

**HKU School of Professional and Continuing Education****Submission to the Meeting on 23 August 2021 of the  
Legislative Council Panel on Administration of  
Justice and Legal Services****Re: Item III: Legal Education and Training in Hong Kong**

Further to LC Paper No. CB(4)1268/17-18(01) submitted to the meeting of the Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services on 25 June 2018, HKU SPACE wish to update members on the introduction of the new pathway for Legal Executives discussed at that meeting.

Following approval from the Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training at its meeting on 14 May 2021, HKU SPACE will introduce an *Advanced Diploma for Legal Executives (Graduate Level) (AdvDip for LE)* QF Level 5 programme in the 2021-22 academic year that provides direct entry to the PCLL programme for students with at least three years of law-related employment.

This *AdvDip for LE* implements a recommendation in the Final Report of the Consultants on the Comprehensive Review of Legal Education and Training (“the Final Report”) which recognised that Hong Kong has fallen behind other major common law jurisdictions by failing to provide a direct pathway into the legal profession for legal executives and other legal support staff.

Students will be admitted to the *AdvDip for LE* programme upon completion of an Approved Legal Executive Course recognised by the Law Society of Hong Kong and study eight modules over a period of two to five years, thus completing all the legal studies required for admission to the PCLL programme. Students must also complete a minimum of three years of law-related employment prior to graduation.

HKU SPACE hopes the *AdvDip for LE* will play a helpful role in filling this gap in Hong Kong’s legal education structure identified in the Final Report. In accordance with our remit to promote lifelong learning, HKU SPACE would also be happy to participate in any further initiatives to expand access to legal education in Hong Kong.

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