

Report on Standing Committee on Legal Education 2018

1. The Standing Committee on Legal Education (“the Committee”) has the following members for 2018 :

Edward Chan SC (Chairman)
Michael Yin (Vice Chairman)
Selwyn Yu SC
Richard Khaw SC
Michael Liu
Cheung Kam Chuen
Elaine Liu
Hew Yang-Wahn
Raymond Hin Man Kong
Deanna Law
Hugh Kam
Mike Ho Yan Lam
Jack Chan Yan Kit

Ka Wong, the Director of ALE of the Hong Kong Bar Association is the Secretary of the Committee

2. The Committee had only one physical meeting in 2018. Apart from formal meetings there were also exchanges of views of members and decisions reached by e mail circulation.

3. The main work of the Committee centred around the reports of the Consultants in their Comprehensive Review of Legal Education and Training in Hong Kong. It is to be recalled that the Consultants' Interim Report was released in October 2017 and following that the Committee had in the meeting held in 2017 discussed the contents and tentative recommendations of the Consultants. The Committee reduced its views in a written response to the Interim Report on 26 February 2018 and submitted the same to the Consultants. Two Members of the Committee met the Consultants and to discuss with the Consultants on the Interim Report and the Committee's response thereto.

4. The Final Report of the Consultants was released in April 2018. There is however another post final report made by the Consultant specifically to deal with certain proposal of the Law Society for the holding of the Law Society Examination ("LSE"). The Consultants could not deal with such proposal in their Final Report because the proposal of the Law Society was published after the release of the Final Report.

5. The Committee met in June to discuss the Final Report and the post final Report. Meanwhile the Legco's AJLS Panel had decided to hold a meeting on the Reports of the Consultants and the Bar was invited to attend the meeting. The Committee prepared for the approval of the Bar Council the submission of the Bar for the Legco's AJLS Panel meeting and members of the Committee attended the meeting to present the views of the Bar. The Committee expected that the Bar's submission to the Legco's AJLS Panel dated 21 June 2018 could be found in the Bar Web-site.

6. Even though it is expected that in view of the recommendations of the Consultants 2018 will be a very busy year for the Committee, as it turns out there is not much activities in the 2nd half of 2018. This is mainly due to the fact that instead of pushing for the Common Entrance Examination, the Law Society has changed its priority and attention to the proposed LSE which according to the original proposal of the Law Society, might be held as early as in 2019. Because of this change of focus many of the proposed reform on the contents of the PCLL courses were held in abeyance.

7. As there was not much progress on the proposed LSE released by the Law Society, the Committee did not have much to consider in the 2nd half of 2018.

8. Apart from having formal meetings many affairs of the Committee were conducted through exchange of e mails including the consideration on the waiver or relaxation of the ALE requirements and the award of ALE points to talks and seminars organized by outside organizations.

Edward Chan SC
Chairman
Standing Committee on Legal Education

19 December 2018