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LS/S/8/03-04  
2846 0523

5 December 2003

Mr Stephen Lam  
Assistant Legal Adviser  
Legal Service Division  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Building  
8 Jackson Road, Central  
Hong Kong

**Via Fax – 2877 5029**

Dear Mr Lam,

**Re : Subcommittee on Summary Disposal of Complaints (Solicitors) Rules  
under L.N. No. 251 of 2003**

Thank you for your letter dated 4 December 2003.

- (1) The Rules are applicable to disciplinary offences (as listed in the Schedule) committed before the commencement of the Rules.
- (2) However, if disciplinary proceedings have already commenced against a respondent under the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal Proceedings Rules before the Summary Disposal of Complaints (Solicitors) Rules come into operation, the Council of the Law Society or the respondent will have to abide by the provisions of the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal Proceedings Rules which regulate the proceedings. Neither party can then elect to start afresh under the summary disposal procedures.

Indeed, even after the Summary Disposal of Complaints (Solicitors) Rules have come into operation, once disciplinary proceedings have commenced under the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal Proceedings Rules, neither party should be able to retract with a view to start afresh under the summary disposal procedures.

Yours sincerely,

Heidi Chu  
Director  
Standards and Development