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JUDICIARY ADMINISTRATION
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20 July 2006

Clerk to LegCo Panel on
Administration of Justice and Legal Services
(Attn: Mrs Percy Ma)
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road, Central
Hong Kong

Dear Mrs Ma,

**Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services
Meeting on 24 July 2006**

I refer to your letter of 7 July 2006, inviting representatives from the Judiciary Administration to attend the above Panel meeting for further discussion of the agenda item on “Political Affiliation of Judges”.

2. The Judiciary’s position on the matter is set out in the paper entitled “Political Affiliation of Judges” attached to our letter of 22 June 2006. The paper was discussed at the Panel meeting on 26 June 2006.

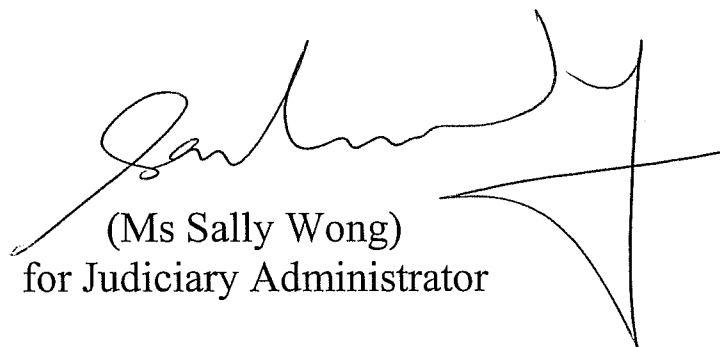
3. The Hon Li Kwok-ying’s letter of 27 June 2006 raised the issue whether there may be discrimination against Judges’ human rights having regard to the difference between (1) the position of a full-time Judge who should refrain from membership in or

association with political organisations and activities, as provided for in the Guide to Judicial Conduct (“the Guide”), and (2) the position of a part-time Judge in relation to whom the “Guideline in relation to part-time Judges and participation in political activities” (“the Guideline”) states that it is not considered objectionable for him simply to be a member of a political party. At the meeting on 26 June 2006, the Judiciary Administrator had indicated to the Panel that, in preparing the Guideline, the Chief Justice had taken into account all relevant considerations. These include the rights and freedoms of Judges, both full-time and part-time. The Judiciary’s position is that the Guide and the Guideline are consistent with the rights and freedoms of full-time and part-time Judges respectively.

4. The names of representatives from the Judiciary Administration who will attend the meeting on 24 July 2006 are attached.

5. With warm regards,

Yours sincerely,



(Ms Sally Wong)
for Judiciary Administrator

Encl.