

Report of the Committee on Personal Injuries 2016

This year the Committee focused its effort principally on the possible reform of the Employees Compensation Assistance Fund Scheme (ECAF Scheme) and the setting up of a Marine Insurers' Bureau. To begin with, as a result of the previous input from the Committee, the statutory minimum cover for the compulsory third parties risks insurance of local vessels has finally been increased as follows:

- (1) HK\$10 million for a vessel permitted to carry more than 12 passengers, other than a Class I primitive vessel and a Class IV vessels not let for hire or reward; and
- (2) HK\$5 million for a local vessel permitted to carry 12 or less than 12 passengers, a Class I primitive vessels or a Class IV vessel not let for hire or reward.

On 5th September 2016, Ruy Barretto SC, Nicholas Pirie and Ashok Sakhrani attended a meeting with the Personal Injuries Committee of the Law Society to discuss, *inter alia*, the various deficiencies in the ECAF Scheme and need for setting up a Marine Insurers' Bureau. With the assistance of the Committee, the Chairman of the Bar wrote to the Chairman of ECAF Board to highlight the various problems in the ECAF Scheme and propose solutions to such problems. The Bar also sought clarifications from the ECAF Board on matters pertinent to its practice with a view to enhancing protection to applicants for and recipients of payments from the ECAF Scheme.

By the letter dated 31st October 2016, the Committee submitted a preliminary programme plan for the training of personal injuries practitioners at the Bar with a view to obtaining financial support from the Professional Services Advancement Support Scheme (PASS) Fund for the purpose of such training. As and when the plan materialises, the various topics identified therein will set the tone of the work of the Committee in terms of training.

It remains for me as Chairman to thank each and every member of the Committee for their good work and staunch support in the past year. They are namely, Ruy Barretto SC (Vice Chairman), Nicholas Pirie (Secretary), Corrine Remedios, Ashok Sakhrani, Christina Lee, Julia Lau, Kamlesh Sadhwani and Eric Tsoi. A special vote of thanks must be given to Nicolas Pirie for his tireless effort in advocating the necessary reforms and liaising with the interested parties.

Raymond Leung SC
Chairman of the Committee on Personal Injuries

22 December 2016