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Legislative Council  
Legislative Council Building  
8 Jackson Road, Central  
Hong Kong

Attn: Ms. Rosalind Ma  
for Clerk to Bills Committee

**Re: Public Officers Pay Adjustments (2004/2005) Bill**

The Bar notes the response of the Administration emphasizes that the intention of clause 3(1)(b)(i)(A) is to cover all full-time Members of the Lands Tribunal. The Bar would remind Members of the Bills Committee that Courts of the HKSAR interpret legislation not by divining the intention of the legislature through reading correspondence, papers and minutes of the Bills Committee or the Proceedings of the Legislative Council, but by discovering the intention of the legislature as expressed in the language of the legislation. Therefore, what the Administration intends is of importance only if such an intention is expressed in the language of the legislation. Members of the Bills Committee should observe and also require the Administration to observe this principal rule of drafting and interpretation of legislation.

Yours faithfully,

Edward Chan, SC  
Chairman

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