

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

**ANNUAL REPORT  
2017**

**1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017**

## CONTENTS

<b>ANNUAL REPORT</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>ANNEXURE 1:</b>	<b>Section 74A of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>ANNEXURE 2:</b>	<b>Composition of the Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>ANNEXURE 3:</b>	<b>City University of Hong Kong – Report on the LLB Programme</b>	<b>9</b>
	<b>City University of Hong Kong – Report on the PCLL Programme</b>	<b>15</b>
	<b>City University of Hong Kong – Report on the JD Programme</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>ANNEXURE 4:</b>	<b>The Chinese University of Hong Kong – Report on the LLB Programme</b>	<b>25</b>
	<b>The Chinese University of Hong Kong – Report on the PCLL Programme</b>	<b>29</b>
	<b>The Chinese University of Hong Kong – Report on the JD Programme</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>ANNEXURE 5:</b>	<b>The University of Hong Kong – Report on the LLB and JD Programmes</b>	<b>39</b>
	<b>The University of Hong Kong – Report on the PCLL Programme</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>ANNEXURE 6:</b>	<b>Key Statistics of the 2017/18 LLB, JD and PCLL Programmes</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>ANNEXURE 7:</b>	<b>Composition of the Sub-Committee of the Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training: English Language Proficiency</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>ANNEXURE 8:</b>	<b>Composition of the Hong Kong Conversion Examination Board</b>	<b>46</b>

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

(1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017)

This is the twelfth 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 2017 to 31 December 2017 (“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. Anthony Rogers, G.B.S, Q.C, J.P, Professor Julian Webb and Professor Tony Smith (together the “Study Group”), submitted a progress report and an interim report to the Standing Committee.
4. The Standing Committee considered the following topics in the progress and the interim reports of the Study Group:
  - (a) The existing structure of legal education and training in Hong Kong;
  - (b) The reform of legal education and training: International trends and practices;
  - (c) The academic stage of legal education;
  - (d) The Postgraduate Certificate in Laws (“PCLL”);
  - (e) The proposal for a “Common Entrance Examination (“CEE”);
  - (f) The training contracts, pupillage and the overseas qualifying examinations; and
  - (g) Provisional recommendations.

5. A copy of the interim report has been posted on the website of the Standing Committee which is accessible to members of the public.
6. The Standing Committee proposed a revised timeline for the Study Group to submit its final report, taking into account the findings and recommendations in its interim report, the duration for seeking feedback from the stakeholders and the second round of interviews between the stakeholders and the Consultants.
7. In addition, the Subcommittee established by the Standing Committee to oversee the discussion between the Law Society of Hong Kong (“Society”) and the 3 law schools on the implementation of the CEE met with representatives of the Society and reported to the full Standing Committee on the progress of the implementation of the CEE. A progress report on the implementation of CEE was considered by the full Standing Committee.
8. The CEE syllabi, the examination standards and revised PCLL Benchmarks were provided by the Society to Members of the Standing Committee and their respective organizations provided preliminary comments on the documents.
9. Stakeholders represented on the Standing Committee attended a meeting of the Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services of the Legislative Council to discuss the comprehensive study and the Society’s progress on the implementation of CEE.
10. Apart from 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.

#### 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**; and
  - (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 Subcommittee on English Language Proficiency (“Subcommittee”) reviewed the policy on English language requirement for PCLL admission, in particular, the validity period of the results of the International English Language Testing System (“IELTS”).
14. The Subcommittee recommended and the Standing Committee adopted the recommendation of the Subcommittee that the following policy on English language requirement should continue in the academic year 2016/17:
  - (a) The requirement for submission of a score in 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; and
  - (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.
15. The composition of the Subcommittee is at **Annexure 7**.

## Conversion Examination

16. The Conversion Examination Board met on three occasions during the Reporting Period to oversee the administration of the Conversion Examination. Matters considered by the Board in the meetings and by paper circulation included 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;

- (c) Review of exemptions granted to the examination subjects of Criminal Procedure and Civil Procedure;
  - (d) Appointment of examiners and reviewers;
  - (e) Fees of the Examiners;
  - (f) Scholarships granted to candidates and their eligibility;
  - (g) Review of examination schedule;
  - (h) Decisions of the Chief Examiner on the appeals against examination results;
  - (i) Review of syllabi and book lists; and
  - (j) Applications for special arrangements to sit the Conversion Examination.
17. The Conversion Examination was held twice during the Reporting Period in January and June 2017 respectively.
  18. 702 and 674 candidates took part in the Conversion Examination in eight different prerequisite subjects in January and June 2017 as compared to 687 and 680 candidates respectively in the January and June 2016 Conversion Examinations.
  19. The average pass rate of the subjects examined in January 2017 was 66.27% (as compared to 71.5% in the January 2016 results) and that in June 2017 was 55.32% (as compared to 70.2% in the June 2016 results).
  20. The composition of the Conversion Examination Board is at **Annexure 8**.

### **Chairmanship**

21. Mr. Justice Patrick Chan retired as Chairman in August and the Standing Committee is grateful for his leadership and guidance in the past years. The Standing Committee is honoured to have Mr. Justice Robert Tang to succeed as Chairman and the Standing Committee looks forward to Mr. Justice Tang's leadership in steering the Standing Committee to meet the challenges in legal education and training.

### **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 for the exchange of views on different issues.

# 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;
  - (viiia) 2 shall be persons nominated by the Vice-Chancellor of The Chinese University of Hong Kong; (Added 10 of 2005 s.184)
  - (viii) 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 (viiia) 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.  
(from August 2011 to August 2017)  
The Honourable Mr. Justice Robert Tang Ching, S.B.S., J.P.  
(from August 2017)
- 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.  
(from February 2010 to August 2017)  
Mr. Simon LAI Sau-cheong  
(from August 2017)  
(on the nomination of The Law Society of Hong Kong)
- Mr. Nicholas CHAN Hiu-fung, M.H.  
(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 & Chair Professor of Commercial Law, School of Law, City  
University of Hong Kong  
(on the nomination of the President of City University of Hong  
Kong)

Ms. Stella LEUNG Suk-yee  
Programme Leader of the Postgraduate Certificate in Laws, School  
of Law, City University of Hong Kong  
(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  
(from June 2009 to August 2017)  
Mr. Christopher KNIGHT (from August 2017)  
Programme Director of Postgraduate Certificate in Laws  
Programme, 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  
(from February 2014 to August 2017)  
Ms. TONG Choi-cheng  
(from August 2017)  
(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

### Bachelor of Laws (LLB) 2017 Annual Report for Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training

February 2018

This is a status report on the Bachelor of Laws (LLB) Programme offered by the School of Law (“the School”), City University of Hong Kong (CityU). The report covers the period from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017.

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

#### 1. 2017/18 Admissions

In the 2017/18 academic year, the School admitted 66 full-time LLB students in total, including:

- 43 JUPAS applicants (from HKDSE)
- 17 non-JUPAS applicants
- 6 Mainland students

##### 1.1 JUPAS Admissions

In 2017, the School received a total of 443 qualified applications for the 2017 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 2017.

##### 1.2 Direct Applicants (local and international)

The School received a total of 177 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 which will be increased to HK\$75,000 for 2018 cohort.

In 2017, two (2) LLB Year One students received the scholarship. The students were outstanding in both public examination result and extra-curricular activities.

## **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-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 CityU'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, University of Mannheim in Germany, Montreal University, Nanjing University, National Chengchi University, National Taiwan University, Universidad Pontificia Comillas in Spain, Renmin University of China, Shanghai Jiaotong University, Singapore Management University, Soochow University, Sun Yat-sen University, University of Strathclyde in the U.K, William & Mary Law School, etc.

In 2017, the School received 36 exchange students from overseas jurisdictions, including Australia, Austria, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden and the United States studied at the School as exchange students. The School sent out 8 LLB students to the universities in Canada, China, Ireland, the Netherlands, Singapore 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 2017 (during May – June 2017), 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, 14 LLB students spent a month at University College, Oxford (United Kingdom) during July - August 2017, to study a credit-bearing law course *European Competition Law and Policy*.

The School of Law collaborated with University of Belgrade to offer an opportunity for the School students to write an independent research paper in a structured environment involving seminar presentations in Belgrade. The programme allows students to discover new knowledge of law through placing their understanding of Hong Kong common law in a comparative perspective. 9 LLB students took part in the programme which was held during May - June 2017.

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, Mainland China and overseas. In 2017, 19 students completed either a 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, 15 LLB students participated in the Mainland Legal Placement Programme during May – July 2017. Students received two-week training at Renmin University. Thereafter, they were attached to the local courts of major cities in China. 1 LLB student was given an internship opportunity in the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva for three months during June – August 2017. 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 2016-2017, the LLB students participated in the following international mooting competitions. The moot teams achieved outstanding results:

The 2017 Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition Hong Kong Regional Round (18 February 2017)

- First Runner-Up
- Best Respondent Memorial
- Best Overall Memorial

The Vis (East) Pre-Moot Hong Kong and The 14th Annual Willem C. Vis (East) International Commercial Arbitration Moot (26 March – 2 April 2017)

- Honorable Mention for the Claimant's Memoranda in the Vis (East) Moot

The 7th Annual Budapest Pre-Moot for the 24th Annual Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot (3 – 6 April 2017)

- Reached the quarter-finals

The 24th Annual Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot (7 – 13 April 2017)

- Advanced to the top 64 out of 338 teams
- Honorable Mention for Eric E. Bergsten Award Team Orals
- One of the team members: Honorable Mention (Martin Domke Award for Individual Oralists)

Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition (18 - 21 April 2017)

- First Runner-Up
- Second Best Memorial
- One of the team members: Oralist Award

International Criminal Court Moot Court Competition (14 - 19 May 2017)

- Reached the quarter-finals

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  
February 2018



## City University of Hong Kong Postgraduate Certificate in Laws (PCLL) 2017 Annual Report for Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training

---

1. The School of Law (“the School”) received **485** applications for its PCLL programme for the academic year 2017/2018. About **84%** of the applicants selected City University of Hong Kong (CityU) as their first choice. **248** offers were made by the School and eventually **201** students were admitted to the PCLL programme.

Among the successful applicants, **53** received UGC-funded places and **148** received non-UGC funded places. About **49%** of those UGC-funded places were given to graduates from universities in Hong Kong.

As at 26 October 2017, there were **198** students studying in the CityU PCLL programme.

The 2017/2018 PCLL programme is comprised of **43%** local graduates and **57%** graduates from overseas institutions.

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

1. The Admissions Committee began reviewing applications in March 2017 and regularly thereafter. This enabled a number of early conditional and unconditional offers to be made to academically strong applicants.
2. **33** applicants to whom conditional offers were made were unable to take up their place (most of them being unsuccessful in one or more of the Conversion Exam Board examinations). **14** 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 10 students except for some of the elective courses which are conducted as seminars or where the number of students is over 10.

### **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.

We have been working with the CityU e-learning team to implement online examinations for all courses with written examinations except Conveyancing Practice and Chinese for Legal Practice. This has been well received by course examiners and students alike.

#### **3.2 Assessment Outcomes**

2015/2016:

No. of students who failed to graduate from the PCLL programme:	1
No. of students who failed one or more subjects at first attempt and were required to take supplementary examinations:	33

2016/2017:

No. of students who failed to graduate from the PCLL programme:	0
No. of students who failed one or more subjects at first attempt and were required to take supplementary examinations:	35

### **4. Staffing**

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

In 2017/2018, 13 full-time staff and 34 part-time staff (practitioners) taught in the PCLL programme.

Many teaching staff members have taught PCLL for some time while continuing their legal 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 three courses from the following seven electives: Bar Course; Foundations in Mainland Related Legal Transactions; International Arbitration Practice; Family Law Practice; Financial Regulatory Practice; Personal Injuries Practice; and Chinese for Legal Practice.

#### Changes in 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 academic years

We added a new elective course "Chinese for Legal Practice" in 2017-18. We aim to equip students of this course with the practical Chinese drafting and Cantonese oral advocacy skills that are often required in legal practice in Hong Kong.

A standardized client interviewing component has been introduced as an experiential learning opportunity for students in the Wills and Probate Practice course. Students found the training extremely useful in terms of learning to obtain instructions from clients. We also received positive feedback from the standardized clients, who found our students well prepared and professional and courteous in their demeanor.

#### **6. The Future**

We plan to maintain our strengths and continue to assign dedicated small group rooms to our PCLL students. We also plan to recruit additional qualified practitioners to teach in the programme.

We will continue to work closely with the CityU e-learning team for the implementation of online examination and marking for all PCLL courses in the future.

#### **7. Involvement of the Profession**

We are happy to report that the profession has been very involved with the training of the CityU PCLL students. Involvement has been in the form of guest lectures and presentations on different topics; assistance in assessment; mock trials conducted in the High Court and participation in the demonstrations in various advocacy courses.

#### **8. Conclusion**

We are committed to educating and training competent lawyers to work in the Hong Kong legal market. Our focus is on the holistic development of our students. Apart from training practical skills, 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 graduating student, we hope that we are adding an asset to the legal community of Hong Kong.

We are also keen to develop lawyers with a global perspective given the importance of Hong Kong as a financial center and crossroads community. Thus, our courses train

our students to approach problem solving from different angles and 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.

Ms Stella S Leung  
PCLL Programme Director  
School of Law  
City University of Hong Kong  
February 2018

**City University of Hong Kong**  
**Juris Doctor (JD)**  
**2017 Annual Report**  
**for Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training**  
**(February 2018)**

**1. Backdrop**

The Juris Doctor (JD) 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 (“the School”) of City University of Hong Kong (CityU) covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2017. Since the part-time JD Programme was discontinued in 2010, we only offer the full-time programme to new entrants.

**2. 2017/2018 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 322 applications for admission to JD in 2017-18. The School admitted 104 students in the JD Programme in 2017-18. 67% of the admitted students hold either postgraduate or Upper Second Class Honours (or above) or equivalent degrees. Many of these admitted students completed both postgraduate and undergraduate programmes. The intake quality of students admitted to the JD Programme in 2017-18 has been stable.

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 2017, the JD Admissions Scholarship was continued to be awarded to students with outstanding academic performances. We offered a higher amount of scholarship of HK\$100,000 for up to 5 recipients. In 2017-18, there were 2 award recipients. The number of Admission Scholarship will be increased to 7 for the 2018 intake.

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: 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 offered 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 Comparative Constitutional Law: Rights Discourse in Asia, Law and Religion, Class Actions and Collective Redress, Advanced Remedies for Breach of Contract, The Theory and Practice of Copyright Law: Comparative and Doctrinal Dimensions 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 the 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 teaching staff. We shall keep students informed regarding the offering of 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 CityU'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. The specialised area, if elected by a student, will appear on the transcript.

#### 4. Teaching and Learning

The School promotes active and interactive learning. 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 format called "SYL" with the incorporation of 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 Director 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, Bergen University, Liège University, Emory University, Maine University, University of San Francisco, William & Mary Law School, Case Western Reserve University, Montreal University, Mannheim 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 2 incoming postgraduate exchange students in Semester B 2016-17 and 1 incoming postgraduate exchange student in Semester A 2017-18 from universities in Switzerland and Mainland China. The School sent



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

We enter into an agreement with Sun Yat-Sen University which provides opportunity for their students to study in our JD Programme.

## **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 mooting teams have earned world-class reputation winning approximately 10 world championships in 8 years.

### ***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 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 Summer 2017, 43 JD students participated in Legal Placement in Hong Kong and 2 students joined the Mainland Legal Placement. One JD student was selected to participate in the internship at the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva between June and August 2017. The internship with the UN bodies is highly sought after and very competitive. Students were asked to write a motivation letter. Shortlisted students were required to attend an interview.

### ***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 obtain a global perspective in the study of law. In the summer of 2017, 11 JD students took a law course "Australian Corporations Law" at Monash University and 14 students studied a course "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 Belgrade, Serbia to offer an opportunity for the School students to write an independent research paper in a structured environment involving seminar presentations. 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. 5 JD students took part in the programme which was held during May-June 2017.

## ***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. 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. It ranks 16th among Asian Law Journals on the W & L law journal ranking scheme, which is highly competitive with other top rated faculty edited law journals and superior to many quality journals in the UK, China, Japan, Korea, Australia, US, the Netherlands and Singapore.

### **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 handle all kinds of enquiries and compile 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 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 to offer an excellent global learning environment to our students. In the coming years, the School aims to offer more elective courses and explore more overseas learning opportunities.

Dr Mark Kielsgard  
JD Programme Director  
School of Law  
City University of Hong Kong  
February 2018

# Annexure 4

## The Chinese University of Hong Kong Faculty of Law

### Report on the LLB Programme (Reporting period: January to December 2017)

#### 1. Admissions

The LLB programme has an annual admission quota of 79 with effect from 2016. For 2017 intake, the University also gave an additional 9 Strategic Admission quota to the LLB Programme. The actual number of students admitted was 80 students (including 45 JUPAS students, 29 non-JUPAS students, and 6 mainland students) for the 2017 intake. Among the 29 non-JUPAS students, two were non-local students from South Korea and Zimbabwe.

As in previous years, the quality of JUPAS students admitted in 2017 was excellent. 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) Business Taxation: Principles and Practice*; *ii) Climate Change and the Law*; and *iii) New Ventures Legal Clinic*.

#### 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 Faculty continues to identify further exchange partners and encourage our students to participate in exchange schemes. In response to student demand for increased faculty-level exchanges in common law jurisdictions, the Faculty is currently finalizing standard exchange agreements with Osgoode Hall Law School and with Durham University. 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 2016-17 academic year, CUHK sent teams to participate in the Jessup, Vis, Red Cross, and ICC Moots.

The moot teams continued to excel in 2017. For instance, the team was awarded honourable mention (top 10%) for oral advocacy and honourable mention (top 10%) for Claimant's Memorandum and for Respondent's Memorandum at the Vis (East) International Commercial Arbitration Law Moot. The team won the prize for Best Memorial (Prosecution) at the 15<sup>th</sup> Red Cross International Humanitarian Law Moot Competition. Also, the team advanced to the quarter-final rounds of the International Criminal Court Moot and ranked 7<sup>th</sup> out of 76 teams.

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. A new "staff-student consultative committee" was established in 2017 to allow students to engage in conversations with one another as well as with teaching staff regarding their concerns about all aspects of their studies and university life. The Faculty will continue to work closely with our students to aid independent learning and ensure the best learning environment.

There is 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 2017 in which various initiatives for Teaching and Learning were discussed and approved, including a teaching mentoring scheme for colleagues. The Faculty will organize a conference focused on legal pedagogy in the summer of 2018, following on the Conference on Teaching and Learning in Law – "Directions in Legal Education" held on 3-4 June 2016. 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 118,600 volumes and has 79 current print journal titles and access to 3,718 electronic law journals. There are 106 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, so that access to required texts, cases and articles is available to all students whenever required, regardless of where they are located.

## **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 87% of our LLB graduates who applied for the PCLL programme at CUHK were admitted in 2017. Those not joining the PCLL programme pursued other postgraduate programmes in Hong Kong or abroad or had other career plans.

Stuart Hargreaves  
Assistant Dean (Undergraduate Studies) and LLB Programme Director  
Faculty of Law  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

February 2017

**Faculty of Law**  
**The Chinese University of Hong Kong**

**Report on the PCLL Programme**  
**(Reporting Period: January – December 2017)**

**2016/2017 PCLL Programme**

**1. Admission and Completion Rates of the 2016 Graduating Class**

In the 2016 intake, we admitted 177 students to the PCLL. One student was approved to defer studies to 2017/18 due to illness. The remaining 176 students successfully completed the PCLL. A number of students failed courses but were permitted by the Assessment Panel to sit reassessments: a total of 10 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 2016/2017 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 electives, marked with asterisks. These 3 electives were not 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. Throughout all of 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 2016/17 had a diverse student body. Of the 177 students admitted, 149 held local law qualifications while 28 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)	20	77	97
BA in Law	5	0	5
Juris Doctor (JD)	1	72	73
Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL)	2	0	2

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 many volunteers from the judiciary and the professions. By way of example, in our Trial Advocacy course in May 2017 we had 21 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 66 students on the course and 4 students participating as advocates in each trial. We required 16 persons to act as judges, whom we invited from the judiciary and the professions.

In addition as part of the Trial Advocacy course we staged a demonstration of trial before a magistrate in Cantonese. This involved a senior Magistrate and members of the Bar acting as the advocates.

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. The teaching staff and the students greatly appreciate it.



## **6. Placement of the 2017 Graduates**

Notwithstanding our short history, our graduates in all nine years have been consistently placed in all areas of the legal profession following graduation. Our placement survey results comprise 148 student responses out of 176 graduates of the 2016/2017 cohort. The results show that over 85% 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.

### **2017/2018 PCLL Programme**

#### **1. Admissions of the 2017/2018 Class**

The Faculty received 306 applications to read for the PCLL in the academic year 2017/18. The Faculty made 174 offers. Of the 174 candidates to whom the Faculty made offers, 165 accepted and 9 declined. Of those accepting the offers, 162 were able to satisfy all of the conditions and register on the PCLL. Including the student who was approved to defer admission till 2017/18, the 2017/2018 PCLL intake will, accordingly, comprise 163 candidates.

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 43 students enrolled.

#### **Looking ahead**

We have introduced a new elective course "Personal Injuries Practice" in 2017/18. This is a Bar Elective course. The response from the students has been very encouraging. 75 students have enrolled to take the course.

#### **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 nine successful PCLLs to build upon and aim to make the 2017/2018 PCLL better still.

Christopher Knight  
PCLL Programme Director  
Faculty of Law  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

February 2018

# The Chinese University of Hong Kong Juris Doctor Programme

## 2017-2018 Report to the Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training

### 1. Background

The Juris Doctor (JD) is a graduate entry programme. The Chinese University of Hong Kong's Faculty of Law designed and offered it as a 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 CUHK Faculty of Law 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).

The Faculty of Law examines the JD Programme as a graduate programme. Students thus must perform to graduate standards.

### 3. Admission requirements

The Faculty of Law required applicants for admission to the 2017-18 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 have satisfied 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 are set out below). It offers all subjects that the Hong Kong legal professions stipulate as pre-requisites for admission 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. Alternatively, 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 (although students may, in exceptional circumstances, apply to accelerate their studies and complete the Programme in 36 months on the Faculty of Law's recommendation and with the Graduate Council's permission). 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 become Hong Kong-qualified barristers or solicitors must pursue particular courses mandated by the Hong Kong legal professions. Passing these courses entitles students to apply for admission to the PCLL programme. These courses are also open to students who do not plan to apply for the PCLL.

In addition to the five required courses, the Faculty of Law offers JD 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.

## 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 ones are offered depends on teacher availability and sufficient student interest), including for example:

- Business and the Law in Hong Kong
- Chinese Civil Law
- 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
- 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 Principles and Practice
- International Legal Advocacy
- International Taxation
- Issues in Contract
- Issues in Human Rights
- Issues in International Law
- Law of International Business Transactions I
- Law of International Business Transactions II
- 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
- 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 2017-18 academic year, the programme received 753 applications meeting minimum admission requirements (460 applications for full-time mode and 293 applications for part-time mode). The admission requirements in section 3, above, are minimum requirements. In the 2017-2018 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 and diverse mixture of well-educated fresh graduates and seasoned professionals who have already achieved considerable success in their fields. In 2017 the Faculty of Law admitted 205 students, these being the top segment of applicants.

No. of applications received for academic year 2017-2018 (full-time mode)	460
No. of students admitted for academic year 2017-2018 (full-time mode)	130

No. of applications received for academic year 2017-2018 (part-time mode)	293
No. of students admitted for academic year 2017-2018 (part-time mode)	75

All JD students the Faculty of Law admitted in 2017-2018 hold at least an Upper 2<sup>nd</sup> bachelor's degree or a credit master's degree (or equivalent):

Band 1	27.8% (57)
Band 2	22.4% (46)
Band 3	49.8% (102)
Total	100% (205)

Band 1: 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 qualifications such as and from the Australian and New Zealand Institute of Insurance and Finance (ANZIIF), Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist (CAMS), Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA), Certified Facility Manager (CFM), Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Commercial Pilot License (CPL), Chartered Alternative Investment Analyst (CAIA), Chartered Engineers (CEng), Financial Risk Manager (FRM), Hong Kong Commercial Pilot's License (HKCPL), Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) and Project Management Professional (PMP).

Some students are members of professional bodies. These include Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Marketing (FCIM), Fellow of Chartered Professional Accountants (FCPA), Professional Insurance Brokers Association (PIBA); or registered professional in various disciplines for instance in medical and engineering. Some of our students are already in prominent management positions, such as VPs, Directors or Heads at companies such as Neo-Criterion Capital Limited, CTC Groupe, HSBC, Haitong International Securities Limited Company, China Hanya Asset Management, Churchill Finance Limited and Goldman Sachs (Asia) LLC.

In 2017 the Faculty of Law and the CUHK Business School jointly introduced the BBA-JD Double Degree Programme. The BBA-JD Programme admitted 20 students in its first intake. Students in the BBA-JD Programme will need to achieve a second upper class honours in

their BBA to be eligible to enrol in the JD Programme in 2021. The Faculty will report the actual number of BBA-JD students enrolled in the JD Programme in 2021.

## **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 123,300 volumes and has 80 print journal titles and access to 3,695 electronic law journals. There are 109 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. The GLC's location in Central has proven ideal for organizing events with practitioners in the legal profession. Throughout the year, the JD students benefit from a wide offering of talks, information sessions and other events with prominent law firms, barrister's chambers, as well as members of the judiciary, government departments and other members of the legal industry.

## **8. Programme Review Panel, May 2017**

In May 2017 the Faculty of Law conducted an internal programme review in accordance with the CUHK's quality assurance requirements for all taught programmes under the "Integrated Framework for Curriculum Development and Review: II. Taught Postgraduate Programmes". The Panel consisted of members of the Faculty of Law who were not involved in the delivery of the programme and academic staff from outside the Faculty.

Having reviewed the JD Programme in detail, the Panel concluded that:

The Review Panel has found the overall quality of the JD Programme to be excellent and the Programme Management Team should be congratulated on their efforts and achievements. The Review Panel acknowledges that the Programme has been extremely successful in its 10-year history. The Review Panel trusts that the Programme will continue to build on its achievements and show even greater success in the future.

## **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.

Some JD students will choose to continue their studies at the PCLL Programme. In 2017-18, 118 JD graduates applied for admission to the CUHK PCLL Programme and 68% of them were successful in their applications. 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 2018



# 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

February 2018

The Department is now back to the normal track, with the double cohort of the LLB degree programme ending in 2016 and the double cohort of our three double-degree programmes ending in 2017. The Department has continued to make efforts to provide high-quality teaching for our students, and is glad to report satisfactory progress.

#### **Admissions 2017-2018**

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

A total of 99 students were admitted into the undergraduate programmes: 66 through the JUPAS scheme; 26 through the non-JUPAS admissions process; and 7 through Mainland recruitment.

In addition, 144 students were admitted to the three mixed-degree programmes: BBA(Law) & LLB – 67; BSocSc (Govt & Laws) & LLB – 50; and BA (Literary Studies) & LLB – 27.

All these programmes continue to achieve outstanding admission quality.

JD admissions figures continue to be strong. We admitted 47 students from over 270 applications. Student profiles are diverse, with 29 fresh graduates and 18 with work experience.

#### **Exchange**

We have been able to accommodate the demand of students for exchange opportunities in the past few years. Current figures for out-going law students comprise 103 students, undertaking studies in 14 countries, mostly in the UK (44), Canada (23), and USA (9).

## **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 successfully recruited a full-time Lecturer in Human Rights Experiential Learning, which will further strengthen our student experiential learning programme. A Working Group on Experiential Learning was established to study how to further develop experiential teaching and learning for our students.

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 Department has continued to take steps to implement the proposals in the Report of the Review Panel for our JD programme in the last review. The JD programme is actively preparing for the upcoming internal review next year.

## **Career Advice**

The current in-house Career Development Manager is leaving by end of this semester, 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. The Faculty has been conducting an active search for professional staff at different levels. It is expected that the current round of recruitment will end in two months' time and that the new staff will be able to join the Department before the start of the new academic year.

## **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 2017**

### Overview

1. The first cohort of secondary school graduates (A-level and DSE) admitted to read the 4-year LLB in 2012/13 passed through the PCLL in the middle of the calendar year. In September 2017, we welcomed on board the second (and final) double cohort. Again, 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 remained steady. The transition at the HKU PCLL, so far, has been smooth and least disruptive.

### Assessments and examination results 2016/17

2. 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%. The pass rate after the supplementary exams in August increased to over 99%. The only part-time student who cannot proceed to Year 2 was absent from the supplementary examinations due to illness. Among a total of 380 full-time and part-time Year 2 students in 2016/17, the Board of Examiners awarded overall distinction to the top 10% of the cohort. The top three students are HKU mixed-degree LLB graduates.

### Admissions 2017/18

3. There were over 1,000 applications from 717 individual applicants, of which 640 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.
4. The number of PCLL students admitted in September 2017 was 325 to the full-time course and 92 to the part-time course. Our PCLL Academic Board approved, at its meeting in April 2017, to increase the maximum number of discretionary part-time places based on a balance of candidates' legal knowledge and full-time working experience from 10 to 15. After interviewing 24 candidates, we admitted 13 of them and we are monitoring closely their progress.
5. The additional UGC-funded PCLL places to HKU for the second double cohort is 45. We continued to allocate the government-funded full-time places, all on merit. Because of the overall exceptionally high quality of the pool of applicants, we sought special approval from the University for a few additional UGC-funded places. Apart from the 45 additional places earmarked for HKU mixed degree LLB graduates, about 80% 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.
6. About 80% (261 out of 325) of the full-time intake held a HKU law degree (including JD). The proportion in the part-time programme was much lower, just 29% (27 out of 92). The remaining places in the part-time PCLL were mainly filled with graduates with the

London International LLB and Common Professional Examination operated by MMU/SPACE or UK providers.

### Curriculum and teaching

7. Mr. Justice Anderson Chow, the Chief External Examiner, gave his second comprehensive report on the 2016/17 programme. He raised no concerns that require attention. Indeed, he commended that HKU 'has put in place a well structured and appropriate PCLL course for the students intending to enter the legal profession in Hong Kong and the assessments have been carried out in a consistent and professional manner.'
8. HKU has been looking proactively for opportunities and ways to further improve our PCLL and share our teaching and learning initiatives and experiences with the other two PCLL providers, as well as our external examiners from the Law Society of Hong Kong. One of those initiatives is by way of interviewing 'standardized clients' who are lay to law (SC interview).
9. The SC interview has become a part of the assessment in one of the core course, namely Civil Litigation, and three electives: Wills Trusts and Estate Planning (WTEP), Employment Law and Practice (ELP) and Use of Chinese in Legal Practice (UCLP). This means that every HKU PCLL student has at least an opportunity to practise with and be assessed by a lay person on his or her communicative competence. 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.
10. The external examiner of Civil Litigation came to visit the standardized interviews in November 2017. He was impressed with the way in which the interviews were run and the standardized clients who carried out their tasks. He commended that the clients were very conscientious and had been welltrained with good consistency with the way in which the sessions were carried out. He acknowledged that the SC interview would be of assistance to the students and it was good to see each of the clients providing the students with feedback at the end. He observed seven of those interviews and felt the students he saw were conscientious, had done their homework and knew the materials. The external examiner of WTEP visited both the client training and students' practice in February 2018. He was particularly impressed by the quality of the training and the enthusiasm of the clients. He considered the SC interview beneficial to students.
11. We introduced the SC interview, shared our experience and indeed offered our assistance to the other two PCLL providers. CUHK PCLL has a similar programme in two of its electives. We are given to understand that they are considering adopting the SC interview in taking instructions for drafting a will and civil and criminal litigation. With assistance from our clients for whom we organized and conducted the training, CityU PCLL had its inaugural SC interview in their Probate Practice course in September/October 2017. Same as ours, feedback from students there was very positive.
12. In 2017/18, Listed Companies became the most popular elective course again, followed by China Practice and Commercial Dispute Resolution. Around 120 students, full-time and part-time, opted for Trial Advocacy.

## Looking ahead

13. We responded to both the interim review report commissioned by the Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training (SCLET) and the Law Society's syllabi and standards on their proposed Common Entrance Examination (CEE). It is our firm belief that a "joint enterprise" of stakeholders, in particular, of the PCLL providers and the professional bodies will be the key to further and better legal education and training in Hong Kong. Indeed, the respective PCLL Academic Boards of the providers have been performing this role. Nevertheless, we are more than willing to use our best endeavour to contribute to improve the system as reasonably recommended by SCLET in its forthcoming final review report, through which issues and concerns, real or perceived, in all aspects of the PCLL from admissions to assessments would be ironed out, deliberated and resolved in a way which will serve the public interest and avoid any double (or even multiple) jeopardy to students. 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, and with our counterparts for the PCLLs in Hong Kong.

Wilson Chow  
Head, Department of Professional Legal Education  
Faculty of Law, The University of Hong Kong  
March 2018

## Annexure 6

### Key Statistics of the 2017/18 LLB, JD and PCLL Programmes of City University of Hong Kong The Chinese University of Hong Kong The University of Hong Kong

	<b>City University of Hong Kong</b>	<b>The Chinese University of Hong Kong</b>	<b>The University of Hong Kong</b>
No. of Admissions to the LLB Programme	66 (43 JUPAS students, 17 Non-JUPAS students, 6 Mainland students)	80 (45 JUPAS students, 29 Non-JUPAS students, 6 Mainland students)	99 (66 JUPAS students, 26 Non-JUPAS students, 7 Mainland students)
No. of Admissions to the JD Programme	104	130 (full-time) 75 (part-time)	47
No. of Admissions to the PCLL Programme	201	163	325 (full-time) 92 (part-time)
No. of Admissions to the Double Law Degree Programmes	N/A	N/A	67 (BBA (Law) & LLB)  50 (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.  
(from November 2011 to August 2017)  
Mr. Nicholas CHAN Hiu-fung, M.H.  
(from August 2017)  
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  
(from June 2009 to August 2017)  
Mr. Christopher KNIGHT  
(from August 2017)  
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 Hon Madam Justice POON
- 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
- Ms. Stella LEUNG Suk-yee  
City University of Hong Kong
- Mr. Richard MORRIS  
(from June 2009 to August 2017)  
Mr. Christopher KNIGHT  
(from August 2017)  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- Secretary** : Dr. John CRIBBIN  
HKU School of Professional and Continuing Education