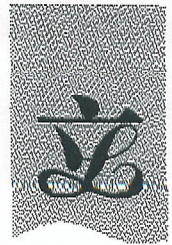




郭榮鏗立法會議員辦事處
Legislative Council Office of the Hon. Dennis Kwok



16th April 2013

Dr Priscilla Leung, JP
Chairman of the AJLS Panel
Legislative Council

Dear Madam Chairman,

Adjustment to the Scale Rates

The rates for calculating legal costs for solicitors and their staff on party and party taxations ("Scale Rates") were last revised by the Registrar of the High Court in 1997. The Law Society has recently commissioned a review of the Scale Rates and formally endorsed the recommendations in the final report, including that the solicitors' hourly rates be raised to better reflect the current market conditions as well as that the revised Scale Rates be adjusted annually according to an inflation linked index.

Maintaining an out-of-date set of Scale Rates is unfair in that it erodes the principle of "loser pays" and successful litigants are left to pay the difference between the Scale Rates and solicitors' own client rates. I am writing to respectfully ask you to include in the list of outstanding items for discussion by the Panel a possible adjustment to the Scale Rates in the 3rd or 4th quarter of 2013.

Yours sincerely,

Dennis Kwok
Deputy Chairman of the AJLS Panel

cc: President of the Law Society of Hong Kong, Mr. Dieter Yih
Chairman of the Hong Kong Bar Association, Mr. Paul Shieh SC