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EMAIL : Margaret@margaretnng.com

Ms Elsie LEUNG, GBM, JP
Secretary for Justice
4th floor, High Block
Queensway Government Offices
Hong Kong

Dear Ms LEUNG,

Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services

Acceptance of advantages by judges and judicial officers

The Panel discussed issues relating to post-retirement employment and pension benefits of and acceptance of advantages by judges and judicial officers at its meeting on 14 November 2003. In responding to queries raised by members, representatives of the Judiciary attending the meeting advised the Panel that the allegation that Mr. Michael WONG, a retired judge, had accepted a gift of air tickets from a businessman had been reported by members of the public to the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) for investigation. In the circumstances, it was not appropriate for the Judiciary to initiate an inquiry into the matter at that stage.

It has been reported in the press that ICAC has completed its investigation and the matter is now being considered by the Department of Justice (DOJ). I have been requested by members of the Panel at its meeting on 28 February 2005 to ask for your advice as to whether a decision has been made to initiate prosecution or otherwise, so that the Panel can decide what follow up action is appropriate. In view of the importance of the public interest concerned, I am also requested to inquire whether the opinion of outside counsel has been or will be sought in this regard.

I should be grateful if you could provide a written reply for the information of the Panel **as soon as practicable**.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Margaret NG)
Chairman

Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services