

## **Report of the Standing Committee on China Practice Development 2016**

The year 2016 has been a busy and very fruitful year for the Bar in terms of its China practice development. The activities of this Committee together with the Standing Committee on Greater China Affairs which is chaired by Andrew Mak Esq., is attached to this report for members' reference.

It must be remembered that China Practice is about practice development but not all about practice development. First and foremost, the Bar has to make its presence known to the legal profession in China and indeed elsewhere. The increasing number of English barristers and indeed lawyers from other jurisdiction to promote their presence in China makes it paramount that if the Hong Kong Bar is not to be marginalised in the long term, our members should make their presence and values known to practitioners outside Hong Kong including significantly China. Secondly, through professional exchanges, there can be better understanding between professionals in the two jurisdictions. Such understanding is important in view of the increasing business transactions and hence disputes involving Mainland parties. Thirdly, this Committee aims at setting up a platform so that members, at their choice, can decide whether they like to expand their practice to advisory and arbitration practices involving Mainland practice. The expansion of areas of practice is crucial for the development of the young Bar and hence our future.

To this end, this Committee has pursued with full vigour the China Legal Consultants pilot project. This year, a total of 36 members spreading across a spectrum of seniority have been nominated to act as China Legal Consultants. The role plays by the Committee to facilitate and promote. We know that other than the 36 members, some members have also taken the initiative to cooperate with China law firms and are appointed as China Legal Consultants. We are glad to see this development.

Secondly, the Committee has organised and participated in a number of seminars to promote the legal services that our members can provide. The Bar's seminar in Guangzhou was successful in the sense that many law firms did indicate strong interest to co-operate and instruct Hong Kong barristers because they have not been aware of this possibility and always contacted Hong Kong solicitors firms first. Awareness is itself important. The Bar was the best represented organization in the Hong Kong Legal Services Forum in Nanjing hosted by the Department of Justice and the Trade Development Council.

Thirdly, the Bar is also providing training seminars to Mainland lawyers to help them in their process of capacity building, whether in terms of seminars to leading Mainland firms or lawyers association. Through these seminars our members can demonstrate both their professionalism and the integrity of the Hong Kong Bar.

It remains for me to thank every single member of the Committee for their dedication and assistance. We worked together for the best interest of the Bar and we enjoyed ourselves in the process. It has been a good two years for me. This Committee will welcome Ms Winnie Tam, S.C., as its new chairman next year. This Committee, including myself will continue to do what is right and good for members of the Bar. Importantly, this Committee welcomes suggestions and ideas from members as to how we can do better.

Membership:

William Wong SC (Chairman)

Paul T.K. Lam SC (Vice Chairman)

Andrew Mak (Vice Chairman)

Anthony Neoh SC (Adviser)

Osmond Lam

Calvin Cheuk

Dennis Kwok

Isaac Chan

Vincent Chen

Ken To

Deanna Law

Victor Lui

Carol Wong

Alex Fan

Ian Chau

Michael Lok

Joseph Wong

Dr William Wong SC

Chairman, Standing Committee on China Practice  
Development

5 December 2016