Hong Kong maintains a distinction between barristers and solicitors. The essential nature of the difference is as follows:

- Solicitors have more direct contact with clients and undertake mainly transactional work; they have some rights of audience in lower courts.
- Barristers are litigators; they act as advocates in the superior courts.

A law student who has obtained a P.C.LL. and wishes to practice as a solicitor begins as a trainee solicitor and must satisfactorily complete a two-year employment period, also known as a training contract. He or she is then eligible for admission to the bar of Hong Kong as a solicitor.

A law student who has obtained a P.C.LL. and wishes to practice as a barrister begins as a trainee barrister and must undertake a pupillage for 12 months, during the last six months of which the student may apply for limited practice. A pupillage is similar to articling or an apprenticeship, during which the student gains practical experience.

For more information, visit:

- [http://www.hklawsoc.org.hk/pub_e/default.asp](http://www.hklawsoc.org.hk/pub_e/default.asp) - The Hong Kong Law Society is the professional association for solicitors in Hong Kong.
- [http://www.hkba.org/](http://www.hkba.org/) - The Hong Kong Bar Association is the professional association for barristers.