

Report of the Charles Ching Memorial Scholarship Committee

Members: The Hon Mrs Justice Campbell-Moffat (Chairman)
The Hon Mr. Justice Bharwaney
Ronny Wong SC
Chyvette Ip
Isaac Yung

1. 2017 and 2018 marked a change in the administration of the interview process. As previously expressed by the Committee, its view is that the opportunity to undertake an advocacy course in the United Kingdom is more suitable for those with some professional advocacy experience. As a result, the Committee has now amended the application form, by adding a statement to make clear to applicants that priority will be given to those who have begun or completed their pupilages.
2. This meant that of the applicants short-listed for interview, 10 applicants who submitted their application in 2016 were not interviewed until 2017 and only 3 applicants who submitted their application in 2017 were interviewed in the same year. Similarly, 8 applicants from 2017 and 2 applicants from 2018 were interviewed in 2018. (Note: 5 and 5 applicants from 2017 and 2018 respectively were rejected. 2 and 3 applicants from 2017 and 2018 respectively were deferred. 1 and 1 applicant from 2016 and 2017 respectively withdrew their applications in 2018.)
3. In order to avoid an excessive number of premature applications, the deadline for applications has further been amended to 31 May each year. The Committee will continue to monitor the effectiveness of these changes.
4. The Committee has also observed that many applicants for the Charles Ching Memorial Scholarship also applied for the Bar Scholarship and / or the Middle Temple Scholarship. The Committee does not consider such multiple applications should bar candidates from applying also to the Charles Ching Memorial Scholarship. However, in order to adhere to its objectives, it is likely that only in exceptionally deserving cases, would a Charles Ching Memorial Scholarship be awarded to a candidate who has already benefitted or will benefit from one or more similar scholarships.
5. For this reason, the Committee has for the last two years postponed the interviews to November / December, when the Bar Scholarship results had been announced. It is also coordinating with the Middle Temple

Scholarship to ensure that awards are not duplicated.

6. In connection with the latter, the Committee has raised in the interviews the possibility of offering successful candidates the opportunity to attend advocacy courses other than the Middle Temple Course, which has conventionally been the course of choice of the Charles Ching Memorial Scholarship. Many of the candidates were enthusiastic. None showed any objections.
7. As a result, the Chairman spent considerable time in 2018 discussing with course leaders of various advocacy courses in South Africa, Malaysia and Singapore. It was hoped that the logistics could have been worked out in time for the proposed Scholars of 2017. Indication of approval has now been received from course leaders of other jurisdictions. However, details of course types, dates and costs are still to be worked out and cannot be finalised until early 2019. It was for this reason that the announcement of the 2017 results was delayed.
8. Once the details in relation to other courses become clear, the Committee intends to request the Bar Council to approve a change of the Rules to enable a wider range of advocacy courses to be offered.
9. The Committee also wish to report that some Scholars from previous years between 2013 and 2016 have not taken up their place at a Middle Temple Advocacy Course. It is understood that the reason is largely due to the Scholars' professional commitments. The Committee believes that the funds should not be tied up indefinitely. The advocacy training is most useful for barristers with a little to a few years' advocacy experience. Beyond that, its usefulness diminishes. The funds are limited and priority should be given to those seeking to establish themselves and not to those who already have a busy practice.
10. Accordingly, the Committee will from now on impose a time limit of 3 years for all Scholars to fulfill their obligation to attend an advocacy course. In respect of the Scholars from earlier years, the Committee proposed and the Bar Council has written to them to impose a deadline of December 2019 to take up their place on the course offered to them. It is not suggested at this stage that the Rules be changed in this regard to provide the Committee with flexibility to adjust to prevailing circumstances.

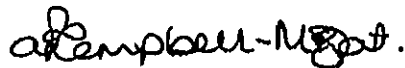
11. Of the 13 candidates interviewed in 2017, 8 awards were given in total.

Chan Ho Yuen Jeff
Cheung Tung Wai Tommy
Ho Sin Yung Sharon
Wong Kai Ting
Yuen Mei Sharon
Chiu Pok On Byron Conrad
Leung Lydia
Ng Jacqueline

Of the 10 candidates interviewed in 2018, 7 awards were in total.

Lau Andrew Christopher
Wong Yeung Hou Howard
Leung Justin Dexter Fook Chi
Ho Wing In Ivy
Cheung Wun Yan Jasmine
Lee Ka Yee Rosa
Shiu Lik King

Dated 28 December 2018



The Hon Mrs Justice Campbell-Moffat
Chairman
Charles Ching Memorial Scholarship