



THE  
**LAW SOCIETY**  
OF HONG KONG  
香港律師會

立法會 CB(2)898/10-11(01)號文件  
(只備英文本)

LC Paper No. CB(2)898/10-11(01)  
(English version only)

3/F WING ON HOUSE · 71 DES VOEUX ROAD  
CENTRAL · HONG KONG DX-009100 Central 1  
香港中環德輔道中71號  
永安集團大廈3字樓

TELEPHONE (電話): (852) 2846 0500  
FACSIMILE (傳真): (852) 2845 0387  
E-MAIL (電子郵件): sg@hklawsoc.org.hk  
WEBSITE (網頁): www.hklawsoc.org.hk

Our Ref :  
Your Ref :  
Direct Line :

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BY EMAIL AND BY POST

24 January 2011

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Ms. Flora Tai,  
Clerk to Administration of Justice and  
Legal Services Panel,  
Legislative Council Building,  
8 Jackson Road,  
Central, Hong Kong.

Dear Ms. Tai,

**Meeting of the LegCo Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services  
on 24 January 2011 (“AJLS Panel”) - Agenda Item IV – Expansion of the  
Supplementary Legal Aid Scheme**

The Law Society’s Legal Aid Committee (“*the Committee*”) has already made known its positions to the AJLS Panel on the “*Five-Yearly Review of the Criteria for Assessing the Financial Eligibility of Legal Aid Applicants*” and the subject of “*Expansion of Supplementary Legal Aid Scheme*” by way of written submissions and oral representations at the earlier AJLS Panel meetings. Instead of repeating itself here, the Committee would like to stress the following points for the AJLS Panel’s attention:

**The Five-Yearly Review**

The Administration’s latest proposals are steps in the right direction although they may still fall short of being adequate. In view that discussion on the five-yearly review has dragged on for a prolonged period, the Committee believes that in the interest of the public, the Administration should commence the legislative process to implement what they have now put on the table forthwith.

**SLAS Part I and II**

The Committee appreciates the need to be prudent with the spending of public fund and accepts the idea for expansion of SLAS to be conducted on a gradual basis. It also appreciates that a sudden substantial expansion in the scope of the SLAS may place too heavy a burden on the Legal Aid Department. For public interest, it agrees that SLAS II should be put in place first and subject to further review before

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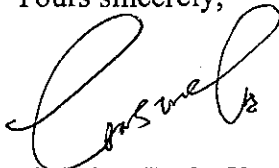
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consideration of further expansion of the SLAS; and the Administration should provide a clear timetable for the review of SLAS II and for consideration of other possible areas of expansion.

The Committee also has no strong objection to having 2 different tiers of SLAS provided that (1) this is for easy administration purpose and to facilitate collection of data for future analysis purpose; and (2) the means and merit tests for the two parts of SLAS will be the same.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christine W. S. Chu', written in a cursive style.

Christine W. S. Chu  
Assistant Director of Practitioners Affairs