

Annual Report of Special Committee on Bar Insurance 2015

In November, when members received their renewal notices for professional indemnity insurance, they would notice that our insurance broker had been changed from Miller Insurance Services (Hong Kong) Limited (“Miller”) to Willis Hong Kong Limited (“Willis”). This change resulted from a takeover agreement reached between Willis Group Holdings and Miller Insurance Service LLP in early 2015 whereby the Miller Financial Institution teams globally including the Miller Hong Kong team moved to join Willis Group with effect from 31 May 2015. As a result, Willis took over from Miller and has since served as our insurance broker. Notwithstanding the change, as a comfort to our members, Mr Martin Giggins who led his professional staff in handling the Bar’s Professional Indemnity Insurance in Miller has continued to serve the Hong Kong Bar with his team in Willis.

The Bar’s Professional Indemnity Insurance was introduced in 2004. Since its introduction, we have witnessed a downward flow of premium against the increase in the number of barristers. In 2004, the aggregate of the premium paid by a total of 763 members was HK\$4 million, whereas we paid a total sum of about HK\$2.1 million in premium shared by 1,275 members in 2014. This was by and large due to the insubstantial number of claims against our members over the years and may perhaps be a good testimony to the high standard of professionalism maintained by Hong Kong Bar generally. However Professional Indemnity Insurance is in a sense the last line of defence in our professional practice and there is no room for complacency. The currency compulsory coverage of \$5 million which was set in 2004 has not been reviewed since its inception. It is high time we gave thought to the adequacy of the level of compulsory coverage, particularly when the premium is at a low level.

Apart from the compulsory coverage, what has also not been changed since 2004 is the filling up of the renewal forms manually by members every year. The Special Committee has been working with our insurance broker to explore the possibility of providing an option to members to have their Insurance renewed on the internet. We sincerely hope that members will see the

introduction of a pilot scheme for electronic renewal of the Bar Insurance in 2016.

Lastly it remains for me to wish on behalf of the Special Committee on Bar Insurance all members a very Prosperous New Year!

Kenny C P Lin
Chairman
Special Committee on Bar Insurance
24 December 2015