

## **Report of the Standing Committee on Overseas Admissions 2016**

1. As of 31 December 2016, there were a total of 32 applications for the admission of overseas counsel to practise as a barrister in Hong Kong on an *ad hoc* basis, as opposed to 34 in 2015. Of the 32 applications, 19 were for criminal cases.
2. This year the Standing Committee consented to 19 applications, 12 of which were criminal cases. It opposed 12 applications, 7 of which were criminal cases.
3. The total number of applications allowed by the Court was 20 (of which 13 were criminal cases).
4. In 2015, the Bar Council adopted a new policy of seeking costs against the unsuccessful applicant in cases where it considers the application for admission to be hopeless. Such a costs order was granted for the first time by Poon JA in *Re Caplan QC* (HCMP 1084/2016, 5 August 2016). Members are reminded of their obligations when producing the junior counsel's certificate in support of the application as set out in the Guidelines issued by the Bar Council.
5. Members of the Standing Committee are:  
  
Civil: Paul Lam SC (Chairman), Stewart Wong SC (Vice Chairman), Gladys Li SC, Robert Whitehead SC, Clifford Smith SC, Paul Shieh SC, Eugene Fung SC, Hectar Pun SC, Douglas Lam SC, Benjamin Chain, Priscilla Wong, P Y Lo, Ling Chun-wai and Hew Yang-wahn.  
  
Criminal: Michael Blanchflower SC (Chairman), John Reading SC (Vice Chairman), Gary Plowman SC, Wong Man-Kit SC, Peter Duncan SC, Joseph Tse SC, Selwyn Yu SC, James McGowan, Giles Surman and Charles J Chan.
6. We would like to express our thanks to every member of the Standing Committee for their valuable time spent in considering these applications, to every member of the Bar who appeared for the Bar Council in contested applications before the Court, and to Ms Amy Lee and Ms Fiona Kwok of the Bar Secretariat for their invaluable support and assistance.

Paul Lam SC  
Chairman (Civil)

Michael Blanchflower SC  
Chairman (Criminal)

31 December 2016