

## Report of the Standing Committee on Young Barristers 2020

### Introduction

1. The Standing Committee on Young Barristers (“**YBC**”) was established in 1993.
2. Its primary objectives are as follows:-
  - (1) To represent Young Barristers (i.e. barristers within 7 years of call) and pupils (collectively, the “**YBs**”).
  - (2) To convey the views of YBs to other parties, in particular, other members of the Bar, the Hong Kong Bar Association (“**HKBA**”) (in particular, its Council), the Judiciary, the local faculties of law, law students, other (young) professionals and other professional associations, and to convey the views of other parties, in particular the aforementioned, to YBs.
  - (3) To promote the interests and wellbeing of YBs, including but not limited to their fraternity with other YBs and other members of the Bar, their involvement in the Bar, the HKBA and the wider community, their continuing education, their network with other (young) professionals, public awareness of YBs and their roles, and, more generally, their development as barristers.
  - (4) To assist YBs with their queries and concerns regarding their profession.
  - (5) To contribute to furthering the objectives of the Bar and the HKBA as defined in the Rules and Regulations of the HKBA.
  - (6) To organize, make arrangements regarding, and participate in events that further the objectives above and/or with the objectives above in mind.

3. The YBC currently consists of 21 YBs. This Report summarizes the main work of the YBC from 10 December 2019 to 4 January 2021.

### **HKBA Covid-19 Survey 2020**

4. An online survey was carried out in 5-16 May 2020 in order to explore the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on Members of the Bar. The survey was intended for all barristers with a full practicing certificate and not intended for pupils serving pupillage or extended pupillage. The survey was released through Bar Circulars and also promoted through the YBC.
5. Out of 1,530 Members of the Bar eligible for the survey, a total of 215 responses were recorded.
6. A report on the results of the online survey was prepared by the YBC and submitted to the Bar Council on 22 July 2020.
7. The YBC is grateful to Geoffrey Yeung, Alice Lau, Angel Wong, Candy Chan, Raymond Tsang and Schweitzer Wong for their immense efforts in designing the survey, analyzing the results and writing up the report.

### **Volunteer Service**

8. This year, the YBC organized the following volunteering opportunities:-

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Description</b>
17 December 2019	YBC and Hong Kong Salvation Army Volunteering Opportunity to Visit the Elderly	Visiting elderly residents living in Yau Ma Tei and Jordan area and delivering soup and food items to the elderly
20 June 2020	YBC and Hong Kong Salvation Army Volunteering Opportunity to Visit the Elderly	Visiting elderly residents living in Yau Tsim Mong District and delivering food and festive items in light of the Dragon Boat Festival

9. Around 10-15 members of the Bar joined each of the volunteer events above along with their friends and family members.
10. Members of the Bar who participated in the above volunteering events found them meaningful and moving. It is envisioned that the YBC will be able to cooperate with more charitable bodies in the future to organize more volunteering opportunities for members.

### **Social Events**

11. The YBC has a longstanding tradition of hosting social events (which are open to all members of the Bar) aimed at enabling YBs to meet with each other, other members of the Bar and with members of the Judiciary in an informal setting.
12. Only 1 social event was organized this year due to the pandemic:-

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
12 December 2019	YBC Christmas Drinks	China Club

13. It is hoped that regular social activities could resume once the pandemic eases in 2021.

### **Career Talks**

14. Due to the pandemic, no physical talks were held in 2020. The following online talks were given by the YBC this year:-

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
24 August 2020	Career Talk for Overseas University Students
24 September 2020	Career Talk for City University of Hong Kong Students

15. The above talks were well attended by LLB, PCLL and LLM students.

16. For each talk, YBC members started by giving a brief Powerpoint presentation on the nature of the Bar in Hong Kong and the routes to becoming a barrister in Hong Kong. Students were then divided into small groups over Zoom, where they were given the opportunity to speak and ask questions freely with YBC members in each group. Each talk lasted about 2 hours, and students were invited to contact YBC members afterwards should they have any further questions.
17. Students have repeatedly indicated that they appreciated the honest and comprehensive sharing by YBC members at such talks.

### **YBC Talks**

18. On 16 December 2019, the YBC invited Mr. So Wai-tak, Acting Chief Magistrate, and Mr. Tsang Chung-yiu Byron, Deputy Magistrate, to give a talk on “Hearings at the Magistrates’ Courts – Resolving Tricky Issues”. The talk covered procedural and practical issues that often arise in hearings at the Magistrates’ Courts.
19. In 2020, due to the pandemic, no physical talks were organized by the YBC.
20. On 28 October 2020, the YBC invited Mr. James Law, a qualified building surveyor, to give a webinar on “How to Approach Water Leakage Disputes from a Surveyor’s Perspective”. Topics covered include (i) qualifications and experience of a suitable expert for water leakage cases; (ii) how to give instructions to experts to draft expert reports; (iii) common sources and causes of water leakage problems; (iv) testing methods for identifying sources of water leakage; (v) how to read expert reports and joint expert reports; and (vi) government offices responsible for investigation of water leakage problems.
21. On 15 December 2020, the YBC invited Dr. Y.Y. Wong, an occupational safety expert, to give a webinar on “The Role of an Occupation Safety Expert in Industrial Proceedings”. Topics covered include (i) qualifications and experience of a suitable expert on occupational safety; (ii) how to give instructions to experts to draft expert reports; (iii) when and why safety experts are required in industrial summons cases; (iv) the development and history of safety regulations in Hong Kong; and (v) introduction to common jobs and activities in a construction site and industrial undertaking.

22. The YBC is grateful to all speakers for their time and generosity in sharing their experience with attendees.

### **YBC Mentorship Program**

23. Following its success in the previous years, the YBC Pupil Mentorship Programme was run again in 2020.
24. The Mentorship Programme aims to provide a helping hand to pupils as they cope with the challenges and uncertainties of pupillage. Mentors, who are all YBC members with relatively recent experiences of going through pupillage, provide advice on issues related to tenancy, substantive practice and professional development.
25. Further, it is hoped that long term fraternity between YBC is fostered through the Mentorship Programme.
26. This year, 10 current pupils signed up for the Mentorship Programme. Mentors are required to reach out to mentees and to meet with them at least twice during their year of pupillage. Regular communication is also encouraged.

### **Members of the YBC 2019-2020**

27. The YBC currently consists of the following members:-

Fiona Chong (Chairman)	Bernacchi Chambers
Billy Yau (Vice Chairman)	Wellington Chambers
Geoffrey Yeung (Vice Chairman)	Denis Chang's Chambers
Alice Lau (Secretary)	Parkside Chambers
Angel Wong (Treasurer)	Equity Chambers
Candy Chan	Courtyard Chambers
Sean Li	Employed by the Competition Commission
Lawrence Pang	Liberty Chambers
Tina Mok	Gilt Chambers

Sharon Ho	Plowman Chambers
Rachel Lau	Unity Chambers
Kevin Lau	Des Voeux Chambers
Sheena Wong	Temple Chambers
Jason Law	Wong Man Kit S.C.'s Chambers
Sam Chow	Albert Luk's Chambers
Nicole Li	Erik Shum's Chambers
Esmond Wong	C/O Bernacchi Chambers
Raymond Tsang	Alan Leong S.C.'s Chambers
Felix T.L. Tang	Courtyard Chambers
Francis Chung	Sir Oswald Cheung's Chambers
Schweitzer Wong	Chambers of Lawrence Lok S.C.

28. It is important for the YBC to be made up of YBs of different chambers, seniorities, practice areas and ages. This ensures balanced participation in the YBC and that the YBC receives diverse views and ideas from its committee members.
29. The YBC encourages all interested YBs and pupils to apply to become a committee member of the YBC in the coming year.

### **Note of Thanks**

30. It is unfortunate that due to the Covid-19 pandemic, many regular YBC activities could not be held in 2020, such as the annual debating competition for secondary school students, Christmas Drinks or other social events for pupils and Members of the Bar. It is hoped that regular YBC activities could resume in 2021.
31. The YBC is immensely grateful to the Bar Council, members of the Judiciary and members of the Bar for their unwavering support and guidance in the work and events of the YBC.
32. The YBC sincerely thanks the Bar Secretariat for their kind assistance throughout this year.

33. The YBC also expresses its deepest gratitude the dedicated YBC committee members, who have all devoted much personal time and effort in organizing and running YBC activities and coming up with ideas for events that could still be held amidst the pandemic.
  
34. Members of the Bar and pupils who have comments on the work of the YBC or ideas for the YBC are highly encouraged to contact us by email at [ycb@hkba.org](mailto:ycb@hkba.org) or to approach any committee member of the YBC in person. The YBC hopes to see all members of the Bar and pupils at its events in the future.

Fiona Chong  
Chairperson  
Standing Committee on Young Barristers

4 January 2021