



## HONG KONG BAR ASSOCIATION

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11 September 2002

The Honourable Ms. Margaret Ng,  
 LegCo Panel on Administration of  
 Justice and Legal Services,  
 C/o Mrs. Percy Ma, Clerk to Panel,  
 Legislative Council Building,  
 8 Jackson Road,  
 Hong Kong.

Dear *Margaret*

### Review on provision of legal aid services

Thank you for letting the Bar Association have a copy of the *List of Issues for Review* prepared by the LegCo Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services. Members of the Special Committee on Legal Aid Reform had the opportunity to study the paper and would like to add our comments on 2 items.

In paragraph 18 the rate of contribution of the aided person was said to be 12% when a claim proceeds to judgment whereas the rate shall be reduced to 6% when a claim is settled prior to delivery of a brief to Counsel. Could the Administration be asked to clarify the rationale behind these differential rates and why it is that the delivery of a brief to Counsel would be the trigger to double an aided person's contribution under SLAS?

In paragraph 21 on interest it is our understanding that the interest on such sums has always been credited to the General Revenue and the aided person is kept out of his money sometimes for months. Should there be any special reason why the interest could not be paid to the aided person then it ought to be paid to the legal aid fund so that more funds would be available to DLA for members of the general public requiring aid.

*Yours ever*

Alan Leong SC  
 Chairman

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