorship from the Council, 12 YBs participated in an afternoon of art appreciation and networking at Sensory Zero in Wong Chuk Hang.
42. The event began with a sharing on art collections and art appreciation by an architect and a design and creative strategies consultant and was followed by drinks with young members of 9 professional associations.
43. Participating YBs gained insight on the latest themes in the art world and the YBC would like to thank sincerely the YSG for their kind invitation once again.

I3. Joint Professional Networking Party 2017

44. The Young Coalition Professional Group of the Hong Kong Coalition of Professional Services (the “YCPG”) organised its annual Joint Professional Networking Party on 30 June 2017 at Zentral in Central. The theme this year was ‘Jungle of Parties’. Some 337 young professionals from 10 professional associations registered for the event, including 8 YBs. As always, the event provided participants with a great opportunity to meet, network and make friends with other young professionals in informal settings.

I4. Joint Professional Architectural Tour Walk

45. The young members committees of the Hong Kong Institute of Architects, the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors (the “HKIS”) and the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (the “HKIE”) jointly organised an architectural tour walk on 4 November 2017 in the Tsim Sha Tsui district. The walk was led by experienced architects, engineers and surveyors. Sites visited included the Star Ferry, Hong Kong Cultural Centre, Peninsula Hotel, 1881 Heritage, Kowloon Mosque, West Kowloon Cultural District, Express Railway Link and the Rose Garden Project. The event was attended by several YBs and the YBC would like to thank sincerely the aforementioned committees for their kind invitation.

I5. Membership of the Young Coalition Professional Group of the Hong Kong Coalition of Professional Services

46. The Hong Kong Coalition of Professional Services (“HKCPS”), a non-profit organisation, was founded in 2001 to promote the common interests of Hong Kong professionals and to facilitate contributions of such professionals for the betterment of the wider community. Nine major professional associations are members of the HKCPS with the HKBA being one of the founder members. In 2013, a young members group of the coalition was established. The YBC is the corresponding member of the YCPG.
47. The YBC has been actively involved in discussions on the organisation of YCPG activities, attending a meeting on 3 April 2017 for this purpose.
48. Then, a YBC member and Mr. Timothy Lam of the Bar both spoke at the Joint Professional Career Day hosted by the YCPG and the Education Bureau on 11 March 2017. The event involved

introducing multiple careers including legal ones to over 200 secondary school students.

49. Finally, other than the Joint Professional Networking Party 2017 mentioned above, several YBC members also attended (1) the HKCPS' luncheon talk by the Financial Secretary on the 2017-2018 Budget on 8 March 2017 and (2) the HKCPS' luncheon talk by the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury on the Policy Address on 10 November 2017.

I6. Others

50. In the past year, YBC members also attended the 32nd Annual dinner of the Young Members Committee of the HKIE (on 6 June 2017) and the HKIS Young Surveyors Group Annual Dinner 2017 (on 4 November 2017). The YBC would like to thank sincerely both its counterpart bodies for their kind invitations.
51. Further, with the kind permission of the Chairman of the HKBA, the YBC invited the Chairperson and Vice Chairpersons of the YSG to the Summer Drinks hosted by the Council on 7 July 2017 and these invitations were graciously accepted.

J. Outreach to University Law Students

J1. Law School Career Talks

52. The YBC regularly visits local law faculties to share with students practice at the Bar and the steps towards that goal and answer any questions that they may have. The YBC considers it important for university law students considering, or having decided on, the Bar as a career to be as informed as possible before deciding on or commencing this career.
53. This is the first year that the YBC has organised, within one year, a career talk at each of the 3 law schools in Hong Kong as well as a talk for law students studying at universities abroad. The talks were held on the following dates.
 - (1) 11 August 2017: Career talk for overseas students.
 - (2) 21 September 2017: Career talk for Chinese University of Hong Kong students.

- (3) 25 September 2017: Career talk for City University of Hong Kong students.
 - (4) 31 October 2017: Career talk for University of Hong Kong (the “HKU”) students.
54. The talks were attended by over 110 students, with students being at all stages of their legal education, including Years 1-4 LLB students, Years 1-2 JD students, PCLL students as well as LLM students.
55. The format adopted at each of the talks was for a short presentation to be made, following which students broke up into small groups of 4-8 students, each led by 1-2 YBC members. Groups were divided based on the stage of the legal education the students are in (since students in the same stage tend to have similar questions and concerns). There was then at least one rotation of YBC members during the small group sessions such that the students were exposed to views of a variety of YBs. Each talk lasted for about 2-3 hours and indeed, many students took the initiative to continue their dialogue with the YBC members they had met thereafter.
56. Included amongst the wide range of topics discussed at the talks this year were the following.
- (1) How individuals should decide whether to pursue a career at the Bar or as a solicitor.
 - (2) The variety of factors that students should take into account when determining which members of the Bar to apply to for formal pupillage and informal extended pupillage.
 - (3) Whether students should obtain a LLM, qualify as a solicitor first or spend one year as a Judicial Assistant before joining the Bar.
 - (4) A realistic estimate of the professional income and expenses of a young barrister.
 - (5) Whether there are any particular difficulties that female barristers face.

57. Students have repeatedly indicated that they benefitted from the frank and comprehensive discussions that took place during the talks and the YBC is pleased to see such keen interest in the Bar.

J2. Others

58. The YBC believes in developing good relations with, and supporting, law students, some of whom will become the future of the Young Bar, where possible.

59. To this end, the Chairman of the YBC attended a meeting with the Executive Committee of the Law Association of HKU (the “HKULA”) hosted by the Chairman of the HKBA on 23 May 2017. The purpose of the meeting was for the HKULA to share with the HKBA its plans for the year and for the HKBA to share in return some suggestions for the HKULA, in particular how the law student community could contribute to the general public.

60. Further, a YBC member attended the 48th High Table Dinner hosted by the HKULA on 25 October 2017. The YBC would like to thank sincerely the HKULA for its kind invitation.

K. Outreach to Secondary School Students

K1. Hong Kong Bar Association Debating Competition 2017

61. Debating is often seen as a channel for prospective legal advocates to explore their potential. Every year, the YBC hosts a debating competition for secondary school students with this aim in mind. Now in its 14th year, the Hong Kong Bar Association Debating Competition (the “Competition”) is well regarded by schools and 32 from across Hong Kong sent their teams to participate this year. The tournament runs both an English and a Chinese division.

62. Whilst there are many secondary school debating competitions nowadays, the Competition has four important distinguishing features.

63. Firstly, since it began, the Competition remains the only one that focuses on issues relating to the rule of law. This is an important contribution for the YBC in its duty to promote the rule of law within the wider community. This year, meaty and highly topical rule of law issues were debated by the students from the

admissibility of hearsay evidence in criminal proceedings to the abolition of jury system in Hong Kong to the imposition of stricter laws on the insulting of police officers. Pleasingly, the participating students showed that they had engaged in thorough research and had mastered the issues on the table.

64. Secondly, the Competition also remains the only one that promises all students will be adjudicated by, and only be adjudicated by, members of the Bench and the Bar i.e. individuals who have had advocacy training and made advocacy a centrepiece of their professional lives. The YBC hopes that this allows students to receive particularly valuable and meaningful input on their debating skills.
65. Thirdly, insofar as the Grand Finals of both the English and Chinese tournaments are conducted in the High Court, the Competition is the only one that enables students to debate in a courtroom, a precious opportunity that is ordinarily available only to qualified lawyers and litigants in person. Other than the uniqueness of the feature itself, it is hoped that the experience will go a little way to inspire the best debaters to consider joining the Bar one day.
66. Lastly, a new feature of the Competition this year, and one again unique to the Competition, was (1) that the teams who managed to reach the English and Chinese Grand Finals were given an exclusive tour of the High Court by the YBC (on 10 July 2017) and (2) that members of the Champion teams were then, further, each offered a mini-pupillage with a member of the Standing Committee as well. It is hoped, through this opportunity to learn about legal practice and the broader legal world first hand, to encourage the debaters to remain deeply interested in the rule of law even after the conclusion of the Competition and again, to consider joining the Bar one day.
67. The Grand Finals of both divisions took place on 13 May 2017 at the High Court, with the motion being “This House believes that Hong Kong ought to impose an ‘opt-out’ post-mortem organ donation scheme.” The English Grand Finals were contested by St. Paul’s Secondary School and German Swiss International School whilst the Chinese Grand Finals were contested by Good Hope School and Heep Yunn School, with the latter school in both cases winning the Competition. The English Grand Finals were

adjudicated by the Hon. Chief Justice Ma, GBM, the Hon. Madam Justice Wong and Mr. Jose-Antonio Maurellet S.C., whilst the Chinese Grand Finals were adjudicated by Mr. Clement Lee, the Chief Magistrate; and the Hon. Mr. Dennis Kwok.

68. Earlier rounds of the Competition were adjudicated by Mr. Clifford Smith S.C., Mr. William Wong S.C., Mr. Anson Wong S.C., Mr. Richard Khaw S.C., Mr. Isaac Chan, Mr. Jeffrey Chau, Ms. Rachael Siu, Mr. Richard Yip, Mr. Jason Yu, Ms. Anna Chow, Mr. Ernest Ng, Mr. Sunny Chan, Ms. Grace Chau, Mr. Stanley Ho, Mr. Brian Tsui, and Mr. Keith Tam, of the Bar as well as members of the YBC. These earlier rounds were chaired by Mr. Ryan Poon, Ms. Wing Ki Lee, Ms. Sai Sai Chan, Mr. Joseph Ng, Ms. Joyce Poon, Mr. Byron Chiu, Ms. Margaret Wu, Ms. Jolie Kong, and Mr. Lawrence Pang, of the Bar as well as members of Executive Committee of the HKULA. Members of the Executive Committee of the HKULA also assisted with timekeeping and other administrative members.
69. The Competition was a great success this year and was reported in the Education Post of the South China Morning Post. The YBC would like to thank sincerely all members of the Bench and the Bar who assisted with adjudication and chairing, the Executive Committee of the HKULA as well as all participating schools and students for their time and efforts. It is to be noted in particular that all rounds of the Competition took place on a Saturday.

K2. Others

70. Separately, the YBC also visited the YMCA of Hong Kong Christian College on 18 October 2017 to attend their annual Higher Education and Careers Conference, giving a presentation to their Form Five students on the Bar and a career therein.

L. International Outreach

L1. International Conferences

71. One of the aims of this session of the YBC has been to reach out to, and forge strong links with, young lawyers around the world, particularly those who may in the future be the leaders of the legal professions in their respective jurisdictions. Attending international conferences, particularly those for young lawyers, allows for this as

well as the promotion of the Hong Kong Bar. Indeed, more broadly, it is important for Hong Kong and the Hong Kong legal profession to be visibly present at large international gatherings of lawyers from all over the world.

72. This session is the first time that the YBC has sent members to attend four conferences in one year. It is also the first time the YBC has sent members to a conference hosted by the International Young Lawyers' Association (the "IAYL"), a conference hosted by the International Bar Association (the "IBA") and the annual Fall Conference of the American Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division (the "ABA YLD").

(i) The 55th International Young Lawyers' Congress

73. The IAYL's annual congress this year was held from 28 August 2017 to 1 September 2017 in Tokyo, Japan and was attended by two YBC members. The theme was 'Artificial Intelligence, Technology and Innovation'. Participants were introduced to artificial intelligence technology and how they are being, and will be, used by both businesses and the legal sector to increase efficiency. The Congress also involved discussions on the appropriate regulations to deal with these new innovations, including how old and well established legal principles could nonetheless apply in this new context.

(ii) International Weekend 2017

74. The International Weekend is an annual event organised by the Junior Lawyers Division of the Law Society of England and Wales, the Young Barristers Committee of the General Council of the Bar of England and Wales (the "English YBC"), the European Young Bar Association and the London Young Lawyers Group.
75. The 2017 edition of the conference took place from 28 September 2017 to 1 October 2017 in London, UK. The conference involved seminars on thought provoking topics such as human trafficking, international surrogacy and artificial intelligence as well as those on practical issues such as handling forensic evidence and what senior lawyers need from junior members in their team. The YBC member attending was the only representative from Asia and this was deeply appreciated by the organisers.

(iii) The 2017 Fall Conference of the American Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division

76. The annual Fall Conference of the ABA YLD was held this year from 5-7 October 2017 in Denver, USA. The programme for the conference included sessions on ethical issues for young lawyers, how to provide legal services effectively in disaster zones, success strategies for young professionals in a millennial world, integrative approaches to aiding domestic violence survivors, issues in voter registration and voting rights, the role of young lawyers in combatting gun violence and diversity on the bench. The YBC member attending was the only representative from Asia and this was, again, deeply appreciated by the organisers.

(iv) The International Bar Association's 2017 Annual Conference

77. The IBA's annual conference this year took place from 8-13 October 2017 in Sydney, Australia. As the largest event in the IBA's annual calendar, some 4,500 lawyers from all over the world attended and the conference featured around 200 conference sessions with wide ranging topics, including those on all manner of areas of practice, ethics, the future of the legal profession and the rule of law and human rights. Amongst those sessions attended by the YBC member attending the conference were presentations from Robert Gates, former US Secretary of Defense; John Howard, OM, AC, former Prime Minister of Australia; the Hon. Chief Justice of Australia Susan Kiefel, AC and the Hon. George Brandis Q.C., Attorney-General of Australia.
78. At the conference, the attending YBC member also had the opportunity to speak at some length (on Hong Kong) with the President of the IBA, the President of the IAYL and the President of the Law Council of Australia amongst many others.

(v) Meetings with Counterparts of the YBC

79. Whilst the YBC has been attending international conferences for some time now, for the first time this year, members attending such conferences were required to separately arrange a formal meeting with the YBC's counterpart in the jurisdiction of the conference. The specific aims of these meetings were as follows.

- (1) To promote the Hong Kong Bar.

- (2) To brief the YBC's counterpart on Hong Kong's latest (legal) developments.
 - (3) To hear of latest (legal) developments in the jurisdiction of the YBC's counterpart.
 - (4) To understand how the young legal profession operates in that jurisdiction (including, in particular, how difficulties are overcome and how young legal professionals position themselves to secure business opportunities in an increasingly competitive marketplace).
 - (5) To explore options for future cooperation between the YBC and its counterpart.
80. As a result, the YBC was able to host lengthy and fruitful exchanges with (1) a Co-Chair of the Young Lawyers Committee of the IBA (2) the immediate past Chair, the present Chair and the Chair-Elect of the ABA YLD (3) the Chair and the Vice Chair of the English YBC (4) the Chair of the New South Wales Bar Association's New Barristers Committee (5) the Vice Chair of the International Committee of the Tokyo Bar Association (6) the Vice Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Young Lawyers of the Law Society of Singapore and (7) a (young) Council Member of the Northern Ireland Bar. The YBC was able to meet with some of these individuals not only once in their home jurisdictions but also at various of the international conferences attended by the YBC, which were also attended by these individuals.
81. Some of the specific topics discussed in these meetings include as follows.
- (1) The work and the role of YBs in Hong Kong and the structure of the legal profession more generally.
 - (2) The measures being taken to improve the Young Bar in jurisdictions with an independent referral Bar, such as subsidising rent payments for first year barristers, widening direct access and implementing a programme to second YBs to law firms and various institutions to broaden exposure and networks.

- (3) How the gap between the common law system of Hong Kong and the civil law system of Japan can be bridged.
 - (4) How young lawyers committees are, and can be more efficiently, run and how support can be gained from councils of bar associations and law societies for the works of these committees.
82. The trips undertaken by the YBC have thus proven to be very meaningful indeed. Moreover, the YBC is intent on building on the connections made to ensure that the conversation is continued and the relationships maintained. To this end, the YBC has, with the kind permission of the Chief Justice and the Chairman of the HKBA, invited many of the aforementioned individuals to the Ceremonial Opening of the Legal Year for 2018 and some of them have graciously accepted. Again, it is the first time that chairs of the young groups of bar associations and law societies have been invited to this august event.

L2. Hong Kong Bar Association / French National Bar Council Exchange Programme for Young Lawyers

83. As part of a young lawyers exchange established by the HKBA and the French National Bar Council, 5 young French lawyers visited Hong Kong from 1-10 June 2017 to participate in a programme conducted by the HKBA. As part of the programme and to forge links with young lawyers from abroad, the YBC hosted a lunch for the French lawyers on 2 June 2017 and attended drinks organised by the HKBA for them on 8 June 2017.

M. PRC Outreach

84. Similarly, the YBC considers it important to reach out to, and forge strong links with, young lawyers from the PRC. The YBC has attended the following events with this in mind.

M1. Trips to the PRC

(i) Beijing – June 2017

85. On 4-7 June 2017, six members of the YBC attended a trip to Beijing led by the Chairman of the HKBA and the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Greater China Affairs. This was the first

time a PRC trip focused on YBs has been organised by the HKBA and the highlight of the trip was a meeting each with the Young Lawyers Committee of the All China Lawyers Association and the Young Lawyers Committee of the Beijing Lawyers Association. During these meetings, the YBC introduced the skills and the work of YBs, the ways in which YBs could assist PRC lawyers professionally and the aims and the work of the Standing Committee. The YBC also learnt of the recent activities of its counterparts and discussed ways in which the YBC could cooperate with its counterparts for the benefit of young lawyers in both Hong Kong and the PRC.

86. During the trip, the YBC also attended meetings with the General Counsel of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, the Dean of the Peking University Law School and law students of Peking University.
87. The YBC would like to thank sincerely Mr. Paul Lam S.C. and Mr. Andrew Mak of the Bar for coming up with the idea of a YBs focused trip in the first place and for taking the time to lead the YBC on this trip.

(ii) Hangzhou – September 2017

88. On 10-12 September 2017, two YBC members attended a trip to Hangzhou to promote the Hong Kong Bar. Various seminars on litigation skills and a mock arbitration were conducted before the Hangzhou Lawyers Association and lawyers from the city.

(iii) Beijing – November 2017

89. On 13-15 November 2017, three YBC members joined the HKBA's annual official delegation visit to Beijing. Amongst PRC Government authorities visited were the Supreme People's Court, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office of the State Council, the State-Owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council and the Basic Law Committee of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress.

M2. Belt and Road Summit 2017

90. The Government of Hong Kong and the Trade Development Council organised the Belt and Road Summit 2017 on 11 September 2017. The HKBA booth at the exhibition running concurrently with the conference was organised by the YBC and manned on the day by its members along with Mr. Moses Park and Mr. Jeremy Yau of the Bar. Throughout the day, these YBs greeted conference participants from different parts of the world, introduced services that Hong Kong barristers provide and answered questions asked.

M3. Others

91. Further, on 30 August 2017, a YBC member and Ms. Chantel Lin of the Bar introduced the work of the Hong Kong Bar at an exchange forum entitled ‘青春助力大灣區 · 攜手共繪同心圓’ hosted by the Guangzhou Youth Federation at the Youth Square, Chai Wan. The forum was aimed at exploring how young professionals from Guangzhou and Hong Kong can cooperate to mutual benefit.

N. HKBA Dragon Boat Team

92. The HKBA dragon boat team, the ‘Dragon Advocates’, has had an excellent year, breaking its own best records once again in all the races it participated in.
93. On 30 May 2017, the ‘Dragon Advocates’ participated in the Sun Life Stanley International Dragon Boat Championships 2017. The team advanced to the Mixed Silver Cup Finals and finished at 7th place (the equivalent of placing 19th out of 206 international mixed teams).
94. The ‘Dragon Advocates’ then defended its championship in the Legal Professional Cup, which was organised by the Law Society of Hong Kong on 3 June 2017.
95. The team went on to compete on 18 June 2017 with 7 professional bodies and came 2nd in the Sun Life Hong Kong Dragon Boat Short Course Races organised by the Recreation and Sports Club for Hong Kong Professional Bodies.
96. All this success is due to the hard work of team members, who undergo rigorous physical training throughout the year, and the

strong leadership of its Co-Captains, Mr. Nicholas Oh and Ms. Candy Chan. The YBC would like to congratulate the team once again and thank them sincerely for their passion and dedication.

O. Other Works

97. Over the past few years, the Higher Rights Assessment Board (the “Board”) has conducted assessments of solicitors seeking higher rights of audience. The Board has on these occasions sought the voluntary assistance of YBs to serve as witnesses for these assessments. The YBC was once again the HKBA’s liaison on this matter this year and made the arrangements necessary for this purpose. The YBC would like to thank sincerely Mr. Perry Chan, Mr. Azan Marwah, Mr. Jang Sae Pang, Ms. Steffi Wong, Ms. Breanne Kwok, Mr. Jun Lee, Mr. Ivan Lam, Mr. Pakho Chan, Ms. Stephanie Chau, and Mr. Jayant Golchha, of the Bar for kindly taking part. It is to be noted that such assessments take place on weekends.

P. Internal Matters

P1. Composition of the YBC

98. The members of the YBC this year are as follows. Those whose names are followed by an asterisk were newly admitted to the YBC this year. The year listed below refers to the year of call.

Hugh Kam (Chairman)	(2011) [Plowman Chambers]
Lareina Chan (Vice Chairman)	(2014) [Garden Chambers]
Fiona Chong (Vice Chairman)	(2015) [Bernacchi Chambers]
Sabrina Leung (Secretary)	(2016) [Tower Chambers]
Albert Chan (Treasurer)	(2015) [Sir Oswald Cheung’s Chambers]
Alan Lo	(2010) [Liberty Chambers]
Adrian Wong	(2011) [Sir Oswald Cheung’s Chambers]
Justin Ho	(2013) [Temple Chambers]
Kerby Lau	(2013) [Des Voeux Chambers]
Isabel Tam*	(2013) [Denis Chang’s Chambers]
Ryan Law	(2013) [Bernacchi Chambers]
Carol Wong	(2013) [Sir Oswald Cheung’s Chambers]
Peter Chiu	(2014) [Plowman Chambers]
Michael Lok	(2014) [Des Voeux Chambers]
Sean Li*	(2015) [Alan Leong S.C.’s Chambers]
Billy Yau*	(2015) [Wellington Chambers]
Benjamin Lam*	(2015) [Parkside Chambers]
Sidney Kwong*	(2015) [Prince’s Chambers]
Victoria Yue*	(2016) [Gilt Chambers]

99. Seven new members joined the YBC in this session. One was a pupil at the time of doing so. The other six come from six different sets of chambers. Further, these six members come from chambers from which none of the 13 previous members returning to the Standing Committee come.
100. This year, the YBC has expressly regarded it as important for its membership to be composed of YBs of different chambers, seniorities, practice areas and ages to ensure a balanced participation and, with this, diverse views and ideas. Other than this, all members have been (re-)admitted on the basis of (1) merit (the primary criterion and which includes the extent of previous participation in YBC activities and assistance in the organisation thereof) and (2) the needs of the Standing Committee in view of its plans in the year ahead.

P2. Meetings and Other Communications

101. The YBC met formally as a whole on four occasions i.e. 5 April 2017, 14 June 2017, 6 September 2017 and 29 November 2017. Each meeting lasted in excess of two hours and primarily involved a report and evaluation of past activities and a discussion on forthcoming activities.
102. Further, the Executive Committee of the YBC (i.e. members with titled positions) met formally on one occasion i.e. on 27 March 2017 for similar purposes.
103. A number of informal meetings were also held by YBC members to discuss the organisation of a particular activity or matter and communications between YBC members on YBC or HKBA matters occurred regularly (i.e. every two days on average) throughout the year.

Q. Conclusions and Gratitude

104. Overall, this has been an exceptional year for the YBC. There have been many new endeavours such as the Survey on the Young Bar 2017, the Pupil Mentorship Programme and the organisation of charitable opportunities amongst others. Further, the YBC has also sought to expand the scale of activities it has previously held or

participated in, including with regard to the attendance of international conferences, the hosting of career talks for university students and the arrangement of events with other professionals for example. Certainly, the outreach this session to the wider community, whether local, Mainland or international, has been the greatest to date.

105. Going forward, the YBC will build on these achievements to continue to serve the Young Bar community with passion, commitment and effectiveness. Members of the Bar with ideas and comments to this end are very much encouraged to convey them, whether to ybc@hkba.org or to YBC members in person. Members of the Bar are also very much encouraged to participate in all events organised by the Standing Committee.
106. The YBC is deeply grateful to the Council, members of the Bar and members of the Judiciary for their strong and ongoing support both for the YBC and the interests of YBs. In particular, the YBC would like to thank very much the Chairman of the HKBA, Mr. Paul Lam S.C., for always having the interests of YBs and the YBC in mind and providing unstinting assistance whenever it was sought by the YBC. The YBC thanks the HKBA Secretariat as well for their assistance.
107. Finally, the Standing Committee expresses its deepest gratitude to its 20 members. Because of the number and scale of activities the Standing Committee has organised or been involved in, this has been a particularly busy year for the YBC and the time and efforts required from its members has therefore been exceptional and certainly beyond the call of duty. Thank you very much indeed.

Dated 31 December 2017.

Hugh Kam
Chairman
Standing Committee on Young Barristers