



HONG KONG BAR ASSOCIATION

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

10th May 2007

Dear Mrs. Ma,

RE: Panel on Administration of Justice & Legal Services
Meeting on 28th May 2007 at 4:30 p.m.

I refer to your letter dated 25th April 2007 in respect of the captioned matter. As regards Item IV (Budgetary Arrangement and Resources for the Judiciary), the Hong Kong Bar Association does not intend to send any representatives to attend that part of the meeting. (For the avoidance of doubt, a Mr. Gary Soo will attend on behalf of the Bar in respect of Item V – reform of the law of arbitration.)

However, insofar as may be necessary, the Bar will invite the Panel members to bear in mind the following matters when considering budgetary arrangement for the Judiciary:

- (1) Given the importance of the rule of law to Hong Kong, the Judiciary should be accorded as much flexibility as possible when considering its budgetary arrangement.
- (2) As a matter of principle, saving of costs should not be made at the expense of administration of justice.

香港大律師公會

香港金鐘道三十八號高等法院低層二樓

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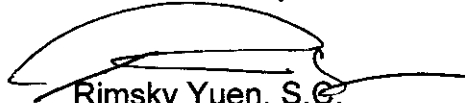
孫靖乾

艾家敦

- (3) In recent years, the Singaporean government has invested much resources (both financial or otherwise) in building Singapore as a dispute resolution centre. Whilst we should certainly be cautious with public funds, we should at the same time ensure that Hong Kong will not be lagging behind.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely,



Rimsky Yuen, S.C.
Chairman