



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

9<sup>th</sup> July 2013

Hon. Priscilla Leung Mei-fun, JP  
Chairman of the AJLS Panel  
Legislative Council

Dear Madam Chairman,

**Re: Duty Lawyer Scheme for Non-refoulement Claims**

As you may be aware, the Administration has announced its intention to introduce a Unified Screening Mechanism (USM) to assess non-refoulement claims made by refugees. During the Security Panel meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, questions were raised as to whether the present Duty Lawyer Scheme is adequate in achieving its purpose—and shall continue to be so under the new USM—in providing legal representation for claimants during the determination of their non-refoulement claims.

Since the quality of legal representation is crucial in the determination of non-refoulement claims, which must satisfy the “high standards of fairness” in accordance with the principles as laid down in previous judgments handed down by the Court of Final Appeal, I am writing to respectfully ask you to include in the list of outstanding items for discussion by the Panel the current legal representation of CAT claimants under the Duty Lawyer Scheme and its possible reform under the USM. Please also invite the Bar Association and Law Society to come make representations to the Panel.

Yours sincerely,

Dennis Kwok  
Deputy Chairman of the AJLS Panel

Cc: Chairman of Hong Kong Bar Association, Mr. Paul Shieh S.C.  
President of Law Society of Hong Kong, Mr. Ambrose S.K. Lam  
Mr. Robert Pang, S.C.