

香港國際公證人協會
Hong Kong Society of Notaries

15 March 2005

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Mrs. Percy Ma
Clerk to Panel
Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road, Central
Hong Kong

Dear Mrs. Ma,

Examination for Admission as Notaries Public

Thank you for your letter of 7 March 2005.

Our Council is pleased to note that the Rules were Gazetted on Friday 11 March. However, the precise date for the first examination has yet to be decided as your question depends on whether a sub-committee is set up for scrutiny of the Rules and other related issues. Be that as it may, our Council considers that, in principle, a lead time of about 6 months after completion of the negative vetting procedure under Section 34 of the Interpretation and General Clauses Ordinance (Cap. 1) is reasonable. That is to say, on the assumption that no sub-committee is set up to scrutinize the Rules, it is reckoned that the first examination could be held some time around the end of the third quarter or early fourth quarter of this year.

Our Council has been liaising with persons who are experienced in notarial education matters as there are plans to invite them to give pre-examination lectures to both existing notaries public and solicitors of 7-year or more standing interested in becoming notaries public. Dates for lectures will depend on when LegCo's vetting process is completed and the availability of lecturers to come to Hong Kong.

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Examination for Admission as Notaries Public

P. 2

Attn : Mrs. Percy Ma

Date: 15 March 2005

Over the last two or three years, our Council has been in touch with individuals and institutions familiar with notarial examinations. The co-operation of The Scriveners Company in conducting the examinations has been secured.

Last, the publishers of "Brooke's Notary" the leading textbook on international notarial practice are embarked upon a Hong Kong Supplement to provide additional literature for practitioners and those wishing to sit the examinations but similarly, the Supplement cannot be printed and be made available until the Rules are enacted.

Please rest assured that the Panel will be informed of the date for the first examination and related detailed arrangements immediately our Council is in a position to go firm on its arrangements.

Yours sincerely,



Margaret S. Y. Lau
Secretary General