

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

In view of the overwhelming response of the previous CAT courses organised by the Academy of Law of Hong Kong, the Bar decided to organize its own CAT Training and Accreditation Programme so that accredited members may then be eligible to register with the Duty Lawyer Service to be included in the panel of the CAT Scheme.

The CAT course took place on 27-28 July and 3-4 August 2013 at the Large Moot Court of the University of Hong Kong. A total of 297 participants have attended the course. The course consists of a series of half-day sessions, which focused on the relevant law and practice in handling CAT claimants under Article 3 of the United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment of Punishment, and the stages and conduct of the appeal process.

We are honoured to have invited leading experts and distinguished local practitioners to share with us their experience in their respective expertise. The speakers include Professor Manfred Nowak, Mark Ockelton, Gladys Li SC, Philip Dykes SC, Nicholas Cooney SC, PY Lo, Hectar Pun, Francis Ngan and Tim Parker, Anthony Ma and Kenneth Chan from the Duty Lawyer Service, Dr. Philip Beh (Associate Professor, Department of Pathology of HKU), Ambrose Chiu (RSD Associate, representative from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), Sally Cheung (Acting Principal Immigration Officer of the Torture Claim Assessment Division of the Immigration Department), Stephanie Jones (Legal Director of the Hong Kong Refugee Advice Centre), and a recognised refugee from Sri Lanka.

At the end of the course, participants who attended the full 4-day course were presented with Certificates of Completion - many of whom have already commenced or have been enlisted to represent CAT claimants under the CAT Scheme.

In terms of budget, the Bar received a total income of HK\$330,900. The total expenditure of the course amounted to HK\$292,351.55. There was a surplus of HK\$38,548.45. In light of the Government's proposed 'unified screening mechanism' (USM), the Bar anticipates a need to organize further training courses, seminars or workshops for members. It was thus resolved that the surplus amount will be reserved for the organization of future CAT-related training courses for Bar members.

Selina Kung  
Chairman

Special Committee on CAT Training Course

3 December 2013