



22 June 2017

Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun
Chairman of the Panel on Administration of Justice
and Legal Services
The Legislative Council
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Chairman,

Legal Education and Training in Hong Kong

I refer to the captioned item to be discussed at the LegCo Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services on 26 June 2017. I write to express my gratitude to submissions made by the Administration (LC Paper No. CB(4)1255/16-17(03)) and the Law Association of the University of Hong Kong (CB(4)1255/16-17(08)) but would like to draw the Panel's attention to the following:


- Consultation on the Common Entrance Examination (the "CEE") – The Law Society commissioned a consultation on its proposed CEE in 2013 but has never issued any report on the findings, not even to its own members. I urge the Law Society to publish the relevant findings and widely consult the relevant stakeholders, in particular, its own members and the Bar Association before making any decision.
- Any change must be well justified - As a new pre-qualification assessment structure will have a long lasting impact to the legal profession, any proposed change must be well justified and in the public interest. I understand that there are concerns over the difference in the standards of PCLL programmes administered by different law schools. I urge the Law Society to provide data and further information regarding their concerns.
- The SCLET Comprehensive Review - I notice that the Law Society has been discussing with the three law schools in relation to the CEE and is considering the model of "Commonly Recognized Assessments" proposed by the law schools. As

the SCLET Comprehensive Review is underway with the upcoming issuance of a thorough report, the Law Society and the three law schools must not make any decision which preempts the review commissioned by SCLET.

- Proposed assessment to be administered fairly – I notice that a common examination for admission to the PCLL programme is also being considered (para 14(c) of CB(4)1255/16-17(03)). I urge the Law Society to stay open to consider various options of pre-qualification assessment. I am also of the view that any form of assessment must be administered in a fair manner, with the appropriately qualified members of the legal profession setting the examinations and assessing the performance of the candidates.

I look forward to the interim report of the SCLET Comprehensive Review to be issued by the end of 2017 and further discussion on the captioned subject matter at this Panel upon its issuance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dennis Kwok". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Dennis Kwok
Member of the Legislative Council
(Legal)

cc. Clerk to the LegCo Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services