

Our Ref: LRC/RES/169

25 October 2004

Your Ref. CB2/PL/AJLS

Mrs Percy Ma  
Clerk to Panel  
HKSAR Legislative Council  
Legislative Council Building  
8 Jackson Road  
Central  
Hong Kong.

Dear Mrs Ma,

**Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services  
Working Party on Solicitors' Rights of Audience**

Thank you for your letter of 21 October 2004, requesting information in relation to the Working Party on Solicitors' Rights of Audience.

The membership of the Working Party is as follows:

The Hon Mr Justice Bokhary, Permanent Judge of the Court of Final Appeal (Chairman)

The Hon Mr Justice Andrew Cheung, Judge of the Court of First Instance of the High Court

The Hon Mr Justice Ma, Chief Judge of the High Court

The Hon Mr Justice Pang, Judge of the Court of First Instance of the High Court

The Hon Mr Justice Tang, Judge of the Court of First Instance of the High Court

Mr Robert Allcock, Solicitor General, Department of Justice

Mr Peter Barnes, Solicitor

Mr Denis Brock, Solicitor

Ms Eleanor Ling, SBS, OBE, JP

Mr Joseph Tse, Barrister

Mr Benjamin Yu, SC, Barrister

The Working Party's terms of reference are to consider whether solicitors' existing rights of audience should be extended and, if so, the mechanism for dealing with the grant of extended rights of audience to solicitors.

The Working Party intends to begin by evaluating the arguments for and against extending higher rights of audience to solicitors, before identifying the issues which will need to be addressed if it is decided that such higher rights of audience should be granted. The Working Party has held two meetings so far and intends to work towards the completion of a consultation paper by the latter half of 2005.

Yours sincerely,

(Stuart M I Stoker)  
Secretary  
Working Party on  
Solicitors' Rights of Audience

#311656