

## **Report of the Special Committee on Convention Against Torture (CAT) Training Course**

By way of circular dated 3 January 2014, the Council of the Duty Lawyer Service (DLS) has resolved that all duty lawyers under the Convention Against Torture (CAT) Scheme panel would have to undergo suitable training on matters relating to the Unified Screening Mechanism (USM) prior to being assigned with CAT cases. Accordingly, the Security Bureau has organised a CAT course for decision-makers and duty lawyers. The course was soon fully subscribed, resulting in many duty lawyers (of whom were members of the Bar) not being able to receive USM training before the launch of the USM.

In light of this, the Special Committee on CAT Training Course has organised a “Top-up” CAT course for its members on 8 February 2014 with the assistance of the members of the Young Barristers Committee. The “Top-up” course focused on the introduction of the USM, and the latest development on two cases relating to CAT. The “Top-up” course was held in time for the official commencement of the USM on 3 March 2014. About 198 members have attended the “Top-up” course. Certificates of Completion were issued to members who have attended the full-day training. As for the speakers, we are honoured to have invited Ms. Sally Cheung of the Immigration Department to introduce the launch of the USM. Mr. Ambrose Chiu, representative from the UNHCR (HK Sub-Office) also gave a talk on ‘Providing legal assistance to CAT claimants, model rules of ethics for legal advisers in refugee cases and other procedural matters’. Mr. Hectar Pun of Denis Chang’s Chambers also shared with us the latest developments of the relevant law (both statutory and case law) on non-refoulement protection in Hong Kong.

The “Top-up” course has utilised the surplus fund (HK\$38,548.45) remained from the previous CAT course. Hence, the “Top-up” course was offered free of charge to our members. The total expenditure of the “Top-up” course is \$19,278. There is a surplus of \$19,270.45, this amount will be reserved for future CAT-related training courses organised by this committee.

We would like to thank the following members for their advice, support and assistance in organising these training courses for our members.

### Members of the Special Committee on CAT Training Course:

Selina Kung (Chairman)  
Hectar Pun  
Emma Tsang  
Rachael Siu  
Robert Chan

Selina Kung  
Chairman  
Special Committee on CAT Training Course

10 December 2014