

*(By Fax : 2559 5690)*

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29 February 2000

Prof Albert CHEN  
Dean of Faculty of Law  
The University of Hong Kong  
Pokfulam Road  
Hong Kong

Dear Prof CHEN,

**Legal Practitioners (Amendment) Bill 1999**

As you are aware, a Bills Committee has been set up to study the above Bill. At the last meeting of the Bills Committee, members have expressed concern about whether the PCLL places offered by the two local universities will be adequate to cope with the possible increase of overseas law graduates seeking entry to the course as a result of the new admission criteria proposed for barristers under the Bill. The Administration has proposed that the commencement date should not be earlier than 1 November 2001.

To facilitate members' further consideration of the matter, the Bills Committee would like to seek your assistance in providing the following information -

- (a) relevant figures in respect of the PCLL course in the past five years :
  - (i) the admission quota for PCLL;
  - (ii) the composition of the student body e.g. local law graduates, overseas law graduates, SPACE students, part-time students and others;
  - (iii) whether a specific admission quota was set for any particular category of students in (ii) above (e.g. whether SPACE students are guaranteed places in the PCLL programme), and if so, please provide details;
  - (iv) the number of applications received from each category of students in (ii) above vis-à-vis the number of applications

rejected;

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- (b) the eligibility requirements for entry into the PCLL course and whether entrance examination is required;
- (c) whether the requirements in (b) above apply to all applicants and if not, please elaborate;
- (d) the admission quota for PCLL in the coming three years; and
- (e) whether the PCLL programme in your University can cope with the increasing number of applications from overseas law graduates as a result of the implementation of the new admission criteria. (I understand that the Department of Justice has already provided some relevant figures on law graduates with UK qualification seeking local admission as barristers in the past few years for your reference.)

You may wish to note that I have written separately to Mr David Smith of the City University to request for the same information.

As the next meeting of the Bills Committee will be held on 13 March 2000, I should be grateful if you could let me have your reply by **9 March 2000** the latest. Please note that unless you raise objection, your reply will be distributed to the media/public and made available on the Web Site of the Council on the Internet.

Yours sincerely,

( Mrs Percy MA )  
Clerk to Bills Committee

c.c. Hon Margaret NG (Chairman)