

**Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services**

**List of issues to be considered**

**Proposed  
timing for  
discussion**

**1. Study on an independent legal aid authority**

At the meeting on 15 September 1998, the Legal Aid Services Council May 1999  
briefed the Panel on its recommendations on the consultancy study. The  
Director of Administration has advised that the Administration is  
examining the Council's Report and it will report to the Panel as soon  
as it is in a position to do so.

**2. Operation of the Court of Final Appeal**

- (a) When the Establishment Subcommittee considered a staffing proposal for the establishment of the Court of Final Appeal on 28 May 1997, it recommended that matters relating to the operation of the Court of Final Appeal should be monitored about 18 months after its operation (i.e. end of 1998); and
- (b) When the Subcommittee on Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal Rules and Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal Fees Rules discussed the subsidiary legislation gazetted on 1 July 1997, it recommended that the lack of provisions in both the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal Ordinance and the Appeal Rules to govern the use of languages in the Court of Final Appeal should be followed up.

**3. Committee on Bilingual Legal System**

The item was proposed by the Chairman at the meeting on 17 November 1998. Members may wish to discuss the subject at a future meeting.

**4. Legal Practitioners (Fees)(Amendment) Rule 1998**

The Amendment Rule dealt with the increase in the fees payable for practising certificates of barristers. At the meeting of the House Committee on 18 December 1998, the Legal Adviser suggested that as a separate issue, the question of whether section 72 or section 30(4) of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance is the proper empowering provision for making rules to prescribe the fees payable for the issue of practising certificates for barristers should be considered by the Panel.

**5. Issuing of executive orders by the Chief Executive under Article 48(4) of the Basic Law**

This issue has been raised at a recent meeting of the Bills Committee on Adaptation of Laws Bill 1998. At the Panel meeting on 15 December 1998, the Chairman suggested and members agreed that the subject matter should be discussed at a future meeting.

**6. Role and Conduct of Hong Kong solicitors and China appointed attesting officers in Chinese properties transactions**

This issue was brought up by the Chairman at the meeting on 19 March 1999 January 1999. Arising from complaints relating to purchase of uncompleted residential properties in the Mainland, a referral has been made by the Complaints Division to the Panel for it to look into the matter. Members agreed that the subject should be discussed at the Panel's meeting to be held on 23 March 1999.