

THE

LAW SOCIETY

OF HONG KONG

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Your Ref :
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9 July 2013

Clerk to the House Committee
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex,
1 Legislative Council Road,
Central,
Hong Kong

BY HAND

Dear Sirs,

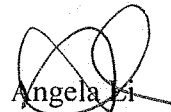
Re: Solicitors (General) Costs (Amendment) Rules

I refer to my letter of 28 June 2013 to your Mr. Kelvin Ka-yun Lee and his 2 emails both of 5 July 2013.

The Law Society is liaising with the Costs Committee on the Solicitors (General) Costs (Amendment) Rules. I attach our letter to the Costs Committee of 5 July 2013 without enclosures for your reference. Copies of this letter were also sent to the Judiciary and the Department of Justice for their reference.

Meanwhile, please withhold further action pending the response of the relevant parties. I will keep you informed of the development of this matter soonest possible.

Yours faithfully,


Angela Si
Assistant Director,
Regulation and Guidance
Email: adrg@hklawsoc.org.hk

Enclosure

c.c. Mr. Kelvin Ka-yun Lee,
Assistant Legal Adviser, Legislative Council Secretariat



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5 July 2013

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Master Andy Ho
Deputy Registrar of High Court
Secretary of the Costs Committee (Section 74 of the
Legal Practitioners Ordinance)
Judiciary Administration,
High Court,
38 Queensway,
Hong Kong

BY HAND

Dear Master Ho,

Re: Amendments to Solicitors (General) Costs Rules

I refer to your letter of 19 April 2006 informing the Law Society that the Costs Committee approved the proposed amendments to the Solicitors (General) Costs Rules subject to the prior approval of the Chief Justice.

1. On 1 August 2008, the former Chief Justice granted his approval in principle to the proposed amendments. The correspondences between the Judiciary and the Law Society of 1 August and 26 September 2008 are at Appendix 1.
2. On 14 January 2011, the former Chief Justice directed the Law Society to consult the Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services of the Legislative Council ("the Panel") before seeking his final approval of the proposed amendments. The letter from the Judiciary to the Law Society of 14 January 2011 is at Appendix 2.



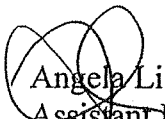
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3. On 8 December 2011, the Clerk to the Panel informed the Law Society that the Panel had no comment on the proposed amendments. The correspondences between the Law Society and the Clerk to the Panel of 26 January and 8 December 2011 without enclosures are at Appendix 3
4. On 15 April 2013, the Chief Justice granted his final approval of the proposed amendments. The letter from the Judiciary to the Law Society of 15 April 2013 is at Appendix 4.
5. The Solicitors (General) Costs (Amendment) Rules 2013 (L. N. 110 of 2013) were gazetted on 21 June 2013 (Appendix 5).
6. On 25 June 2013, Mr. Kevin Lee, the Assistant Legal Advisor of the Legislative Council advised that the Amendment Rules should be made by the Costs Committee under section 74(3)(a) of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance. He also raised some drafting issues on the Amendment Rules. The correspondences between Mr. Lee and the Law Society of 25 and 28 June 2013 are at Appendix 6.

Please advise us whether the Costs Committee has any comment on the Amendment Rules. If the Costs Committee has no comment, I will arrange the Department of Justice to prepare the "blues" in bilingual texts for the signatures of the Chief Justice and the Costs Committee.

Yours sincerely,


Angela Li
Assistant Director,
Regulation and Guidance
Email: adrg@hklawsoc.org.hk

Enclosures

c.c. Miss Phyllis Poon of the Department of Justice (By Hand)
Mr. Steve Chow of Judiciary (By Hand)