



**Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services
Meeting on 13 January 2009**

**Civil Justice Reform Training Programme
October 2008 to March 2009**

The Law Society of Hong Kong put in place a comprehensive training programme for Solicitors soon after the Civil Justice Reform Ordinance was passed in July 2008. This has been launched on the understanding that the Judiciary intends to bring the relevant legislation into force in April 2009.

Training for solicitors has been provided by the Law Society of Hong Kong (“the Society”) and the Hong Kong Academy of Law (“the Academy”) under the CJR Training Programme since October 2008. The Programme will continue until March 2009, and can be extended beyond this date, depending on continuing demand from practitioners, to prepare them for the implementation of the CJR in April 2009.

Training:

The training offered by the Society / the Academy is conducted by way of a 3.5-hour general session and a series of lectures ranging from one-hour to three-hour modules in which different aspects of the CJR changes are highlighted. Each of the two general sessions were attended by over 800 legal practitioners, 70% of whom were solicitors. The Society has worked jointly with the Bar to organize these two general half-day sessions which give an overview of the CJR in October and November 2008. A third General Session has been scheduled to be held on 14 February 2009.

The Society / the Academy is holding, on its own, a series of specialized modules with the aim to provide a more in-depth account on different areas of the CJR. The specialised modules are being continuously offered until March and practically all sessions are attended by solicitors.

Each series of training comprises five modules each of which is sub-divided into different topics. Each module lasts for 1 to 3 hours (excluding breaks).

Please see **Annexure A** for a schedule of the CJR Training Programme held and to be held in 2008 and 2009.

The Society / the Academy aims to run eight to nine series of training courses between October 2008 and March 2009, subject to demand. Training after April 2009 will continue but will be fine tuned to actual demand.

Teaching Methods:

The teaching techniques are mainly in the form of lectures to provide practitioners with the information on the changes to the civil practice rules. Suitable printed materials are distributed to those attending the courses.

Level of Instructions:

The courses are conducted as an updating series at intermediate level, for delegates who have prior knowledge of litigation. This ensures that current litigators are able to follow the changes to be implemented in April 2009.

Trainers:

We have been happy to involve Judges, Masters, solicitors and barristers in the training.

Training Targets:

Taking into consideration that some solicitors do not engage in civil litigation work and that the demand for training is principally from litigators, the Society / the Academy expects to have offered the structured CJR training comprehensively to about 2,500 practising members by the end of March 2009. This will have adequately covered the majority of those practising civil litigation at all levels of the court system.

Cost to the Profession

With the support of the Law Society Educational Trust Fund, all series of specialized modules are provided to practitioners free of charge.

CJR Courses provided by Other Providers apart from the Society

According to the Society's record on accreditation of courses, not less than 40 courses have been offered by in-house providers and 12 courses have been offered by commercial or other providers. The Society does not have information on the numbers attending those courses.

The Law Society of Hong Kong

6 January 2009

The Law Society of Hong Kong
Civil Justice Reform Training Programme

| Course Title | Series | Course Date | Time | Speakers | No. of Attendees* |
|--|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|--|-------------------|
| General Sessions "Overview of the Major Changes under the Civil Justice Reform" | | 04/10/2008 (Sat) | 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Mr Justice Ma, Mr Justice Reyes, Allan Leung, Nicholas Hunsworth, Russell Coleman, S.C., Godfrey Lam, S.C. | 571 |
| | | 15/11/2008 (Sat) | 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Mr Justice Ma, Mr Justice Barma, William Clarke, Russell Coleman, S.C., P.Y. Lo | 564 |
| | | 14/2/2009 (Sat) | 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Mr Justice Ma and others TBC | |
| Specialised Sessions | | | | | |
| Module 1: Case Management | 1st | 9/10/2008 (Thu) | 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Nigel Francis | 302 |
| | 2nd | 18/11/2008 (Tue) | 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. | Jeffrey Lane and Mary Thomson | 272 |
| | 3rd | 28/11/2008 (Fri) | 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. | William Clarke | 296 |
| | 4th | 20/1/2009 (Tue) | 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Jeffrey Lane and Mary Thomson | |
| | Modules 1 & 2 | 5th | 3/1/2008 (Sat) | 9:30 a.m. - 11:45 p.m. | Master Lung |
| | | TBC | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon | Andrew Sheppard | |
| | | 17/2/2009 (Tue) | 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Jeffrey Lane and Mary Thomson | |
| | | 21/3/2009 (Sat) | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon | Andrew Sheppard | |
| Module 2: Originating Process and Pleadings | 1st | 9/10/2008 (Thu) | 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. | Andrew Sheppard | 303 |
| | 2nd | 12/11/2008 (Wed) | 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. | AB Nasir | 265 |
| | 3rd | 13/1/2009 (Tue) | 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. | AB Nasir | |
| | 4th | 15/1/2009 (Thu) | 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. | Nigel Francis | |
| | Modules 1 & 2 | 5th | 3/1/2008 (Sat) | 9:30 a.m. - 11:45 p.m. | Master Lung |
| | | 28/2/2009 (Sat) | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon | Andrew Sheppard | |
| | | 12/3/2009 (Thu) | 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. | Nigel Francis | |
| | | 24/3/2009 (Tue) | 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. | William Clarke | |

| Course Title | Series | Course Date | Time | Speakers | No. of Attendees* |
|--|------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Module 3: Offers to Settle | 1st | 25/10/2008 (Sat) | 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. | Mark Lin | 292 |
| | 2nd | 10/11/2008 (Mon) | 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. | Nigel Francis | 267 |
| | 3rd | TBC | 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. | Martin Rogers | |
| | 4th | 20/1/2009 (Tue) | 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. | William Clarke | |
| | 5th | 3/1/2009 (Sat) | 9:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. | Registrar Au-Yeung | |
| | | 12/2/2009 (Thu) | 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. | Allan Leung | |
| | | 17/2/2009 (Tue) | 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. | Allan Leung | |
| | | 26/2/2009 (Thu) | 2:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m. | Nigel Francis | |
| | | 14/3/2009 (Sat) | 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. | Mark Lin | |
| 18/3/2009 (Wed) | 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Kenneth Wong | | | |
| Module 4: Evidence, Trial & Appeals | 1st | 14/10/2008 (Tue) | 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. | Nigel Francis | 296 |
| | 2nd | 7/11/2008 (Fri) | 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. | Andrew Sheppard | 269 |
| | 3rd | 6/12/2008 (Sat) | 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. | Andrew Sheppard | 265 |
| | 4th | 17/12/2008 (Wed) | 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. | William Clarke | 272 |
| | 5th | 13/1/2009 (Tue) | 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. | Martin Rogers | |
| | | 12/2/2008 (Thu) | 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | William Clarke | |
| | | 24/2/2009 (Tue) | 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Kenneth Wong | |
| | | 18/3/2009 (Wed) | 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. | Nigel Francis | |
| Module 5: Costs | 1st | 30/10/2008 (Thu) | 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. | Nicholas Hunsworth | 295 |
| | 2nd | 22/11/2008 (Sat) | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon | AB Nasir | 248 |
| | 3rd | 10/12/2008 (Wed) | 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.. | Nicholas Hunsworth | 277 |
| | 4th | 10/02/2009 (Tue) | 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. | AB Nasir | |
| | 5th | 07/02/2009 (Sat) | 9:30 a.m. - 12:45 a.m. | Master Ho | |
| | | 10/2/2009 (Tue) | 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. | Nigel Francis | |
| | | 24/2/2009 (Tue) | 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m. | Nicholas Hunsworth | |
| | | 26/2/2008 (Thu) | 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | William Clarke | |
| 5/3/2009 (Thu) | 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. | AB Nasir | | | |

* Attendees were mainly members of the Law Society

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