

## Report of the Special Committee on Advocacy Training

1. Members: Russell Coleman SC (Chairman)  
Nigel Kat  
Giles Surman  
Audrey Campbell-Moffat  
Martin Wong  
Ka Wong (Secretary)
2. The Special Committee on Advocacy Training was set up at the beginning of the year, essentially to oversee the standard of the compulsory advocacy training programme for pupils, although it is hoped that further training for junior barristers will in due course be provided.
3. Although formal advocacy training for pupils has been conducted for a number of years, almost total reliance has been placed upon outside advocacy trainers as the core element of any pupil advocacy training programme. Nevertheless, by the beginning of the year it was felt that a sufficient "faculty" of advocacy teachers or trainers had been built up so that it ought to be possible to organize and run courses and programmes with Hong Kong Bar resources.
4. Any programme requires the providing and monitoring advocacy teacher training to members of the Bar and the Judiciary. As a result of further training during the course of the year, there is now a substantial body of trained advocacy trainers (although more would certainly be appreciated!).
5. During the year, three main advocacy training programmes for pupils were conducted, in January, May and October. On the first two occasions, the course was taught purely by local trainers. For the October course, great assistance was received from participating visitors from the UK Advocacy Training Council, which was kind enough to send very senior and experienced advocacy trainers to participate.
6. There were also occasional ad hoc talks on advocacy, such as one on mediation advocacy. It is hoped that a full mediation advocacy training course might be provided within 2009, in line with the greater importance of mediation after the civil justice reforms.
7. It is also intended that Chinese language advocacy training will become a regular part of the advocacy training programmes.
8. An important function of the Special Committee is liaising with advocacy training groups in other jurisdictions to maintain and improve the standards of our own advocacy trainers and advocacy training in Hong Kong. During the year, a number of members of the Special Committee have travelled overseas to observe or take part in advocacy training programmes, or to attend conferences on the subject.

9. The Special Committee would wish to encourage more members of the Bar (and the Judiciary) to come forward to be trained as advocacy trainers during the coming year.

Russell Coleman SC

31 December 2008