



THE

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OF HONG KONG

香港律師會

Practitioners Affairs

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From the President

MC/09/124901

8 May 2009

Mr. Benjamin Cheung, JP
Director of Legal Aid
Legal Aid Department
Policy and Administration Division
27/F, Queensway Government Offices
66 Queensway, Hong Kong

Dear Director,

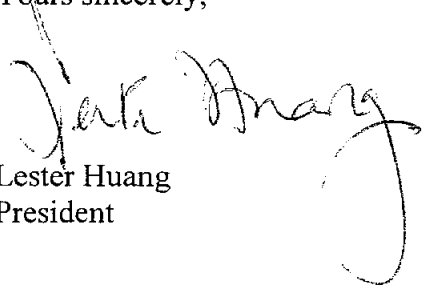
Re: Clarification of Legal Aid's Policy on Appointment of Mediators in Cases assigned to Legal Firms

The Law Society invites the Legal Aid Department to clarify its policy on the appointment of a mediator in cases assigned to legal firms which are required by the new RHC Order 1A and new Practice Direction 31 to consider mediation.

We have been advised that the Legal Aid Department has indicated to assigned solicitors that they must first approach mediators who are willing to provide mediation services on a pro bono basis, and it is only if they are unable to secure such pro bono services that the Legal Aid Department will review its decision to pay for the mediator's fees.

We look forward to receiving clarification on this policy decision as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,


Lester Huang
President