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8 June 2002

Mr. Paul Woo
Clerk to Bills Committee
Legislative Council Secretariat
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

By Fax : 2509 0955

Dear Mr. Woo,

Bills Committee
Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2001

Please refer to the questions raised by members at the Bills Committee meeting held on 28 March 2002 in relation to clause 126 of the Bill dealing with the Legal Practitioners (Amendment) Ordinance 1998 (27 of 1998) (the Ordinance), namely –

- (a) to replace “Chief Justice” by “Chief Judge” in the new section 40A(4) of the Ordinance;
- (b) to amend the new section 40E(6) of the Ordinance along the lines of clause 105 of the Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2001 so that the power of the Chief Justice under the subsection would be transferred to the Society of Notaries; and
- (c) to explain why section 3 of the Ordinance has not come into operation.

The Administration has consulted the Society of Notaries, and a written reply dated 7 June 2002 has been received by the Administration. In its reply, the Society of Notaries provides an explanation as to why section 3 of the Ordinance has not come into operation and the reason for rejecting members’

proposal to amend the new section 40E(6) of the Ordinance along the lines of clause 105 of the Bill. However, the Society has no objection to the members' proposal to amend the new section 40A(4) by way of CSA. A copy of the Society's letter is enclosed for members' information.

Yours sincerely,

(Michael Scott)
Senior Assistant Solicitor General

c.c. Miss Monica Law, SALD/LDD
Ms. Kitty Fung, SGC/LPD