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13 February 2014

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Clerk to Panel

Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services

Legislative Council

Legislative Council Complex

1 Legislative Council Road

Central, Hong Kong

By E-mail
(sszeto@legco.gov.hk)

Dear Ms. Szeto,

Consultation on the Common Entrance Examination

I refer to the letter of 17 December 2013 of the Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services (AJLS Panel) to Ms. Heidi Chu, Secretary General requesting for statistical information on the Overseas Lawyers Qualification Examination ("OLQE").

The request of the Panel was considered by the Foreign Lawyers Committee and the Committee has agreed to disclose the enclosed statistical information extracted from the Law Society Annual Reports 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012.

The 2013 OLQE results are not available yet and the pass rates cannot be provided for the moment.

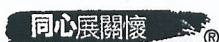
All statistical information relating to exemptions is confidential and we regret we are unable to provide such information.

Yours sincerely,

Vivien Lee

Director of Standards & Development

Encls.



caring organisation

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OVERSEAS LAWYERS QUALIFICATION EXAMINATION

The 14th *Overseas Lawyers Qualification Examination* was held from 28 October to 12 December. A total of 150 candidates sat one or more written heads of the Examination. 140 candidates were from 14 overseas jurisdictions, six of which were non-common law jurisdictions. 10 candidates were Hong Kong barristers.

Of the 150 candidates, 117 candidates (78%) passed the Examination, having passed each of the heads that they were required to sit. 33 candidates (22%) failed the Examination, having failed one or more of the heads that they were required to sit.

Figure 1: Examination results with respect to each head of the Examination

	Head I		Head II		Head III		Head IV		Head V		The Exam	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Pass	119	87%	18	67%	21	70%	19	54%	2	100%	117	78%
Fail	18	13%	9	33%	9	30%	16	46%	0	0%	33	22%
Total	137		27		30		35		2		150	

Standing Committee on Standards and Development

<i>Written Heads:</i>	<i>Head I</i>	<i>Conveyancing</i>
	<i>Head II</i>	<i>Civil and Criminal Procedure</i>
	<i>Head III</i>	<i>Commercial and Company Law</i>
	<i>Head IV</i>	<i>Accounts and Professional Conduct</i>
<i>Oral Head:</i>	<i>Head V</i>	<i>Principles of Common Law</i>

Figure 2: Jurisdictions of candidates

	Jurisdictions	Number of Candidates	Percentage
1	Australia	42	28
2	Austria ¹	1	1
3	Canada	3	2
4	Canada (Quebec) ¹	1	1
5	England and Wales	43	29
6	France ¹	1	1
7	Hong Kong ²	10	6
8	Mainland China ¹	3	2
9	Malaysia	10	6
10	Nepal ¹	2	1
11	New Zealand	3	2
12	Philippines ¹	1	1
13	Scotland	1	1
14	Singapore	15	10
15	U.S.A.	14	9
	Total Number of Examination Candidates	150	100%

¹ *Non-common law jurisdiction*

² *Barrister*

RISK MANAGEMENT EDUCATION ("RME") COMMITTEE

The Committee oversaw the overall administration of the *RME Programme* which aims at raising the awareness of risk issues and promoting good risk management of legal practice.

Since its implementation in November 2004, the *RME Programme* has been in operation for over four years extending its application gradually to all Hong Kong solicitors practising as sole practitioners, partners, associates and consultants in Hong Kong law firms.

Standing Committee on Standards and Development

HEAD V: Principles of Common Law

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OVERSEAS LAWYERS QUALIFICATION EXAMINATION

The 15th *Overseas Lawyers Qualification Examination* was held from 29 October to 15 December. A total of 224 candidates sat one or more written heads of the Examination. 221 candidates were from 14 overseas jurisdictions, four of which were non-common law jurisdictions. Three candidates were Hong Kong barristers.

Of the 224 candidates, 157 candidates (70%) passed the Examination, having passed each of the heads that they were required to sit. 67 candidates (30%) failed the Examination, having failed one or more of the heads that they were required to sit.

Figure 1: Examination results with respect to each head of the Examination

	Head I		Head II		Head III		Head IV		Head V		The Exam	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Pass	171	80%	45	75%	52	79%	35	55%	3	100%	157	70%
Fail	44	20%	15	25%	14	21%	29	45%	0	0%	67	30%
Total	215		60		66		64		3		224	

<i>Written Heads</i>	<i>Head I</i>	<i>Conveyancing</i>
	<i>Head II</i>	<i>Civil and Criminal Procedure</i>
	<i>Head III</i>	<i>Commercial and Company Law</i>
	<i>Head IV</i>	<i>Accounts and Professional Conduct</i>
<i>Oral Head:</i>	<i>Head V</i>	<i>Principles of Common Law</i>

Figure 2: Jurisdictions of candidates

	Jurisdictions	Number of Candidates	Percentage
1	Australia	43	18
2	Canada	8	4
3	England and Wales	63	28
4	France ¹	1	1
5	Hong Kong ²	3	1
6	India	5	2
7	Ireland	1	1
8	Italy ¹	1	1
9	Mainland China ¹	5	2
10	Malaysia	2	1
11	Nepal ¹	1	1
12	New Zealand	8	4
13	Scotland	2	1
14	Singapore	17	7
15	U.S.A.	64	28
	Total Number of Examination Candidates	224	100%

1 Non-common law jurisdiction

2 Barrister

RISK MANAGEMENT EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Committee oversaw the overall administration of the *RME Programme* which aims at raising the awareness of risk issues and promoting good risk management of legal practice.

Since its implementation in November 2004, the *RME Programme* has been in operation for over five years extending its application gradually to all Hong Kong solicitors practising as sole practitioners, partners, associates, consultants and trainee solicitors in Hong Kong law firms.

With the establishment of the Hong Kong Academy of Law ("Academy"), the RME courses are all offered through the Academy.

Standing Committee on Standards and Development

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Alexander H.S. LEUNG

Michael LOWER (*appointed in May*)
George S.K. NGAI
Simon J. REID-KAY

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Brian W. GILCHRIST (*Convenor*)
Amanda WHITFORT (*Convenor*)
Ned AUGHTERSON (*appointed in March*)
Melville T.C. BOASE
Louis K.L. FUNG

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Elsa KELLY
Martin D. ROGERS
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Anthony R. UPHAM (*appointed in March*)

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Michael P. PHILLIPS (*Convenor*)
Mary W.Y. AU-YUENG
Felix W. H. CHAN
Shirley S.L. CHUA
Dennis H.F. HIE (*appointed in March*)

Alexandra D.W. LO
Vanessa STOTT (*resigned in November*)
Thelma TONG (*appointed in March*)
Adrian K.M. WONG

HEAD IV: Accounts and Professional Conduct

Colin B. COHEN (*Convenor*)
Michael WILKINSON (*Convenor*)
Richard CULLEN (*resigned in August*)

Adrian J. HALKES
Ludwig S.W. NG
Peter K.P. SIT

HEAD V: Principles of Common Law

Adrian K.M. WONG (*Convenor*)
Michael C. JENKINS (*Convenor*) (*appointed in March*)
Jack BURKE (*Convenor*) (*resigned in January*)
Shirley S.L. CHUA
Julianne P. DOE

Alex K.L. LAU (*appointed in August*)
Kenneth H.W. KWOK, S.C. (*resigned in February*)
Anthony F. NEOH, S.C.
Michael P. PHILLIPS (*resigned in October*)
Peter F. RHODES (*appointed in August*)

OVERSEAS LAWYERS QUALIFICATION EXAMINATION

The 16th OLQE was held from 28 October to 15 December 2010. A total of 224 candidates sat one or more written heads of the Examination. 216 candidates were from 14 overseas jurisdictions, three of which were non-common law jurisdictions. Eight candidates were Hong Kong barristers.

Of the 224 candidates, 176 candidates (79%) passed the Examination, having passed each of the heads that they were required to sit. 48 candidates (21%) failed the Examination, having failed one or more of the heads that they were required to sit.

Figure 1: Examination results with respect to each head of the Examination

	Head I		Head II		Head III		Head IV		Head V		The Exam	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Pass	177	91	21	53	39	81	32	53	1	50	176	79
Fail	18	9	19	47	9	19	28	47	1	50	48	21
Total	195		40		48		60		2		224	

Standing Committee on Standards and Development

Written Heads	Head I	Conveyancing
	Head II	Civil and Criminal Procedure
	Head III	Commercial and Company Law
	Head IV	Accounts and Professional Conduct
Oral Head:	Head V	Principles of Common Law

Figure 2: Jurisdictions of the candidates

	Jurisdictions	Number of Candidates	Percentage *
1	Australia	56	25.0
2	Canada	8	3.6
3	England and Wales	51	22.8
4	Germany ¹	1	0.4
5	Hong Kong ²	8	3.6
6	India	1	0.4
7	Ireland	1	0.4
8	Italy ¹	3	1.3
9	Jamaica	1	0.4
10	Mainland China ¹	9	4.0
11	Malaysia	6	2.7
12	New Zealand	5	2.2
13	Scotland	1	0.4
14	Singapore	17	7.6
15	U.S.A.	56	25.0
Total Number of Examination Candidates		224	

¹ Non-common law jurisdiction

² Barrister

* The percentages have been calculated to the nearest decimal point. Therefore the aggregation of the percentages may not add up to 100%.

RME COMMITTEE

The Committee oversaw the administration of the *RME Programme* which aims at raising the awareness of risk issues and promoting good risk management of legal practice.

Since its implementation in November 2004, the *RME Programme* has been in operation for over six years extending its application gradually to all Hong Kong solicitors practising as sole practitioners, partners, associates, consultants, trainee solicitors, and registered foreign lawyers working in Hong Kong law firms.

With the establishment of the Academy, the RME courses are all offered through the Academy.

10 Module 1, 10 Module 2A and nine Module 2B of principals' core courses, 24 Module 1 and 25 Module 2 of non-principals' core courses, 16 trainee solicitors' core courses, 37 registered foreign lawyers' core courses, 180 elective courses for solicitors and five compulsory first electives for trainee solicitors were held during the year. The Committee monitored closely the evaluation of these courses by the course participants.

RME electives have since 1 November 2008 been offered free of charge to solicitors who have to fulfil their RME obligations in the relevant RME practice year and who have not attended any other RME electives during that year. Free core courses have since 1 November 2009 been offered by the Academy to trainee solicitors who have to fulfil their RME obligations in the relevant RME practice year.

OVERSEAS LAWYERS QUALIFICATION EXAMINATION

The 17th *OLQE* was held from 3 November to 20 December. A total of 251 candidates sat one or more written heads of the Examination. 246 candidates were from 18 overseas jurisdictions, seven of which were non-common law jurisdictions. Five candidates were Hong Kong barristers.

Of the 251 candidates, 160 candidates (64%) passed the Examination, having passed each of the heads that they were required to sit. 91 candidates (36%) failed the Examination, having failed one or more of the heads that they were required to sit.

Figure 1: Examination results with respect to each head of the Examination

	Head I		Head II		Head III		Head IV		Head V		The Exam	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Pass	152	68	39	66	48	84	41	58	1	100	160	64
Fail	73	32	20	34	9	16	30	42	0	0	91	36
Total	225		59		57		71		1		251	

Written Heads	Head I	Conveyancing
	Head II	Civil and Criminal Procedure
	Head III	Commercial and Company Law
	Head IV	Accounts and Professional Conduct
Oral Head:	Head V	Principles of Common Law

Figure 2: Jurisdictions of the candidates

Jurisdictions	Number of Candidates	Percentage*
1 Australia	53	21.1
2 Canada	6	2.4
3 England and Wales	84	33.5
4 France ¹	2	0.8
5 Germany ¹	2	0.8
6 Hong Kong ²	5	2.0
7 India	2	0.8
8 Israel	2	0.8
9 Italy ¹	2	0.8
10 Japan ¹	2	0.8
11 Mainland China ¹	11	4.4
12 Malaysia	1	0.4
13 New Zealand	6	2.4
14 Philippines ¹	1	0.4
15 Scotland	4	1.6
16 Singapore	9	3.6
17 South Africa	2	0.8
18 Sweden ¹	2	0.8
19 U.S.A.	55	21.9
Total	251	

¹ Non-Common law jurisdiction

² Barrister

The percentages have been calculated to the nearest decimal point. Therefore the aggregation of the percentages may not add up to 100%.

Standing Committee on Standards and Development

OVERSEAS LAWYERS QUALIFICATION EXAMINATION

The 18th OLQE was held from 2 to 14 November. A total of 256 candidates sat one or more written heads of the Examination. 245 candidates were from 19 overseas jurisdictions, 9 of which were non-common law jurisdictions. 11 candidates were Hong Kong barristers.

Of the 256 candidates, 168 candidates (66%) passed the Examination, having passed each of the heads that they were required to sit. 88 candidates (34%) failed the Examination, having failed one or more of the heads that they were required to sit. 12 candidates registered to sit head V but none of them passed all the written heads they were required to sit to qualify for taking the head V examination paper.

Figure 1: Examination results with respect to each head of the Examination

	Head I		Head II		Head III		Head IV		Head V		The Exam	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Pass	174	76	49	78	52	84	39	44	0	0	168	66
Fail	54	24	14	22	10	16	49	56	0	0	88	34
Total	228		63		62		88		0		256	

Written Heads

Head I	Conveyancing
Head II	Civil and Criminal Procedure
Head III	Commercial and Company Law
Head IV	Accounts and Professional Conduct

Oral Head: Head V Principles of Common Law

Figure 2: Jurisdictions of the candidates

Jurisdictions	Number of Candidates	Percentage*
1 Australia	38	14.8
2 Canada	7	2.7
3 England and Wales	67	26.2
4 France	2	0.8
5 Germany	1	0.4
6 Hong Kong	11	4.3
7 India	3	1.2
8 Israel	1	0.4
9 Italy	2	0.8
10 Japan	2	0.8
11 Mainland China	15	5.9
12 Malaysia	2	0.8
13 New Zealand	9	3.5
14 Philippines	1	0.4
15 Portugal	2	0.8
16 Scotland	1	0.4
17 Singapore	8	3.1
18 Sweden	2	0.8
19 Taiwan	3	1.2
20 U.S.A.	79	30.9
Total	256	

Non-common law jurisdiction

Barrister

The percentages have been calculated to the nearest decimal point. Therefore the aggregation of the percentages may not add up to 100%.