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17 October, 2002

Ms Christine W S Chu,
Assistant Director of Practitioners Affairs,
The Law Society of Hong Kong,
3/F Wing On House,
71 Des Voeux Road,
Central,
Hong Kong.
(Fax No.: 2845 0387)

Dear Ms Chu,

**Consultation Paper on Proposed Amendments to the
Conveyancing and Property Ordinance (Cap. 219)
- Execution of Conveyancing Documents by Corporation**

Thank you for your letter dated 9 October 2002.

Regarding the Property Committee's concern about the progress of the proposed legislation, the Director of Administration has advised that our bid for a legislative slot for the Law Amendment and Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill in the first half of the 2002-2003 LegCo session has been approved (Part II of the Bill amends the Conveyancing and Property Ordinance (Cap. 219)). The issue of the DOJ's proposed new section 23A(3) is not delaying the legislative process.

In our bid for a LegCo slot, we explained the urgency for amendment and requested the allocation of an early date for introduction of the Bill (January 2003). That date proved infeasible (as did the interim allocation of late February 2003) because of the time needed to

accommodate the policy address and the competing bids of other bureaux for a LegCo slot. We have provisionally been allocated a slot in the second half of March 2003, which nevertheless puts our bid before many other Bills with urgent claims for priority.

In the circumstances, this is the most that can realistically be achieved. As you will know from our associated correspondence on various aspects of the content of the Bill, drafting of the legislation is well underway. Taking into account a late March 2003 LegCo slot, the proposed timeframe is –

- October 2002, continue discussion with the Law Society and other interested parties on the responses to the consultation on the proposed new section 23A(3)
- December 2002, present detailed information paper on the whole Bill to the LegCo Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services
- January-February 2003, present paper on the Bill to the Government's Policy Committee
- February-March 2003, ExCo
- second half of March 2003, introduce Bill.

Thank you for your information regarding the meaning of “constitutional documents”.

Yours sincerely,

(Michael Scott)
Senior Assistant Solicitor General

c.c. Hon. Margaret Ng
Chairman of the LegCo AJLS Panel

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Ms Wendy Chow,
Chairman, Law Society Property Committee