

**THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
LEGAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2016**

1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

(1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016)

This is the eleventh annual report of the Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training (“Standing Committee”). Section 74A of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance Cap. 159 (“Ordinance”) providing for the establishment of the Standing Committee and its functions is at Annexure 1.

Meetings

1. The Standing Committee met on four occasions during the reporting period from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016 (“Reporting Period”). Its composition is at Annexure 2.

Major Matters Dealt with by the Standing Committee

Comprehensive Study on Legal Education and Training

2. The Standing Committee monitored the progress of the comprehensive study on legal education and training in Hong Kong.
3. The consultants engaged by the Standing Committee to conduct the comprehensive study, Mr. K.H. Woo, Q.C., Professor Julian Webb and Professor Tony Smith (together the “Study Group”), submitted a progress report to the Standing Committee.
4. It was noted the Study Group proposed to cover the following topics in their final report and recommendations:
 - (a) Existing structure of legal education and training (“LET”) and the regulatory framework in Hong Kong;
 - (b) International trends in LET reform;
 - (c) The current and future challenges facing the Hong Kong legal profession;
 - (d) The academic stage of training;
 - (e) The Postgraduate Certificate in Laws (“PCLL”);
 - (f) The Proposed Common Entrance Examination (“CEE”);
 - (g) Training contracts and pupillages.

5. The Study Group is examining the developments in the international arena, including the proposal of the Solicitors Regulation Authority to introduce a centralized assessment, the Solicitors' Qualifying Examination and changes to training contracts in England & Wales.
6. The Standing Committee also considered the proposal of the Law Society of Hong Kong ("Society") to introduce the CEE. The Standing Committee established a Subcommittee comprising representatives of the Judiciary and the Department of Justice, and a member of the public appointed under S74A(3)(a)(viii) of the Ordinance to:
 - (a) Oversee the discussion between the Society and the 3 law schools on the implementation of the CEE;
 - (b) Facilitate the discussions between the Society and the Study Group and to resolve any differences;
 - (c) Take the recommendations of the Study Group forward.
7. Stakeholders represented on the Standing Committee attended a meeting of the Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services of the Legislative Council in April to discuss the comprehensive study and the Society's proposal to implement the CEE.
8. Mr. K.H. Woo, Q.C. resigned as leader of the Study Group in October and the Standing Committee appointed Mr. Anthony Rogers, G.B.S., Q.C., J.P. to fill the vacancy left by Mr. Woo. The Standing Committee is grateful for the contributions made by Mr. Woo to the comprehensive study.
9. A revised timeline for conducting the comprehensive study was produced by the Study Group upon the resignation of Mr. K.H. Woo, Q.C..
10. In addition to monitoring the progress of the comprehensive study, the Standing Committee managed the HK\$1.5m funding provided by the HKSAR Government. A company, SCLET Ltd., was established by the Standing Committee to hold the funding and to discharge the expenses of the study. In accordance with the relevant statutory requirements, audited accounts, showing the income and expenditure of the study, were prepared and profits tax return, showing the operation of SCLET Ltd., was duly filed with the Inland Revenue Department on behalf of the company.

Bachelor of Laws ("LLB"), Juris Doctor ("JD") and PCLL Programmes

11. The Standing Committee continued to monitor the following legal education programmes:
 - (a) The LLB, JD and PCLL programmes of City University of Hong Kong. The reports are at Annexure 3;
 - (b) The LLB, JD and PCLL programmes of The Chinese University of Hong Kong. The reports are at Annexure 4;

- (c) The LLB, JD and PCLL programmes of The University of Hong Kong. The reports are at Annexure 5.
12. A table consolidating the key statistics of the LLB, JD and PCLL programmes of the 3 law schools is at Annexure 6.

English Language Proficiency

13. The following policy on English language requirement continued to apply in the academic year 2015/16:
- (a) the requirement for submission of a score in the International English Language Testing System (“IELTS”) by applicants seeking entry to the PCLL should be applied irrespective of an applicant’s point of origin;
 - (b) a prescriptive / dispositive overall IELTS benchmark of 7 should be applied for entry to the PCLL;
 - (c) applicants to the PCLL should be allowed to submit their IELTS results subsequent to their PCLL applications but no later than a fixed date to be mutually agreed by the PCLL providers;
 - (d) no final offer should be made to a PCLL applicant by a PCLL provider unless it has received the applicant’s IELTS results by the specified deadline;
 - (e) applicants who have not submitted an IELTS score by the specified deadline should not be admitted to the PCLL;
 - (f) the validity period of IELTS results for the purposes of applying for entry to the PCLL is 3 years and as such, to apply for entry to the PCLL, the IELTS results submitted must relate to an IELTS test taken not more than 3 years before the closing date of application for the PCLL.
14. The Standing Committee considered one application for exemption from the English language requirement and sought the views of the Subcommittee on English Language Proficiency (“Subcommittee”).
15. The Standing Committee also requested the Subcommittee to review all limbs of the English language requirement and the basis for prescribing them.
16. The composition of the Subcommittee is at Annexure 7.

Conversion Examination

17. The Conversion Examination Board met on three occasions during the Reporting Period to oversee the administration of the Conversion Examination including the following:
- (a) vetting of applications for exemption from sitting the Conversion Examination;

- (b) review of examination results, reports of the Examiners, irregularities in the examinations and moderation of the marks given by the examiners;
 - (c) consideration of the syllabus of Criminal Procedure and the syllabus of Civil Procedure;
 - (d) approval of the syllabi and reading lists of the different subjects in the Conversion Examination;
 - (e) appointment of examiners and reviewers;
 - (f) appointment of the Chief Examiner;
 - (g) fees of the Examiners;
 - (h) application fees payable by candidates for sitting the Conversion Examination;
 - (i) review of the objects of the PCLL Conversion Examination and Administration Ltd. ("PCEA Ltd.") and utilization of funds in the accounts of PCEA Ltd.;
 - (j) decisions of the Chief Examiner on the appeals against examination results;
 - (k) views of the Chief Examiner on the overall performance and the standards of the candidates in the January and June 2016 Conversion Examinations.
18. The Conversion Examination was held twice during the Reporting Period in January and June 2016 respectively.
19. 687 and 680 candidates took part in the Conversion Examination in eight different prerequisite subjects in January and June 2016 as compared to 769 and 721 candidates respectively in the January and June 2015 Conversion Examinations.
20. The average pass rate of the subjects examined in January 2016 was 71.5% (as compared to 63.1% in the January 2015 results) and that in June 2016 was 70.2% (as compared to 66.99% in the June 2015 results).
21. The composition of the Conversion Examination Board is at **Annexure 8**.

Overall position

22. Various stakeholders in the field of legal education and training contributed their views from different perspectives and the meetings of the Standing Committee have provided a useful forum in which they can address different issues of mutual concern in a constructive and collaborative manner.

Annexure 1

SECTION 74A OF THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ORDINANCE

74A. Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training

- (1) There is established by this section a Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training.
- (2) The functions of the committee are-
 - (a) to keep under review, evaluate and assess-
 - (i) the system and provision of legal education and training in Hong Kong;
 - (ii) without prejudice to the generality of subparagraph (i), the academic requirements and standards for admission to the Postgraduate Certificate in Laws programme;
 - (b) to monitor the provision of vocational training of prospective legal practitioners in Hong Kong by organizations other than the Society or the Hong Kong Bar Association;
 - (c) to make recommendations on matters referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b); and
 - (d) to collect and disseminate information concerning the system of legal education and training in Hong Kong.
- (3) The committee shall consist of-
 - (a) 17 members appointed by the Chief Executive of whom- (Amended 10 of 2005 s.184)
 - (i) 2 shall be persons nominated by the Chief Justice;
 - (ii) 1 shall be a person nominated by the Secretary for Justice;
 - (iii) 1 shall be a person nominated by the Secretary for Education (Amended L.N. 130 of 2007);
 - (iv) 2 shall be persons nominated by the Society;
 - (v) 2 shall be persons nominated by the Hong Kong Bar Association;
 - (vi) 2 shall be persons nominated by the Vice-Chancellor of the

Extract of Section 74A of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance

University of Hong Kong;

- (vii) 2 shall be persons nominated by the President of the City University of Hong Kong;
 - (viii) 2 shall be persons nominated by the Vice-Chancellor of The Chinese University of Hong Kong; (Added 10 of 2005 s.184)
 - (ix) 2 shall be members of the public; and
 - (ix) 1 shall be a person nominated by The Federation for Self-Financing Tertiary Education, a non-profit-making educational organization, from among its members which provide continuing legal education courses in Hong Kong; and (Amended 18 of 2014 s.159)
- (b) a chairman appointed by the Chief Executive after consultation with the persons and organizations making nominations pursuant to paragraph (a)(i) to (viii) and (ix). (Amended 10 of 2005 s.184)
- (4) A member of the committee who is unable to attend a meeting of the committee, except for a member appointed pursuant to subsection (3)(a)(viii), may, subject to the consent of the chairman, send a substitute to attend the meeting in his place and the substitute shall be deemed to be a member of the committee for the purpose of that meeting.
 - (5) A member of the committee including the chairman shall hold office for a term not exceeding 2 years.
 - (6) A member of the committee including the chairman may at any time resign from the committee by giving notice in writing of his resignation to the Chief Executive.
 - (7) The Secretary for Justice may publish notice of the appointment or termination of membership of a member (including the chairman) appointed pursuant to this section in the Gazette.
 - (8) The committee shall report annually to the Chief Executive and its annual report shall be tabled in the Legislative Council.
 - (9) The committee may determine its own procedure.

Annexure 2

THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- Chairman:** The Honourable Mr. Justice Patrick CHAN Siu-oi, G.B.M.
- Members:** The Honourable Mr. Thomas AU Hing-cheung
(on the nomination of the Chief Justice)
- The Honourable Mr. Justice Godfrey LAM Wan-ho, J.P.
(on the nomination of the Chief Justice)
- Mr. Peter WONG Hing-hong
Deputy Solicitor General (Policy Affairs), Department of Justice
(on the nomination of the Secretary for Justice)
- Ms. Sharon KO Yee-wai
Principal Assistant Secretary (Higher Education), Education Bureau
(on the nomination of the Secretary for Education)
- Mr. Albert WONG Kwai-huen, B.B.S., J.P.
(on the nomination of The Law Society of Hong Kong)
- Mr. Nicholas CHAN Hiu-fung, M.H.
(from February 2016)
(on the nomination of The Law Society of Hong Kong)
- Mr. Edward CHAN King-sang, S.C., J.P.
(on the nomination of Hong Kong Bar Association)
- Mr. Michael YIN Chi-ming
(on the nomination of Hong Kong Bar Association)
- Professor Michael HOR Yew-meng
Dean of Law, The University of Hong Kong
(on the nomination of the Vice-Chancellor of The University of
Hong Kong)
- Mr. Wilson CHOW Wai-shun
Head of the Department of Professional Legal Education, Faculty of
Law, The University of Hong Kong
(on the nomination of the Vice-Chancellor of The University of
Hong Kong)

Professor Geraint G. HOWELLS
Dean of School of Law, City University of Hong Kong
(on the nomination of the President of City University of Hong Kong)

Dr. Peter CHAN Chi-hin
(from September 2015 to July 2016)
Ms. Stella LEUNG Suk-yee
Programme Leader of the Postgraduate Certificate in Laws, School of Law, City University of Hong Kong
(from August 2016)
(on the nomination of the President of City University of Hong Kong)

Professor Christopher GANE
Dean, Faculty of Law, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
(on the nomination of the Vice-Chancellor of The Chinese University of Hong Kong)

Mr. Richard MORRIS
Programme Director of the Postgraduate Certificates in Laws Programme, Faculty of Law, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
(on the nomination of the Vice-Chancellor of The Chinese University of Hong Kong)

Mr. Ronald KWOK Wing-chung
(Member appointed under S74A(3)(a)(viii) of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance Cap.159 (“Ordinance”))

Mr. Alvin WONG Tak-wai
(Member appointed under S74A(3)(a)(viii) of the Ordinance)

Dr. Tommy HO Koon-ki
(on the nomination of The Federation for Self-financing Tertiary Education)

Secretary: Ms. Vivien LEE, Director of Standards & Development
The Law Society of Hong Kong

Annexure 3

School of Law City University of Hong Kong

LLB Status Report (January to December 2016) to the Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training

February 2017

This is a status report on the LLB (Hons) Degree Programme (LLB Programme) offered by the School of Law (“the School”), City University of Hong Kong (the University). The report covers the period from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016.

During the period of this report, the LLB Programme was offered only in full-time (UGC-funded) study mode.

1. 2016/17 Admissions

In the 2016/17 academic year, the School admitted 62 full-time LLB students in total, including:

- 42 JUPAS applicants (from HKDSE)
- 16 non-JUPAS applicants
- 4 Mainland students

1.1 JUPAS Admissions

In 2016, the School received a total of 498 qualified applications for the 2016 JUPAS entry. All students admitted through JUPAS have good English proficiency, having attained “5” or above in English Language (HKDSE). Admission interviews were conducted in July 2016.

1.2 Direct Applicants (local and international)

The School received a total of 211 non-JUPAS (including local and non-local) applications. The selection criteria include the assessment of applicants’ academic performance, personal statements and achievements in other relevant activities. In addition, they must all have achieved an IELTS overall score of “7” or above, TOEFL score of over 100 (internet-based) or 600 (paper-based) or equivalent English proficiency qualifications. The quality of applicants was generally high, with some of them being degree holders.

Admission interviews were conducted with those applicants located in Hong Kong and via telephone with those overseas.

1.3 Admission Scholarship

The School established the Admission Scholarship in 2008 to attract high quality students to enroll in the LLB Programme. The Scholarship is awarded to outstanding secondary school students who are admitted to the LLB Programme through the JUPAS and Direct Application admission channels. The maximum value of each scholarship is HK\$60,000.

In 2016, one (1) LLB Year One student received the scholarship. The student was outstanding in both public examination result and extra-curricular activities.

1.4 Professional Accounting and Legal Studies Stream

The Professional Accounting and Legal Studies Stream (PALS) is jointly offered by the School and the Accountancy Department since 2012. The PALS aims to provide students with a broad-based business education and a specialisation in a legal background. Students in the PALS stream can have a chance to pursue the LLB Programme upon graduation from their PALS. In 2016, one graduate was admitted to the LLB Programme. The articulation arrangement was discontinued with effect from September 2016.

2. Academic Standards

Several mechanisms have been put in place to maintain high academic standards in the LLB Programme. First, the examination papers moderated internally as well as by External Academic Advisors from leading universities. The Programme Director ensures that feedback from the external examiners is properly considered.

3. Programme Structure

The LLB Programme requirement is 126 credits contributed by the core courses, Law for Professional Qualification Minor, Gateway Education courses and free electives. Students are required to take the core courses including: Legal Research and Writing, Hong Kong Legal System, Law of Contract, Law of Tort, Land Law, Constitutional Law, Administrative Law, Criminal Law, Mooting, Applied Legal Theory and Company Law.

Two new core courses, Public Law of the PRC and Private Law of the PRC, have been incorporated in the LLB curriculum. The new courses allow students to gain a complete picture on the China Private and Public law systems.

In order to encourage students to take part in the exchange programme, the year-long course “Equity and Trusts I/II” will be changed to one-semester 3-credit course “Equity and Trusts” and it will be offered in Year 3 Semester B. Meanwhile, “Applied Legal Theory” will be moved from Year 3 Semester B to Year 2 Semester A.

In addition to the core courses, students must complete the Law for Professional Qualification Minor for entry to PCLL. The Minor includes the following courses: Law of Evidence, Equity and Trusts, Commercial Law, Civil Procedure and Criminal Procedure.

Students who do not wish to enter the legal profession have the option of taking other Minors such as Accountancy, Finance, Global Business, Marketing, Psychology and Languages.

The School has introduced optional streams into LLB Programme in 2012 to give our students an edge in the job market. The streams are the Chinese and Comparative Law stream, the Commercial Law stream, and the Dispute Resolution stream. The streams represent the School's traditional strengths.

In order to satisfy the requirements of a stream, a student has to take a minimum of 15 credit units from among courses specified for the stream. These 15 credit units (5 courses) count towards the minimum number of credit units a student has to complete to qualify for the law degree.

The School brings in renowned scholars to give short one- or two-credit electives. This again broadens the menu of electives available to LLB students.

4. Teaching and Learning

The LLB courses were redesigned in accordance with Outcome Based Teaching and Learning (OBTL). The Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs) have been aligned with the Major Intended Learning Outcomes (MILOs).

The MILOs of the LLB Programme specified that upon successful completion of the Programme, students should be able:

- (1) to analytically and critically describe the main substantive/procedural laws and the legal system of Hong Kong, and also describe the principles of international law or the laws of other jurisdictions;
- (2) to describe the law and legal system of the People's Republic of China and its relation with Hong Kong's constitutional set-up and commercial future;
- (3) to apply the law to solve legal problems;
- (4) to critically evaluate the law in action and the dynamic interplay between law and other social phenomena;
- (5) to use a range of legal or intellectual skills – such as reading and interpreting cases and statutes, identifying and evaluating relevant facts, conducting independent legal research, developing and offering solutions to legal problems, using and citing relevant authorities appropriately, drafting documents, and communicating in a coherent, cogent and persuasive manner – in performing various tasks;
- (6) to act with a strong sense of ethics and with due regard to social and professional responsibilities;
- (7) to develop an attitude of inquiry and a sense of curiosity to learning and knowledge; and
- (8) to have an opportunity to make an original discovery and/ or innovation concerning the operation of the law and procedure in Hong Kong.

Following the University's initiative, the Discovery-Enriched Curriculum (DEC) is well-integrated into the LLB curriculum. Under the DEC, students are given opportunity to make an original discovery and/ or innovation concerning the operation of the law and procedure in Hong Kong.

5. Assessment

The LLB courses are assessed by a combination of class participation and presentation, coursework and examination. To pass a particular course, students must obtain an aggregate mark of 40% and a minimum of 30% in each of the coursework and the examination elements of the assessment.

6. Exchange Programmes

The School has a good number of exchange programmes with foreign Universities. Exchange activities form an important element in the acquisition of both general transferable skills and legal knowledge. Students are encouraged to take part in the exchange programmes. The School has entered into agreements with overseas universities. They include: University of Amsterdam, University College Dublin in Ireland, Erasmus University Rotterdam, Monash University, Montreal University, University of Mannheim in Germany, National Chengchi University, National Taiwan University, Renmin University of China, Shanghai Jiaotong University, Singapore Management University, Sun Yat-sen University, Universidad Pontificia Comillas in Spain, University of Strathclyde in the U.K, and William & Mary Law School.

In 2016, the School received 36 exchange students from overseas jurisdictions, including Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, France, Finland, India, the Netherlands, New Zealand and Sweden studied at the School as exchange students. The School sent out 6 LLB students to the universities in Germany, the Netherlands and United Kingdom.

7. Global Engagement

In order to complement the conventional semester-long exchange programmes and to produce law graduates equipped with the breadth of knowledge and skills to navigate the challenges of the globalised working environment, the School in 2007 launched the G-LEAP initially for LLB students and subsequently for JD students. The G-LEAP is a one month intensive mode programme in which students study in prestigious overseas law schools. In the summer of 2016 (during May – June 2016), 19 LLB students spent a month at the Faculty of Law, Monash University (Australia), to study a credit-bearing law course *Australian Corporations Law*. Similarly, 16 LLB students spent a month at University College, Oxford (United Kingdom) during July - August 2016, to study a credit-bearing law course *European Competition Law and Policy*.

The School collaborated with University of Münster to offer an opportunity for the students to write an independent research paper in a structured environment involving seminar presentations in Germany. The programme allows students to discover new knowledge relating to contract law through placing their understanding of Hong Kong common law in a comparative perspective. 10 LLB students took part in the programme which was held in May 2016.

The School has received very positive feedback from students who took part in these overseas summer programmes. In particular, students appreciate the change in learning environment and the comparative focus of the courses.

8. Legal Placements

The School has incorporated legal placements in the credit-bearing curriculum of the LLB Programme. The objective of this course is to provide students with a structured opportunity to obtain practical experience from working in law offices or in a law-related working environment. Currently, the course provides legal work experience in Hong Kong and Mainland China. In 2016, 26 students completed a either part-time or full-time legal placement across a range of diverse places (including barristers' chambers, local/international law firms, legal departments of international companies and financial institutions) in Hong Kong. Furthermore, 19 LLB students participated in the Mainland Legal Placement Programme during May – July 2016. Students received two-week training at Renmin University. Thereafter, they were attached to the local courts of major cities in China. Participation in the placement programme provides students with a structured opportunity to acquire practical experience through working in a legal working environment.

9. Mooting Competitions

The School considers mooting to be an integral part of students' legal education as it provides students with an opportunity to broaden and sharpen their advocacy skills. To this end, the School provides them with extensive training in order to participate in both internal and international mooting competitions. During the reporting period, our LLB students achieved an outstanding level of success in the following international mooting competitions.

The LLB students participated in international mooting competitions and achieved commendable results, including the following:

Our students received extensive training from experts in their fields for better preparation in the specific mooting competitions. In the academic year 2015-2016, the LLB students participated in the following international mooting competitions. The moot teams achieved outstanding results:

Susan J. Ferrell Intercultural Human Rights Moot Court Competition (29 - 31 January 2016)

Championship

Best Memorial Awards (Applicant & Claimant)

Best Oralist

Second Best Oralist

Third Best Oralist

Fifth Best Oralist

The 2016 Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition Hong Kong Regional Round (20 February 2016)

HK Regional Round - Best Respondent Memorial

The Vis (East) Pre-Moot Hong Kong and The 13th Annual Willem C. Vis (East) International Commercial Arbitration Moot (4 - 13 March 2016)

Honorable Mention for Eric Bergsten Award - Best Claimant Memoranda

Honorable Mention for Fali Nariman Award - Best Respondent Memoranda

Honorable Mention for Neil Kaplan Award - Best Oralist

Ranked 10th out of 115 teams after General Rounds

Eighth Finalist for the David Hunter Award for Prevailing Team in Oral Arguments

Best Speaker Award (The Vis (East) Pre-Moot Hong Kong)

The 6th Annual Budapest Pre-Moot for the 23rd Annual Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot (14 - 17 March 2016)

Championship (out of 52 teams)

The 23rd Annual Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot (18 - 24 March 2016)

Honorable Mention for Werner Melis Award - Best Memorandum for Respondent

The International ADR Mooting Competition 2016 (5 - 9 July 2016)

Quarter-Finalist

Participation in these competitions provides students with an opportunity to develop their advocacy skills and interact with students from other jurisdictions.

10. City University of Hong Kong Law Review

The idea behind this is for students to work together to edit a law journal: *City University of Hong Kong Law Review (CityU LR)*. First launched in October 2009, the *CityU LR* publishes two issues annually. Student editors work jointly under the mentorship of faculty members and guidance of the IAB (International Academic Board) members of the School. The work of the students has won great acclaim. Due to its immense success, editing the *CityU LR* is offered as an LLB law elective.

11. Conclusion

We are pleased to report the smooth and successful operation of the LLB Programme in the last year. In the near future, we are exploring more collaboration opportunities with the prestigious overseas universities to add to our student exchange arrangements. Additionally, the LLB Programme team is taking active measures to increase the number of international students.

Professor Alexander Loke
LLB Programme Director
School of Law
City University of Hong Kong

POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN LAWS (PCLL) at City University of Hong Kong 2016 Annual Report

1. The School of Law (“SLW”) received **470** applications for the academic year 2016/2017 for the PCLL, of which about **80%** selected CityU as their first choice. **231** offers were made by the SLW and eventually **209** students were admitted to the PCLL programme.

Among the successful applicants, **71** received UGC funded places and **138** received non-UGC funded places. About **48%** of those UGC funded places were given to CityU graduates.

As at 25 October 2016, there were **209** students studying in the PCLL programme.

The 2016/2017 PCLL programme is comprised of 49% CityU graduates and 51% graduates from other institutions.

The following matters are noted in relation to the admissions process:

1. The Admissions Committee began reviewing applications in March 2016 and regularly thereafter. This enabled a number of early conditional and unconditional offers to be made to academically strong applicants.
2. **11** applicants to whom conditional offers were made were unable to take up their place (some of them being unsuccessful in one or more of the Conversion Exam Board examinations). **11** applicants declined our offers due to personal reasons.
3. No student was enrolled with a Third Class Law Degree [or equivalent]. All students enrolled attained the minimum IELTS standard.

2. Class Size

We continued to limit our small group size to around 12 students except for some of the elective courses which are conducted as seminars or where the number of students is over 12.

3. Assessment Regime and Outcomes

3.1 Assessment Regime

As previously reported, all written assessments are taken under controlled conditions and the assessment of oral presentations continues to be videoed as backup and for review of the first examiners' assessments. Certain courses continue to be assessed by mid-term written examinations as well as end-of-term examinations.

3.2 Assessment Outcomes

2014/2015:

No. of students who failed PCLL:	2
No. of students who sat resits:	32 (FT) and 13 (PT)

2015/2016:

No. of students who failed PCLL:	1
No. of students who sat resits:	33

4. Staffing

In 2015/2016, 11 full-time staff and 38 part-time staff (practitioners) taught in the PCLL programme.

In 2016/2017, 13 full-time staff and 29 part-time staff (practitioners) taught in the PCLL programme.

Many teaching staff members have taught PCLL for some time while continuing their legal practice and provide valuable input on current practice. We are continuing our efforts to bring into our teaching team experienced practitioners in different areas of practice with a view to further strengthen the PCLL programme.

5. Curriculum

There are eleven core courses: Interlocutory Advocacy and Interviewing; Trial Advocacy; Mediation and Negotiation; Litigation Writing and Drafting; Commercial Writing and Drafting; Conveyancing Practice; Wills and Probate Practice; Corporate and Commercial Practice; Civil Litigation Practice; Criminal Litigation Practice; and Professional Conduct and Practice.

Students must also take two courses from the following six electives: Bar Course; Foundations in Mainland Related Legal Transactions; International Arbitration Practice; Family Law Practice; Financial Regulatory Practice; and Personal Injuries Practice.

Changes for 2015/2016 and 2016/2017

There were no significant changes for the 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 academic years, except that International Arbitration Practice was not offered as an elective in

2015/2016, but was offered in 2016/2017. We discontinued the part-time programme after the 2014 cohort which graduated in 2016.

6. The Future

We plan to maintain our strengths and the dedicated space that we give to the PCLL students. We also plan to hire new practitioners for teaching in the programme. In addition, we are looking into offering another elective course for the 2017/2018 academic year, so students will be required to take 3 electives with a total of 6 credits.

We have incorporated the “Understanding Financial Statements” portion of “Understanding Financial Statements and Solicitors’ Accounts” into the “Corporate and Commercial Practice” curriculum, and the “Solicitors’ Accounts” portion of that course into the “Professional Conduct and Practice” curriculum. We have added contact hours to our two drafting courses: “Commercial Writing and Drafting” and “Litigation Writing and Drafting”. We are also planning to introduce a course on legal Chinese as an elective course to our students. In addition, we are working on streamlining the syllabus of two courses, namely “Conveyancing Practice” and “Corporate and Commercial Practice”.

7. Involvement of the Profession

We are very happy to report that the profession has been very involved with the training of the PCLL students. Involvement has been in the form of guest presentations on different topics, assistance in assessment; mock trials conducted in the High Court and participation in the demonstrations in various advocacy courses, and also participation in the mock interview for will drafting in the Will and Probate Practice course.

8. Conclusion

We are committed to educating and training tomorrow’s lawyers. Our focus is on the holistic development of our students. Apart from practical skills training, we instill in them the value of collaboration, the importance of ethics and the joy of community service. We are proud of our graduates, and with every single graduating student, we are adding an asset to the legal community of Hong Kong.

We are also keen to develop lawyers with a global view given the importance of Hong Kong as a financial center and crossroads community. Thus, our courses train our students to work competently with lawyers from other jurisdictions.

We welcome input from the profession and look forward to working with all constituents to move our programme to the next level of excellence.

Peter Chan
PCLL Programme Leader (to 31 July 2016)

Stella Leung
PCLL Programme Director (from 1 August 2016)

School of Law
City University of Hong Kong

February 2017

School of Law, City University of Hong Kong

JD Status Report to the Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training

(February 2017)

1. Backdrop

The JD (Juris Doctor) programme is a graduate entry law programme for applicants who have a non-law bachelor degree or an undergraduate law degree from a non-common law jurisdiction. JD graduates may enter the legal profession in Hong Kong after completing the Postgraduate Certificate in Laws (PCLL) or use the gained legal knowledge and skills in other professions.

This status report on the JD Programme at the School of Law (School) of City University of Hong Kong (CityU) covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2016. Since the part-time JD programme was discontinued in 2010, we only offer the full-time programme to new entrants.

2. 2016/2017 Admission

The minimum entry requirements for admission to JD is (i) a bachelor's degree in a non-law discipline, or (ii) a bachelor's degree in law from a non-common law jurisdiction obtained after at least eight semesters of full-time study. Moreover, applicants must also be proficient in English. For applicants whose entrance qualification is obtained from an institution where the medium of instruction is not English, the minimum English language proficiency requirement is:

- a TOEFL score of 600 (paper-based test) or 100 (internet-based); or
- an overall band score of 7 in IELTS with no individual score below 6.5; or
- a total of 520 in the mainland China's College English Test (Band 6).

Entry to the JD programme has been quite competitive. The number and quality of applications has remained strong. The School received a total of 315 applications for admission to JD in 2016-17. The School admitted 101 students in the JD programme in 2016-17, 27 % of whom had a postgraduate degree. The intake quality of students admitted to the JD Programme in 2016-17 has been stable. For example, 52.83% of admitted students had either Upper Second Class Honours (or above) or a GPA of 3.3 (or above) or achieved 85 out of 100.

Several outreach initiatives (e.g., placing advertisements and advertorials in local newspapers and education supplements, holding an Information Talk and school's participation in the Hong Kong Law Fair every year) were taken to attract applicants from all over the world. Our applicants come from a diverse range of academic backgrounds such as accounting and finance, economics, business administration, property management, physics, chemical and biological engineering, molecular biomedical science, materials engineering, civil engineering, biotechnology, nutrition, food science, civil law, language, translation, European studies, architectural studies, psychology, sociology, criminology, social policy and administration, political science and journalism. This diversity of the JD student body

enhances greatly the quality of class interactions and discussions.

In 2016, the JD Admissions Scholarship was continued to be awarded to students with outstanding academic performance. We offered a higher amount of scholarship of HK\$100,000 up to 5 recipients. In 2016-17, there was 1 award recipient.

Subsequent to students' admission to the programme, a tea gathering for newly admitted students was organized. This event provided students an opportunity to know each other better and learn about various academic opportunities offered by the School.

3. Programme Structure

With effect from 2013-14, the JD programme comprises a total of 72 credit units. Students have to complete the following three required courses (each worth 3 credits): Legal Systems of Hong Kong and Mainland China; Legal Methods, Research and Writing; and Jurisprudence. The remaining credits can be made up by enrolling in elective courses. The JD Programme structure allows students to take six non-PCLL required electives (worth 18 credits) assuming that they are also going to take 45 credits worth of PCLL-required courses (15 courses) as far as PCLL entry is concerned. With effect from Semester B 2015-16, the research courses of Independent Research (3 credits) or Dissertation (6 credits) have been made optional to students and it is no longer necessary for them to satisfy the research requirement of JD.

The JD programme provides the necessary course requirements for admission to the PCLL programme. Apart from the requirement concerning the required courses, students are required to complete the following courses if they wish to pursue the PCLL Programme in future: Law of Contract, Law of Tort, Constitutional Law, Administrative Law, Criminal Law I and II, Land Law I and II, Law of Evidence, Equity and Trusts, Company Law I and II, Commercial Law, Civil Procedure, and Criminal Procedure.

Students who do not wish to join the legal profession can still benefit from the JD programme by choosing a range of elective courses hosted by the JD, LLM and LLMArbDR Programmes. The School offers a wide variety of elective courses such as Contemporary Issues of Human Rights Law, Introduction to Information Law, Legal and Operational Aspects of Corporate Governance, International Investment Law, Chinese Maritime Law, Banking Law, Cyber Law, Current Issues in WTO Law, Maritime Insurance Law and Charterparties Law. The School also introduced some 1-credit intensive elective courses like LW5662D Labour Law & Post-Industrial Work Relations in HK, UK and US, LW5662G Globalization and Comparative Legal Systems, LW5662H Selected Topics of Commercial Law, LW5662L International Criminal Law and LW5662M Tort Litigation in America taught by faculties from other universities.

JD students have an option to specialise in any one of the following areas by taking any four elective courses (12 credits) from the respective list below:

- 1) **International Commercial Law:** LW6161E Competition Law; LW5631 Banking Law; LW5664 European Competition Law of Policy; LW5641 Intellectual Property: Theory, Copyright and Design; LW6543 Cyber Law, LW6144E International Trade Law; LW6140E Chinese and Comparative Commercial Law; LW6180E International Commercial Contracts and Uniform Sales Law; LW6167E Current Issues in WTO Law

- 2) **Alternative Dispute Resolution:** LW6401 Dispute Resolution in Theory and Practice; LW6405 Arbitration Law; LW6406 Mediation Practice; LW6407 Arbitration Practice and Award Writing; LW6408 International Arbitration; LW6142E International Investment Law; and LW5649 International Mooting and Advocacy (3 credits) OR LW5649B International Mooting and Advocacy (6 credits).
- 3) **Chinese and Comparative Law:** LW5626 Comparative Law; LW6127E Chinese and Comparative Intellectual Property Law; LW6134E Chinese and Comparative Company Law; LW6140E Chinese and Comparative Commercial Law; LW6141E Chinese Foreign Trade and Investment Law
- 4) **Air and Maritime Law:** LW6175E Maritime Insurance Law; LW6176E International Air Law; LW6179E Maritime Arbitration Law; LW6189E Bills of Lading Law; LW6190E Charterparties Law; LW6191E Admiralty Law; LW6192E Maritime Law; LW6194E The Law of the Sea; LW5649 International Mooting and Advocacy (3 credits) OR LW5649B International Mooting and Advocacy (6 credits).

Depending upon the interest of students and the course offering in future, these specialised streams may be modified. The offering of the above courses may be reviewed and amended from time to time subject to the availability of the teaching staff. We shall keep students informed regarding the offering of the elective courses.

Students who choose or do not choose to specialise in any of the above areas will receive the award title as Juris Doctor (法律博士). In pursuance of City University's new policy on streamlining award titles, it has been decided that from 2015-16 onwards the award titles will not include areas of specialisation. Rather the specialised area, if elected by a student, will appear on the transcript.

4. Teaching and Learning

The School promotes active and interactive learning. We continued to incorporate elements of OBTL (Outcomes Based Teaching and Learning) into JD courses. Under OBTL, the teaching/learning activities and the assessment tasks are aligned with the Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs). CILOs are then aligned with the Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (PILOs). The PILOs of the JD programme stipulate that after completing the programme, students should be able to:

- 1) explain and assess specified areas of the law and the legal system of Hong Kong, with particular emphasis on the law in action and the dynamic interplay between law and other social phenomena;
- 2) assess the common law system and its values, and its interaction with the law and the legal system of mainland China, the East Asian region and the wider world;
- 3) explain, interpret and apply main principles of ethics, civil duty, and social and professional responsibility;
- 4) critically assess the strengths and weaknesses of law as a means of regulating society in the context of competing and conflicting interests; and

- 5) demonstrate and apply skills of legal analysis and reasoning, of legal research, problem solving, and of oral and written communication to a level appropriate to a graduate-entry degree in law.

To be in line with City University's initiative of Discovery-enriched Curriculum (DEC), various DEC elements have been incorporated into JD courses. Students are encouraged to think critically, explore new socio-legal issues and produce papers of high quality.

All course syllabuses were reformulated in a new format called "SYL" with the incorporation of OBTL and DEC elements.

Students get three direct contact hours for each course every week. Classes are generally conducted as a combination of lectures and small group tutorials, though certain courses are taught in a seminar style. JD students normally do not share classes with undergraduate LLB students for most courses except a small number of elective courses.

5. Assessment

The assessment pattern for most courses is in the form of an assignment, in-class participation and final examination. Since all JD courses are offered at a postgraduate level and students are expected to achieve a suitable standard of competency, students are required to achieve a minimum of 40 per cent marks in each of the assessment components. Students are provided written feedback on their assignment before the final examination.

6. Academic Quality

The School maintains the academic quality of the JD programme by having in place a rigorous system of external academic advisors. All examination papers are subjected to internal and an external moderation whereby the examination papers are reviewed by the School's cluster groups and the external examiners. The mechanism serves to ensure that the examination papers are in conformity with international standards. The JD Programme Leader / *Director (*the new title has been adopted with effect from the academic year 2016-17) ensures that the feedback provided by external examiners is taken on board by respective course leaders.

7. Exchange Opportunities

The School recognises the importance of providing students overseas exchange opportunities. Overseas exchanges provide a platform for students to exchange ideas and experiences about different legal issues and legal systems. The School has entered into collaborative agreements with several leading universities such as Amsterdam Law School, Emory University, Maine University, University of San Francisco, William & Mary Law School, Case Western Reserve University, Montreal University, Mennheim University, Fribourg University, National Chengchi University, National Taiwan University, Fudan University, East China University of Political Science and Law, Shanghai Jiaotong University Koguan Law School, Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, Renmin University and Singapore Management University. We received two incoming postgraduate exchange students in each of Semester B 2015-16 and Semester A 2016-17 from universities in the US, the Netherland and Germany.

The School sent out two postgraduate exchange students (2 LLM) to the universities in the Netherlands and the US.

The School has renewed the collaboration agreement with the University Paris 1 whereby JD students can obtain two degrees in three years.

8. Co-curricular and/or Overseas Academic Activities

The learning environment of JD students is immensely enriched by their participation in some of the following activities:

International Mooting Competitions

As participation in mooting competitions greatly enhances students' mooting and advocacy skills, the School continues to facilitate students' participation in various regional and international mooting competitions by providing extensive training and financial support for them. Our JD student Xie Jun participated in the Susan J. Ferrell Intercultural Human Rights Moot Court Competition and three JD students namely He Yi Anna, Ho Tiffany Toni Lok, Choi Sung Bin Michelle took part in the Thirteen Annual Willem C.Vis (East) International Commercial Arbitration Moot. We also got 2 JD students Wong Yuen Kiu Yuki and Yuen Lok Heng Michelle participated in the International ADR Mooting Competition 2016.

Legal Placement

The credit-bearing Legal Placement course provides JD students with opportunities to do internships not only in Hong Kong but also in mainland China. The placement enhances students' hands-on experiences apart from the theoretical learning. In Hong Kong, students were placed in various legal departments, financial institutions, chambers and law firms. To enhance students' global exposure, some of them were placed in different courts in Shanghai for four weeks after attending Chinese law courses at the Renmin University of China for two weeks. In 2016 Summer, 39 JD students participated in legal placement in Hong Kong and 1 JD student joined the internship in Mainland China.

Global Engagement

Global Legal Education Awareness Project (G-LEAP) aims to promote excellence in legal education with a view to providing opportunities for our law students to have a global perspective in the study of law. In the 2016 summer, 11 JD students took "Australian Corporations Law" at Monash University, 14 studied "European Competition Law and Policy" at University College Oxford. Students enrolled in these credit-bearing elective courses were taught on an intensive basis by the faculty members of these leading law schools.

The School of Law cooperated with the University of Münster to offer an opportunity for the SLW students to write an independent research paper in a structured environment involving seminar presentations in Germany. The programme allows students to discover new knowledge relating to contract law through placing their understanding of Hong Kong common law in a comparative perspective. 4 JD students took part in the programme which was held during May-June 2016.

City University of Hong Kong Law Review (CityU LR)

The School of Law launched the student-edited law journal in 2009. Every year, about twenty students are selected and trained by the Faculty Editor to edit the journal. The Editorial Board of the *CityU LR* is supported by a strong International Board of Advisors, chaired by Chief Justice Ma, Chief Justice of the Court of Final Appeal, HKSAR. From 2010-11 onwards, an elective law course has been introduced to harness the writing and editing skills of the Board members. The *CityU LR* is available through HeinOnline and Westlaw. The course is not offered in 2016-17.

9. Library and Other Facilities

The library provides an extensive selection of print and online legal materials, including law books, law reports, statutes, law reviews databases etc. Most of the electronic resources can be accessed both on campus and remotely. Legal reference services are also offered by the library. Law library workshops are held throughout the year to equip students with legal research skills: finding cases and legislation, finding PRC law, locating ADR legal materials, locating maritime law resources, effective use of secondary materials, and citing legal authorities. Library staff also handles all kinds of enquiries and compiles different kinds of research guides. This is to ensure that students can get assistance at the point of need. The library continues to provide customized library collections and services to the JD students. The essential readings for their courses are acquired and put on course reserve.

10. Looking Ahead

The JD programme at CityU, the first of its kind in Hong Kong, is doing well and our JD graduates are highly sought after by local as well as international law firms. We aim to continue offering excellent global learning environment to our students. In coming years, the School aims to offer more elective courses and explore more overseas learning opportunities. For example, the School in collaboration with the University of Belgrade, Serbia plans to offer an opportunity for our students to study several law courses and write an independent research paper in a structured environment involving seminar presentations in Serbia during May – June 2017 (subject to University's approval). The course allows students to discover new knowledge of law through placing their understanding of Hong Kong common law in a comparative perspective. It will also promote excellence in legal education with a view to providing opportunities for students to have a global perspective in the study of law.

Dr Charles Qu
JD Programme Leader
School of Law
City University of Hong Kong
(leadership during Sem B 2015-16 (Jan – May 2016)
and summer 2016 (June – August 2016))

Dr Rebecca Ong
JD Programme Director
School of Law
City University of Hong Kong
(leadership during Sem A 2016-17 (Sept – Dec 2016))

Annexure 4

The Chinese University of Hong Kong Faculty of Law

Report on the LLB Programme (Reporting period: January to December 2016)

1. Admissions

The LLB programme has an annual admission quota of 79 with effect from 2016. For 2016 intake, the University also gave an additional 9 Strategic Admission quota to the LLB Programme. Due to the demand for places in the programme from high quality applicants, the programme admitted a total of 108 students (including 49 JUPAS students, 55 non-JUPAS students, and 4 mainland students) for the 2016 intake. Among the 55 non-JUPAS students, seven were non-local students from South Korea, Malaysia, Taiwan, and the USA.

As in previous years, the quality of JUPAS students admitted in 2016 was excellent. The LLB programme was once again one of the top 10 CUHK programmes in terms of the DSE results of applicants across all undergraduate programmes offered by the University.

Although there has been some concern in the media about non-JUPAS students being from wealthier families who can afford to send their children to international schools or overseas for their education, many local schools now offer an international curriculum such as the International Baccalaureate (IB). Though the Faculty will continue to admit students primarily on the basis of academic ability and perceived aptitude for the study of law, we also seek to ensure students from all backgrounds have the opportunity to join us.

The Faculty continues to conduct short interviews as a part of the admissions process to give all students who meet our minimum requirements the opportunity to discuss with a member of the teaching staff their goals and interest in studying at CUHK Law.

2. Course Offering

In addition to the core courses, the LLB programme continues to offer a wide range of electives. Several new elective courses were approved, including *i) Contract Law of the PRC; ii) Introduction to International Economic Law; and iii) Comparative Private International Law.*

3. Use of Chinese Language

The Chinese University of Hong Kong implements bilingual education and Chinese language courses form a compulsory part of the curriculum for all students admitted under both JUPAS and non-JUPAS schemes. The LLB programme places great emphasis on improving the bilingual skills of our students.

All LLB students are required to take University Chinese I and II in their first and second years of study. These courses are designed to strengthen the students' ability to use Chinese. Students admitted under the non-JUPAS scheme may be granted exemption on a case-by-case basis after assessment of the individual's Chinese language ability. Where exemption is granted, it is compulsory for the relevant student to take other Chinese language courses suitable for their level of linguistic ability.

In addition, the LLB programme continues to offer two electives (*Chinese Law (Summer Course)* and *Chinese Law Internship*) conducted in Putonghua and delivered on the Mainland for students to acquire a deeper understanding of Chinese law and the Chinese legal system, and to sharpen their Chinese language skills. Students who have taken these courses report that they have substantially improved their Chinese language reading, writing and communication skills.

4. Experiential Learning

The LLB programme continues to emphasize experiential learning as part of the law students' university experience to broaden their learning horizons. In addition to a wide range of activities organized at the University and College levels, the Faculty offers exchange programmes, internships and credit-bearing Summer Study Abroad Programmes (SSAPs) in Beijing, Sydney and Toronto. The SSAP at Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto was newly introduced in academic year 2015-16. The Faculty continues to identify further exchange partners and encourage our students to participate in exchange schemes. We also organize lectures by distinguished guests and visits to legal institutions. There are also social activities under the Distinguished Professional Mentorship Scheme. We are most grateful for the strong support from the legal profession that has made these out-of-class learning activities a great success.

5. Mooting Participation

The LLB students continue to participate in international mooting competitions, where they have built upon the success of previous years. In the 2015-16 academic year, CUHK sent teams to participate in the Jessup, Vis, Red Cross, and ICC Moots.

The moot teams continued to excel in 2016. For instance, the CUHK team won the 13th Willem C. Vis (East) International Commercial Arbitration Moot (Vis East Moot), the International Criminal Court (ICC) Moot Court Competition (Chinese version), and the coveted White & Case Jessup Cup in the regional rounds of the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Competition. The team also participated in the 14th Red Cross International Humanitarian Law Moot and won the prize for Best Memorial (Prosecution) at the competition.

The Faculty will continue to encourage mooting amongst our students and support these eminent competitions.

6. Quality Assurance of Teaching and Learning

Quality assurance mechanisms are in place to ensure that we deliver quality legal education

to best serve the community.

Internally to ensure the quality of our courses the Faculty administers teaching evaluation surveys to students to collect their feedback in a systematic approach. The Assistant Dean/LLB Programme Director and the Deputy LLB Programme Director meet LLB year representatives in each academic term to collect students' views and concerns in relation to teaching and learning. The Faculty responds to all student questions and concerns in written answers distributed to all students. The Faculty will continue to work closely with our students to aid their independent learning and ensure the best environment for their learning experience.

There is also rigorous internal moderation of course outlines and exams. All new courses require a detailed outline and plan and must be approved by both the Committee on Undergraduate and Graduate Studies and the Faculty Board. Each semester, exam panels are convened to review proposed exam questions for quality and consistency. The Assistant Dean/LLB Programme Director and the Deputy LLB Programme Director then review all the exams a second time. This double-layer of review has proved effective in catching errors before the exams are printed and distributed to students. Exam marking also is moderated, with two or three exam papers from each grading band and all failure grades being marked again by a second member of staff to ensure fairness and consistency.

The Associate Dean (Teaching and Learning) chairs the Committee on Teaching and Learning and oversees teaching and learning activities of the Faculty. The Committee on Teaching and Learning had three meetings in 2016 in which various initiatives for Teaching and Learning were discussed and approved, including a teaching mentoring scheme for colleagues. During the reporting period, the Faculty organized the Conference on Teaching and Learning in Law – “Directions in Legal Education” on 3-4 June 2016 as one of its 10th anniversary celebratory events. Approximately 90 educators from law schools across the globe, alongside practitioners, students and other stakeholders, gathered to share their experience and discuss common challenges and best practices in the field of legal education. As in the previous year, the Faculty awarded three teaching awards to colleagues to recognize and encourage excellence and innovation in teaching. In addition, eight teaching and learning seminars were organized on topics such as authentic learning and assessment, e-learning in flipped classrooms and learning in collaborative groups.

In addition to being required to complete the CLEAR professional development course, all new teaching staff members in their first contract have at least one class attended by the Dean for review. A follow-up meeting is held to discuss avenues for improvement where necessary.

7. Learning Resources

As law reports, ordinances and scholarly writings are central to the study of law, the Faculty places great emphasis on its library resources. The Lee Quo Wei Law Library contains over 117,280 volumes and has 80 print journal titles and access to 3,695 electronic law journals. There are 102 electronic legal databases available to students and staff. The Law Library continues to invest in updating its collection to support existing courses and new courses with new titles and new editions of old titles. In line with the preferred format of our students the Library purchases resources in electronic format where possible. Electronic format has the main benefit of providing access to required texts, cases and articles to all students whenever required.

8. Career Preparation

The Academic Advisory System and the Distinguished Professional Mentorship Scheme provide pastoral care and support for our students. The Academic Advisory System ensures close faculty-student relations. The Distinguished Professional Mentors provide close links for our students to the local practitioner community which is invaluable in their appreciation of the working life of a practitioner and in providing them with guidance in their future career choices. The students also have access to alumni mentoring through the Faculty's e-mentoring programme launched in 2016.

Mr. Paul Mitchard, Q.C., is Director of Career Planning and Professionalism. Together with the support the Faculty continues to receive from local professionals, Mr. Mitchard provides our students with valuable guidance on career planning, job applications, interview techniques, professionalism and other matters relating to careers including through a series of seminars matched to the stages of the annual recruitment round and through counselling sessions offered to students who require personalised assistance on career issues.

The Office of Career Planning and Professionalism has also continued to keep the Faculty's Virtual Careers Resource Centre up-to-date and has made a number of further improvements to it. It has also introduced a weekly newsletter on developments in legal business and arranged a series of career seminars, and career talks and workshops, delivered by international and local law firms as well as members of the Hong Kong Bar and the Department of Justice. These events have been very well attended and well received by students.

The Office has again organised a seminar on the New York Bar for students who are considering that as a possible career option, and has fostered relationships with a number of organisations, such as the Hong Kong Corporate Counsel Association, with a view to identifying and enhancing career opportunities for students.

9. Graduates

As in previous years, the majority of our LLB graduates continue their PCLL studies at CUHK on completion of the LLB programme. Around 86% of our LLB graduates who applied for the PCLL programme at CUHK were admitted in 2016. Those not joining the PCLL programme pursued other postgraduate programmes in Hong Kong or abroad or had other career plans.

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Faculty of Law
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February 2017

Faculty of Law
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Report on the PCLL Programme
(Reporting Period: January – December 2016)

2015/2016 PCLL Programme

1. Admission and Completion Rates of the 2015 Graduating Class

In the 2015 intake, we admitted 150 students to the PCLL. One student was approved to defer studies to 2016-17 and one withdrew in September due to employment reasons. One student opted not to sit reassessments in Term One so was discontinued from the programme. The remaining 147 students successfully completed the PCLL. A number of students failed courses but were permitted by the Assessment Panel to sit reassessments: a total of 13 reassessments were sat during the year. The excellent pass rate is a reflection of the quality of the students admitted to the programme.

2. Programme Delivery

The 2015/2016 programme was delivered at our Graduate Law Centre in the Bank of America Tower. The Graduate Law Centre offers students a high quality learning environment. In addition to a Moot Court we have a number of interactive lecture theatres and classrooms. These are all equipped with state-of-the-art facilities. There are also a number of breakout rooms available for student study and discussion. We retained the teaching model of a combination of Large Group Sessions and Small Group Sessions (LGSs and SGSs) as this has proved so effective in the previous years.

The same 5 core courses as in previous years were offered in Term 1, namely Professional Practice, Commercial Practice, Property and Probate Practice, Civil Litigation Practice and Criminal Litigation Practice. 10 elective courses were offered in Term 2/Summer term, of which the students had to select and complete 5 courses; these were Writing and Drafting Litigation Documents*, Conference Skills and Opinion Writing*, Lending and Finance, Corporate Finance, Writing and Drafting Litigation Documents (in Chinese), China Practice, Writing and Drafting Commercial Documents (in Chinese), Alternative Dispute Resolution, Trial Advocacy* and Writing and Drafting Commercial Documents.

Students intending to enter pupillage as a barrister have to study the 3 asterisked electives. These 3 electives were not of course confined to intending barristers and it is noteworthy that many intending solicitors also chose to study one or more of these courses.

With the exception of the Chinese language parts of the 2 Chinese drafting electives, nearly all teachers on the PCLL programme are or have been practising lawyers and through all the courses the emphasis was on the teaching of skills, and on the students “learning by doing”. To that end on all courses the students were taught and then practised skills they would need in practice and were assessed on their skills.

The PCLL is a rigorous course. There is continuous assessment throughout each term with

the students facing 2 or 3 assessments in each course. Thus the students have to balance their time between courses and in doing so successfully learn the time management skills which will be so vital to them in practice.

3. Student Diversity

The PCLL 2015/16 had a diverse student body. Of the 150 students admitted, 129 held local law qualifications while 21 held non-local law qualifications. Their academic background is as follows:

Law Qualifications	No. with overseas qualifications	No. with local qualifications	Total no. of students
Bachelor of Laws (LLB)	13	49	62
BA in Law	1	0	1
BA in Jurisprudence	1	0	1
LLB and Bachelor of Commerce	2	0	2
Juris Doctor (JD)	3	80	83
Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL)	1	0	1

While most of our students were local, we also had a number of students from the Mainland, who had qualified for admission by way of our Juris Doctor programme, along with students who had studied for their law degrees in the UK and Australia.

4. Oversight by the Professions

With the exception of Trial Advocacy, each PCLL course has assigned to it one or two external course assessors (ECAs), from the Law Society and the Bar Association. The Law Society ECAs see and approve all course papers, and both ECAs see the assessment papers before they are sat and are sent for their review all borderline and failed scripts, along with some top scripts. The Law Society ECAs also attend sessions of their choice and provide feedback to the Law Society. All that feedback has to date been for the most part very positive.

The students also give feedback on the courses and their teachers: that too has been almost without exception positive and encouraging.

5. Contribution by the Judiciary and the Professions

We are also very fortunate to be able to call upon so many volunteers from the judiciary and the professions. By way of example, in our Trial Advocacy course in May 2016 we had 18 sessions in which barristers and solicitors came in the evening to give individual feedback to the students on their videoed advocacy performances from earlier each day; the students' final assessment was a mini-trial in courtrooms in the High Court: with 59 students on the course and 4 students per trial, we required 15 judges whom we invited from the judiciary and the professions. Also as part of the Trial Advocacy course we staged a demonstration Magistrate's trial in Cantonese before a senior Magistrate and presented by members of the

Bar.

We have also had throughout the years numerous guest speakers from the judiciary and the professions. We are very fortunate indeed to have such support from the Judiciary and the professions and greatly appreciate it, as do the students.

6. Placement of the 2016 Graduates

Notwithstanding our short history, our graduates in all eight years have been consistently placed in all areas of the legal profession following graduation. According to the placement survey results which comprise 117 student responses out of 147 graduates of the 2015/2016 cohort, over 90% have been employed by leading law firms, leading sets of barrister's chambers and the Department of Justice or have chosen to pursue further studies.

2016/2017 PCLL Programme

7. Admissions of the 2016/2017 Class

The Faculty received 332 applications to read for the PCLL 2016/17. The Faculty made 191 offers. Of the 191 candidates to whom the Faculty made offers, 179 accepted and 12 declined. Of those accepting the offers, 177 were able to satisfy all of the conditions and register on the PCLL.

We have this year a very high calibre of students. They appear to be very enthusiastic about and committed to their studies, and attendance rates at LGSs and SGSs have been most impressive; indeed the only absences from the SGSs appear to have been due either to the need to attend an interview or ill health.

It is noteworthy that we are again this year running the course in Writing and Drafting Litigation Documents (in Chinese) with 55 students enrolled.

Looking ahead

We plan to introduce a Personal Injury Practice elective in the next academic year. Such a course has been approved by the internal committees and will go to the Academic Board shortly.

Conclusion

We are very proud of our PCLL and confidently believe that the emphasis we place on the acquisition of skills throughout the programme continues to produce graduates who will be useful and professional from the very first day of their traineeship or pupillage. The feedback we have had from the professions on the quality of our PCLL graduates whom they have taken on as trainees or pupils very much bears this out.

We now have eight successful PCLLs to build upon and are hopeful that we can make the 2016/2017 PCLL better still.

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February 2017

The Chinese University of Hong Kong Juris Doctor Programme

2016-2017 Report for the Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training

1. Background

The Juris Doctor (JD) is a graduate entry programme. It was created as a direct response to the recommendation of the *Redmond-Roper Report* " that there should be opportunity for mature age students, and graduates in other disciplines, to study law - both for equity and access reasons and for the richness and diversity this brings to the law schools and the legal profession" (*Report*, 11.4 at p. 271).

2. Teaching philosophy and structure

The Faculty of Law of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) teaches the JD exclusively at graduate level. JD students thus enjoy a dedicated programme. They share some courses with other students (i.e. those reading for the Master of Laws (LLM) and a small number of exchange and associate students). They do not share any courses with undergraduate (LLB) students.

The Faculty of Law examines the JD Programme as a graduate programme. Students thus must perform to graduate standards. To maintain these standards, the Faculty puts in places numerous levels of checks.

3. Admission requirements

The Faculty of Law requires applicants for admission to the 2016 – 17 JD Programme to have:

- (i) graduated from a recognised university and obtained a bachelor's degree in a non-law subject or a law degree from a non-common law jurisdiction, normally with honours not lower than Second Class; or
- (ii) graduated from an honours programme of a recognised university with a bachelor's degree in a non-law subject or a law degree from a non-common law jurisdiction, normally achieving an average grade of not lower than "B" in undergraduate courses; or
- (iii) completed a course of study in a tertiary educational institution and obtained professional or similar qualifications equivalent to an honours degree.

Applicants must also satisfy the JD Programme's English Language Proficiency Requirement by:

- possessing a bachelor's degree obtained by completing a programme of study in Hong Kong or an English-speaking country, or which was taught primarily in the English language; or
- achieving a result of Band 7.5 or better in the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), which result was obtained not more than two years prior to the date of applying to join the JD Programme; or
- achieving a result of 600 (Paper Based Test), or 100 (Internet Based Test) or better in the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), which result was obtained not more than two years prior to the date of applying to join the JD Programme; or
- producing alternative evidence of English proficiency equivalent to one of the preceding measures.

4. Programme philosophy and structure

The JD Programme is an intellectually enriching general education in law. It offers various Faculty core courses (details of which I set out below). It offers all subjects that the Hong Kong legal professions stipulate as pre-requisites to entry to the Postgraduate Certificate in Laws (PCLL). It also allows candidates to read a wide range of challenging elective courses in the common law, Chinese law, comparative law, international law, and the law of trade, business and finance.

The JD Programme consists of 72 credit units (a standard semester-length course being 3 credit units). Students have an average of 3 contact hours per week with teachers in each course. Students entering the JD Programme complete the programme in full-time mode or part-time mode.

Full-time mode students can finish the programme in 24 months by completing courses in each summer term. Full-time students may take up to 48 months to complete the JD Programme.

Part-time mode students can complete their studies in 42 months (students may, in exceptional circumstances, apply to accelerate their studies and complete the Programme in 36 months with the Graduate Council's permission and on the Faculty of Law's recommendation). The Faculty of Law lets part-time students take up to 84 months to complete the JD Programme. The JD Programme is currently the only qualifying law degree offered in part-time mode by a Hong Kong university.

To graduate, students must complete five required courses. These are LAWS6001 *Legal System*, LAWS6002 *Jurisprudence*, LAWS6004 *Legal Research, Analysis and Writing*, LAWS6005 *Ethics and Professional Virtue* and either LAWS6901 *Independent Research* or LAWS6902 *Independent Research Dissertation*. These required components give JD students the essential foundational knowledge and skills for a well-rounded general legal education and a first-hand appreciation of the relationship between the legal system and the broader community that it serves and regulates.

Students aspiring to qualify as Hong Kong-qualified barristers or solicitors must pursue particular courses mandated by the Hong Kong legal professions. Completing these courses entitles students to apply for admission to the PCLL programme. These elective courses are also open to students who do not plan to enter the PCLL.

The Faculty of Law offers JD and LLM students further elective courses from a wide range of intellectually stimulating and professionally enhancing offerings. This arrangement enables students to complete their degrees and professional requirements while enhancing their range of courses and thus their academic and professional opportunities. I set out below details of the panoply of disciplines from which students may choose.

JD Courses

The Faculty of Law structures the JD Programme to accommodate the interests both of those who intend to enter the legal profession and those who are reading the JD Programme for other reasons. The programme comprises a mixture of required and elective courses:

(i) Required courses

- Legal Research, Analysis and Writing
- Legal System
- Ethics and Professional Virtue
- Jurisprudence
- Independent Research* OR Independent Research Dissertation*

* Students must complete either *Independent Research* (3 credits) or *Independent Research Dissertation* (6 credits).

(ii) Elective Courses

(a) Elective Courses Required for Admission to the PCLL Programme

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| - Principles of Administrative Law | - Principles of Criminal Law |
| - Principles of Civil Procedure | - Principles of Criminal Procedure |
| - Principles of Commercial Law | - Principles of Equity and Trusts |
| - Principles of Company Law | - Principles of Evidence |
| - Principles of Constitutional Law | - Principles of Land Law |
| - Principles of Contract | - Principles of Tort |
| - Principles of Conveyancing | |

(b) Other Elective Courses

The Faculty offers an extensive list of electives in the JD Programme (which are offered depends on teacher availability and sufficient student interest), including for example:

- Business and the Law in Hong Kong
- Chinese Company Law
- Chinese Contract Law
- Chinese Employment Law
- Chinese Environmental Law
- Chinese Finance and Law

- Chinese Intellectual Property Law
- Chinese Tax Law
- Common Law: Origins and Development
- Conflict of Laws
- Copyright, Digital Subject Matter and Information Technology
- Cyberlaw and Intellectual Property: Principles and Practice
- Elder Law
- European Union Law
- International and Comparative Energy Law
- International and Comparative Environmental Law
- International Commercial Dispute Resolution
- International Financial and Banking Law
- International Investment Law Policy and Development
- International Taxation
- Issues in Administrative Law
- Issues in Human Rights
- Issues of Tax Policy
- Law and Literature
- Law of the Sea
- Legal System and Methods in China
- Merger Control
- Mooting
- Preferential Trade Agreements: Theory and Practice
- Principles of Art, Antiquities, Cultural Heritage and the Law
- Principles of Competition Law
- Principles of Employment Law
- Principles of Environmental Law
- Principles of Information & Privacy Law
- Principles of Intellectual Property
- Principles of International Law
- Principles of Revenue Law
- Principles of Securities Regulation
- Rome: Law and History
- Shipping Law
- The Clinic for Public Interest Advocacy
- Trans-national Legal Problems
- World Trade Law

5. Student intake

The JD Programme has proved to be a highly competitive programme. In the 2016 – 17 academic year, the programme received 743 applications meeting minimum admission requirements (473 applications for full-time mode and 270 applications for part-time mode). The admission requirements in section 3, above, are minimum requirements. In the 2016-2017 intake, the Faculty of Law did not offer places to a large proportion of applicants who satisfied these. The JD Programme attracts students of the highest quality, and the student body is a rich mixture of well-educated fresh graduates and seasoned professionals who have already achieved considerable success in their fields. In 2016 the Faculty of Law admitted 195 students, these being the top segment of applicants.

No. of applications received for academic year 2016-2017 (full-time mode)	473
No. of students admitted for academic year 2016-2017 (full-time mode)	130
No. of applications received for academic year 2016-2017 (part-time mode)	270
No. of students admitted for academic year 2016-2017 (part-time mode)	65

All JD students the Faculty of Law admitted in 2016-2017 hold at least an Upper 2nd bachelor's degree or a credit master's degree (or equivalent):

Band 1	38.5% (75)
Band 2	22% (43)
Band 3	39.5% (77)
Total	100% (195)

Band 1: 1st class bachelor's degree; or Cumulative GPA 3.5 (4-point scale) where no class of honours awarded; or PhD; or equivalent.

Band 2: Borderline 1st class bachelor's degree; or Cumulative GPA 3.4 (4-point scale) where no class of honours awarded; or master (Distinction); or equivalent.

Band 3: Upper 2nd class bachelor's degree; or Cumulative GPA 3.2-3.3 (4-point scale) where no class of honours awarded; or master (Credit); or equivalent.

As noted above, many JD students take the Programme to help them in their existing careers or to enhance their skills; they have no intention of entering the legal profession. Most part-time students are professionals with qualifications. These include the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE), Certified Carbon Auditor Professional (CAP), Certified Protection Professional (CPP), Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA), Financial Risk Manager (FRM), National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI), Registered Professional Surveyor (RPS), Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), The Chartered Institute of Linguists (CIOL) and The Hong Kong Institute of Chartered Secretaries (HKICS). Some students are members of professional bodies. These include Fellows of Hong Kong College of Physicians (HKCP), Fellows of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (FHKAM), Members of Royal College of Physicians (MRCP), Members of the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors (MHKIS); or registered professional in various disciplines for instance in medical, social work and engineering. Some of our students are already in prominent management positions, such as CEOs, VPs, Directors or Heads at companies, such as China Lotsynergy Holdings Limited, HSBC, JPMorgan Chase Bank, Morgan Stanley Asia Limited and Reorient Financial Markets Limited etc.

6. Library

Given the centrality of law reports, ordinances and scholarly writings to the study of law, the Faculty places great emphasis on its library resources. The Lee Quo Wei Law Library contains over 117,280 volumes and has 80 print journal titles and access to 3,695 electronic law journals. There are 102 electronic legal databases available to students and staff. Wherever possible electronic format is the preferred option for books, law journals and serials. The Faculty is investing heavily in library materials to support future years of its law programmes.

The Lee Quo Wei Law Library houses the main law collection. The Legal Resources Centre (LRC) at the Graduate Law Centre (GLC), where JD teaching takes place, contains a short loan collection and a small collection of law reports and reference materials. The Faculty of Law retains a daily courier service that provides research materials students need at the GLC.

The Law Library has developed an extensive array of resource guides and indices that are accessible via the Library website. Both locations provide reference services. The Faculty of Law also includes Information Literacy in the JD curriculum.

7. Physical accommodation

The Faculty of Law teaches the JD Programme at the GLC in Central. The GLC, covering 35,000 sq. feet, includes three lecture theatres, a state-of-the-art-moot court, small breakout rooms, multi-purpose classrooms, dedicated computer facilities and its Legal Resources Centre.

8. Visiting Committee

In December 2014 a Visiting Committee reviewed the Faculty of Law's operations. The Committee comprised three senior law academics from the UK and Australia and a senior Hong Kong solicitor. Before its visit the Faculty of Law gave the Committee comprehensive documentation on all the Faculty's programmes and operations. During the visit the Committee met with senior University management, numerous Faculty members and numerous past and present students. The Committee's conclusion on the JD Programme included the following: "The Visiting Committee concluded that it was provided with appropriate evidence for its work on the JD and, after discussion, it came to share the endorsement of staff and students of the JD programme."

9. Concluding Remarks

The JD Programme at CUHK is now a well-established feature of the Hong Kong legal education landscape. JD students routinely receive job placement offers from top international and local law firms. Many undertake pupillage and develop careers at the Hong Kong bar. Some move on to further studies, often competing strongly in the world's most venerated universities (among them Oxbridge and the Ivy League). Others embark on or continue careers in other walks in Hong Kong or overseas; these fields include banking, commerce, academia and government. JD students are, as a whole, highly qualified and highly motivated. Classes are interactive, with students bringing expertise and experience to

enrich the learning environment, both within and outside the classroom. Student satisfaction with the JD Programme, which the University's Centre for Learning Enhancement and Research independently monitors, is very high. Students on the JD Programme have taken the initiative to set up the Graduate Law Students Association and organised activities, which the Faculty supports, to benefit the student body. Mooting teams including JD students represent the Faculty at both regional and international competitions and have achieved outstanding results.

Some JD students will not choose a career in law. They continue to contribute to their respective professions – among them banking and finance, government, journalism and academia – and are all the better armed with all they have learned during their JD education. Those who progress to the PCLL have a great deal to offer the legal profession. They will continue to help answer the call in the Redmond Roper Report for increased diversity of practitioners in Hong Kong.

Matthew P Cheung
JD Programme Director
February 2017

Annexure 5



Department of Law The University of Hong Kong

Report on the LLB and JD Programmes to the Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training

March 2017

The double cohort of the LLB degree programme (some additional 100 students) ended in 2016, however, academic year 2016-2017 remains to be the last year for the double-cohort of our three mixed-degree programmes. The Department has continued to make efforts to address these needs, and is glad to report satisfactory progress.

Admissions 2016-2017

The LLB and mixed-degree undergraduate programmes remain signature programmes that cement the reputation of the HKU, as seen by the robust admissions figures.

A total of 95 students were admitted into the undergraduate programmes: 72 through the JUPAS scheme; 18 through the non-JUPAS admissions process; 4 through Mainland recruitment; and 1 through internal transfer.

In addition, 158 students were admitted to the three mixed-degree programmes: BBA(Law) & LLB – 83; BSocSc (Govt & Laws) & LLB – 47; and BA (Literary Studies) & LLB – 27.

All these programmes continue to achieve outstanding admission quality.

JD admissions figures continue to be strong. We admitted 44 students from over 260 applications. Student profiles are diverse, with 28 fresh graduates and 16 with work experience.

Exchange

We have been able to accommodate the additional demand by the double cohort for exchange opportunities in the past few years. Current figures for out-going law students comprise 74 students, undertaking studies in 13 countries, mostly in the UK (40), Canada (8), and USA (13).

Curriculum

The “3+3+4” curriculum has been fully implemented. The Department has also de-cross-listed electives in both the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, to allow teachers to better take into account the skills and competencies of students in their courses.

The Department promotes experiential learning for students to develop practical skills and to learn law in action. The Clinical Legal Education course and other experiential courses including Social Justice Internship (in both Hong Kong and Mainland China), Human Rights in Practice, have been in high demand. The Faculty has recently successfully recruited a full-time Lecturer in Human Rights Experiential Learning, which will further strengthen our student experiential learning programme.

Following last year’s success, the Department continued to send LLB students to Shanghai (Fudan University and East China University of Political Science and Law) to take a compulsory course, Introduction to Chinese Law, in an intensive manner. We are exploring the opportunities to collaborate with mainland universities in other cities for possible intensive teaching of the same course.

The JD programme underwent a review as part of HKU’s internal review of taught postgraduate programmes two years ago. The Department has continued to take steps to implement the proposals in the Report of the Review Panel.

Career Advice

The current in-house Career Development Manager is leaving by end of March, the Department is in the process of recruiting a new Student Career Advisor. The Department will try its best to increase individual career advice consultation sessions for our students.

Staffing

Our staff has been able to offer a wide range of electives in the undergraduate programmes to accommodate the surge in demand arising from the double cohort. The Faculty has been conducting an active search for professional staff at different levels.

Conclusion

The Department is aware of the challenges facing the legal education, such as greater curriculum needs and concerns about job opportunities. We will continue to consider special measures to ensure that the rigour and diversity of teaching will not be compromised, and additional support in terms of career advice will be provided to students.

Professor Zhao Yun
Head, Department of Law

Report on the HKU PCLL January – December 2016

Overview

1. Despite the new ‘3-3-4’ academic structure, the LLB remains as a four-year undergraduate programme. The two cohorts of secondary school graduates (A-level and DSE) admitted in 2012/13 graduated at the same time. This first double cohort hit the PCLL in September 2016. While we were expecting and have prepared for a maximum increase of 100 students in total to the HKU PCLL, the number of applications for admission did not reflect this. We took the opportunity to experience a further reduction in the class size for some small group teaching to 9 students per group. With a pool of dedicated staff, teaching and administrative, full-time and part-time, and all the preparatory work done and tried out in the year before, we believe that the transition at the HKU PCLL, so far, has been smooth and least disruptive.

Assessments and examination results 2015/16

2. Students were informed of the assessment method of each course by the course co-ordinator at the beginning of the course. They were required to pass all assessments, skill-based and knowledge-based, oral and written.
3. The overall first-attempt pass rate across the three programmes (i.e. the 1-year full-time PCLL; Year 1 and Year 2 of the part-time PCLL) continued to be around 80%. According to our understanding, this falls within an acceptable and normal range regarded by any reputable Legal Practice Courses overseas. The pass rate after the supplementary exams in August increased to over 98%. All except one of those part-time students admitted on the strength of their interview performance and their practical experience of law or other relevant achievements, who have academic qualifications that are satisfactory but which alone might not justify admission, proceeded to Year 2. Among a total of around 340 full-time and part-time Year 2 students in 2015/16, the Board of Examiners awarded overall distinction to the top 10% of the cohort. The top four students were all HKU LLB graduates.

Admissions 2016/17

4. The number of PCLL students admitted in September 2016 was 307 to the full-time course and 90 to the part-time course, a total increase of 57 students. We continued to admit 10 part-time students pursuant to the special discretion given to us by the PCLL Academic Board and are monitoring closely their progress.
5. There were over 1,000 applications from 706 individual applicants, of which 626 applicants designated HKU as first preference. Applicants, as in the past, had to make separate applications to the full-time and part-time programmes and many of them applied for both.

6. The Government has agreed to provide one-off additional UGC-funded PCLL places for the double cohorts, on top of the annual quota (among which HKU has 117) so that the local law graduates in 2016 and 2017 would neither be put in a worse nor a better position in terms of their access to UGC-funded PCLL places solely because they would graduate together with an extra cohort of candidates. Taking into account the actual admission figures over a period the additional UGC-funded PCLL places to HKU is 44 for 2016/17. These additional places were earmarked for the purpose of admitting the double cohort graduates. We are also expected to endeavour to maintain the admission profile of the original UGC-funded PCLL places in the baseline in accordance with past trends unless there are overriding reasons to the contrary. On the other hand, the UGC permits some flexibility by allowing a modest level of over-enrolment for local students.
7. We continued to allocate the government-funded full-time places, all on merit. Apart from the 44 additional places earmarked for HKU LLB graduates, about 88% of the rest were given to HKU graduates. The balance of places was shared among other categories of applicants, with UK LLB graduates having the largest share, most of whom were Hong Kong permanent residents.
8. About 80% (i.e. 246) of the full-time intake held a HKU law degree (including JD). The proportion in the part-time programme was much lower, just 21% (19 out of 90). The remaining places in the part-time PCLL were mainly filled by graduates with the London International LLB and Common Professional Examination operated by MMU/SPACE or UK providers.

Curriculum and teaching

9. The new Chief External Examiner jointly nominated by the Bar Association and the Law Society, Mr. Justice Anderson Chow, gave his first comprehensive report on the 2015/16 programme. He raised no concerns that require attention or improvement but he also recommended a formal channel for experience sharing to be established among the three PCLL providers. The Department will look into this, in addition to utilising our existing channels through which the three PCLL providers have been exchanging our ideas. Meanwhile, the Department has also been looking proactively for opportunities and ways to further improve our PCLL.
10. One of those initiatives is by way of interviewing ‘standardized clients’ who are lay to law (SC interviews). This has become a part of the assessments in three electives: Wills Trusts and Estate Planning (WTEP), Employment Law and Practice (ELP) and Use of Chinese in Legal Practice (UCLP), while every student has an opportunity to practice and experience it in the Civil Litigation course. Agreement with the External Examiners has been obtained such that from 2017/18 onwards, SC interviews will also be a part of the assessments in Civil Litigation, meaning that all students will take part in this assessment in a core course. In WTEP and UCLP, such simulated interviews are conducted in Cantonese but WTEP students who are not conversant in the language can opt for an English interview.
11. In 2016/17, Commercial Dispute Resolution became the most popular elective course of the year, followed by Listed Companies and Employment Law and Practice. Around 140 students, full-time and part-time, opted for Trial Advocacy.

Looking ahead

12. We look forward to the review report commissioned by the Standing Committee and its recommendations and we would most welcome any constructive and fruitful dialogue with the Law Society on its proposed Common Entrance Examination. Meanwhile, we continue to seek the continuing co-operation with the profession via the professional bodies, firms and chambers, as well as individual members of the profession for the better development of the HKU PCLL.

Wilson Chow
Head, Department of Professional Legal Education
Faculty of Law, The University of Hong Kong
March 2017

Annexure 6

Key Statistics of the 2016/17 LLB, JD and PCLL Programmes of City University of Hong Kong The Chinese University of Hong Kong The University of Hong Kong

	City University of Hong Kong	The Chinese University of Hong Kong	The University of Hong Kong
No. of Admissions to the LLB Programme	62 (42 JUPAS students, 16 Non-JUPAS students, 4 Mainland students)	108 (49 JUPAS students, 55 Non-JUPAS students, 4 Mainland students)	95 (72 JUPAS students, 18 Non-JUPAS students, 4 Mainland students, 1 internal transfer)
No. of Admissions to the JD Programme	101	130 (full-time) 65 (part-time)	44
No. of Admissions to the PCLL Programme	209 full-time students (71 were UGC funded, 138 were non-UGC funded)	177	307 (full-time) 90 (part-time)
No. of Admissions to the Double Law Degree Programmes	N/A	N/A	83 (BBA (Law) & LLB) 47 (BSocSc (Govt & Laws) & LLB) 27 (BA (Literary Studies) & LLB)

Annexure 7

THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING: ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

- Chairman** : Mr. Albert WONG Kwai-huen, B.B.S., J.P.
The Law Society of Hong Kong
- Members** : Dr. Peter CHAN Chi-hin
City University of Hong Kong
- Dr. Tommy HO Koon-ki
The Federation for Self-financing Tertiary Education
- Mr. Michael YIN Chi-ming
Hong Kong Bar Association
- Mr. Richard MORRIS
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- Ms. Amanda WHITFORT
The University of Hong Kong
- Secretary** : Ms. Vivien LEE
The Law Society of Hong Kong

Annexure 8

THE HONG KONG CONVERSION EXAMINATION BOARD

- Chairperson** : The Honourable Madam Justice Maggie POON Man-kay
Court of First Instance of the High Court
- Members** : Mr. Edward CHAN King-sang, S.C., J.P.
Hong Kong Bar Association
- Mr. Mark D. DALY
The Law Society of Hong Kong
- Dr. Richard WU Wai-sang
The University of Hong Kong
- Dr. Peter CHAN Chi-hin
(From September 2015 to July 2016)
- Ms. Stella LEUNG Suk-yee
(from August 2016)
City University of Hong Kong
- Mr. Richard MORRIS
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- Secretary** : Dr. John CRIBBIN
HKU School of Professional and Continuing Education