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(By Fax: 2869 0720)

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13 March 2000

Secretary for Justice
(Attn : Ms Kitty FUNG)
General Advisory Unit
4th floor, High Block
Queensway Government Offices
66 Queensway
Hong Kong

Dear Ms FUNG,

**Bills Committee on
Legal Practitioners (Amendment) Bill 1999**

Follow-up to meeting on 13 March 2000

At this morning's meeting, the Administration was requested -

- (a) to respond to members' view that all students who are studying LLB in the UK should not be affected by the new mechanism for admission as barristers, and this could be achieved by -
 - (i) deferring the commencement date of the new section 27 to not earlier than November 2003; or
 - (ii) including an exemption clause in the Bill to the effect that these students will not be affected by the new admission criteria;
- (b) on students who are doing an external LLB in Hong Kong, to provide information on the number involved, the criteria for admitting these students to the Bar vocational course and the percentage of these students who had enrolled on the Bar vocational course in the past;
- (c) to explain the roles of an inspector appointed under section 8AA and a prosecutor appointed under proposed section 8AAA and how the two systems will operate together upon passage of the Bill;
- (d) to advise whether there are any case laws which serve to provide a clearer meaning of "has resided in Hong Kong";

- (e) to clarify whether a law firm ceases to be a "Hong Kong firm" under the definition in clause 2 if one of the partners is suspended from practice as a solicitor; and
- (f) to respond to other outstanding issues mentioned in the Administration's letter dated 10 March 2000.

If you have any paper for the coming meeting on 31 March 2000, please let me have it (in bilingual versions and with a soft copy) **by 28 March 2000**. Please note that unless you raise objection, the paper provided will be distributed to the media/public and made available on the Web Site of the Council on the Internet.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs Percy MA)
Clerk to Bills Committee