



THE
LAW SOCIETY
OF HONG KONG
香港律師會

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5 November 2015

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Dear Mr. Chu,

**Subcommittee on Commencement Notices Related to Five Sets of
Amendment Rules made under Sections 73 and 73A of the Legal
Practitioners Ordinance and Gazetted on 17 July 2015**

I refer to your letter of 2 November 2015.

The Law Society has set out our reasons for the designation of 1 July 2016 as the commencement date of the Solicitors' Accounts (Amendment) Rules 2012 and the other 4 relevant Amendment Rules in our email of 21 July 2015 to your Assistant Legal Adviser Miss Carrie Wong. I attach a copy of this email for your reference. Please let us know if the Subcommittee has any issue which they wish the Law Society to address so that we may provide the information in writing.

The representatives of the Law Society who will attend the meeting with your Subcommittee on 10 November 2015 are as follows:-

- Mr. Colin Cohen, Chairman of the Law Society's Working Party on Solicitors' Accounts Rules
高恒先生，律師會《律師帳目規則》工作小組主席
- Mr. Amirali B. Nasir, Law Society's Council Member and Member of the Law Society's Working Party on Solicitors' Accounts Rules
黎雅明先生，律師會理事及律師會《律師帳目規則》工作小組成員

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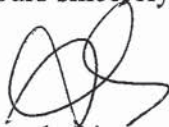
Christine W.S. Chu
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The Law Society of Hong Kong

- Ms. Helen Mackenzie, Member of the Law Society's Working Party on Solicitors' Accounts Rules
律師會《律師帳目規則》工作小組成員
- Miss Angela Li, Assistant Director, Regulation and Guidance of the Law Society
李敏儀小姐，律師會條例及指導部副總監

Yours sincerely,



Angela Li
Assistant Director
Regulation and Guidance
Email: adrg@hklawsoc.org.hk

Encl.

#2580802

Kathy WONG

From: Angela LI
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2015 5:14 PM
To: 'cwong@legco.gov.hk'
Subject: FW: Five Commencement Notices (Legal Notices 161 to 165 of 2015)

Dear Ms. Wong,

I refer to your email of 17 July 2015.

There is no delay by the Law Society in our implementation of the new Solicitors' Accounts Rules and the other 4 relevant Rules.

To ensure the smooth implementation of the new Solicitors' Accounts Rules, the Law Society had to complete some substantial follow up work prior to the commencement of the Rules.

Since the passing of the amendments to these 5 Rules by LegCo in December 2012, the Law Society has:

- (a) put in place a waiver application system and prepared new waiver guidelines for the new Solicitors' Accounts Rules pursuant to rules 6A(7), 7A(3) and 15 of the new Solicitors' Accounts Rules;
- (b) reviewed and revised the existing Manual on Solicitors' Accounting ("the Manual") to align the Manual with the new provisions in the Rules before their implementation. The Manual is a practical guide to our Members on solicitors accounting and the introduction of the new Solicitors' Accounts Rules required a substantial rewrite of the Manual. The Law Society also consulted the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants on the proposed amendments to the Manual. The waiver guidelines and the new Manual then had to undergo the internal vetting and approval procedure by the Law Society's Working Party on Solicitors' Accounts Rules, the Standing Committee on Standards and Development and the Council.
- (c) liaised with the Hong Kong Association of Banks and the Hong Kong Monetary Authority on the requirements of opening a "client account" under the Solicitors' Accounts Rules to make sure that law firms are able to comply with this particular requirement without undue difficulty; and
- (d) has organised and will organize a series of seminars for our Members highlighting the relevant amendments and the practical issues.

The Law Society fixed the Commencement Date at 1 July 2016 with an intention of allowing ample time for our Members to familiarise themselves with the operation of the new Rules before they come into operation bearing in mind the dire consequences of Members breaching the new Rules as a result of their unfamiliarity with the new Rules.

Regards,
Angela Li
Assistant Director
Regulation and Guidance

From: Carrie KY WONG [mailto:cwong@legco.gov.hk]

Sent: Friday, 17 July, 2015 6:19 PM

To: ADRG_Group

Cc: SG; &SALA3%LEGCO@legco.gov.hk; Anna LC CHUNG

Subject: Five Commencement Notices (Legal Notices 161 to 165 of 2015)

Dear Ms. LI,

I am scrutinizing the captioned Legal Notices published in the Gazette today with a view to advising Members.

As the relevant Rules to be brought into operation (i.e. L.N. 151 to L.N. 155 of 2012) were gazetted almost three years ago (i.e. on 12 October 2012), please explain the reason(s) for the delay in bringing them into operation. Please let me have your reply by 21 July 2015.

Regards,

Carrie Wong
Assistant Legal Adviser
Legal Service Division
Legislative Council Secretariat
Tel. 3919 3507