

Special Committee on Civil Justice Reform 2009

The Civil Justice Reform came into effect on 2 April 2009 and the Special Committee therefore shifted its focus from the drafting stage of the Civil Justice Reform to assisting in the preparations for the commencement of the reforms.

The Special Committee did not meet this year but instead a number of its members participated in presenting general seminars in late 2008 and on 14 February 2009 to members of the both branches of the legal profession (held in the Conrad Hotel) and also led various small group sessions for members of the Bar, which were well-attended, in late 2008 and again in January, February and March 2009 in anticipation of the commencement date of the reforms.

It is ultimately a matter for each practising member of the Bar to keep pace with developments in the law, including developments in civil procedure. The Special Committee believes that the general seminars and small group sessions, as well as other specific talks given during the course of the year, have provided members of the Bar with sufficient opportunity to familiarise themselves with the changes to the rules under the Civil Justice Reform.

In respect of monitoring the Civil Justice Reform, the Chairman of the Special Committee was appointed as the barrister member of the CJR Monitoring Committee, chaired by the Chief Judge of the High Court. Members of the Bar were informed of this by Circular No.067/09 and invited to convey views and suggestions on the reformed civil justice system to the Bar Secretariat so that these could be reflected to the CJR Monitoring Committee.

On 10 October 2009, a further general seminar was presented to members of both branches of the legal profession (again held in the Conrad Hotel) for the purpose of providing an update on Civil Justice Reform. The Chairman of the Special Committee participated as a speaker at this seminar.

Membership

Joseph Fok, S.C. (Chairman)

Rimsky Yuen, S.C.

Godfrey Lam, S.C.

Kumar Ramanathan, S.C.

Liza Jane Cruden

P.Y. Lo (Secretary)

Linda Chan

Michael Yin

Colin Wright

Eva Sit

Joseph Fok, S.C.

Chairman

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1 December 2009