Ms. Melissa Pang
President
The Law Society of Hong Kong
3/F, Wing On House
71 Des Voeux Road Central, Hong Kong

19 July 2018

Dear Ms. Pang,

Sub-committee of House Committee on Practising Certificate (Solicitors) (Amendment) Rules 2018 ("Subcommittee")

I refer to your letter to the Hon. Starry Lee and a letter from Ms. Heidi Chu, Secretary General of the Law Society to Mr. Lemuel Woo, former Clerk of the Legislative Council (LegCo) to the Subcommittee (Letter), both dated 16 July 2018. You may wish to note that the Subcommittee has completed its deliberation and has been duly dissolved.

With due respect to the views of the Law Society, I wish to draw your attention to paragraph 2.2 of the Handbook for Chairman of Subcommittees on Subsidiary Legislation / Other Instruments of the Legislative Council (Handbook) which is available online, "[a] subcommittee is a deliberative forum for studying the policy aspect of the subsidiary legislation/instrument under scrutiny, its detailed provisions and any proposed amendments to it". When a LegCo committee / subcommittee deals with a legislation, it has a broad mandate where the policy aspect usually covers a wide range of matters of interest to LegCo members and the public. Please be rest assured that all matters discussed at the Subcommittee and raised by former members of the Subcommittee are well within the scope of the Subcommittee

Please also note paragraph 8.16 of the Handbook, "[t]he draft report of the subcommittee is normally sent to the Administration [in this case the Law Society] for comments. It will then be cleared with the Chairman for issuance to the House Committee...." A subcommittee report is last vetted by the chairman of the subcommittee. The report of the Subcommittee is objective and an accurate reflection of matters discussed, the relevant documents and the conduct of the Law Society and LegCo members at Subcommittee meetings. The video

recording of the Subcommittee meetings and all relevant documents are also available for public scrutiny.

The Letter and this letter have been circulated to the former members of the Subcommittee.

Yours sincerely,

Dennis Kwok

Member of the Legislative Council

Venis Konk.

(Legal)

cc. Hon. Starry Lee, Chairman of LegCo House Committee Mr. Lemuel Woo, former Clerk to the Subcommittee