

**THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG  
LAW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR THE PERIOD

FROM DECEMBER 2006 TO NOVEMBER 2007

During the report period, Executive Committee of the Association has held 7 meetings. Below is a brief account of the work done and activities during the period.

***The University***

In November 2007, the Association joined in with other local and offshore alumni chapters of The University to congratulate The University in being ranked as the 18th in the world by Times Higher Education Supplement “World University Rankings 2007” by placing advertisements in various newspapers such as Ming Pao and South China Morning Post.

***The Faculty***

1. On 9 June 2007, a drinks party was held in the High Court by the Faculty for PCLL students. Members of the Association were invited to attend the party and to mingle with the students. The Honourable Mr Justice Patrick Chan kindly said a few words to the students to mark the happy occasion.
2. On 22 June 2007, the President, the Honorary Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer attended a luncheon at Hang Seng Penthouse for “Countdown to the Centenary: III” in which, inter alia, Professor Lap-Chee Tsui, Mr Jack So and Professor John Malpas gave updates on centennial campus which is expected to be completed in 2011.
3. On 31 August 2007, the President attended the LLB Opening Ceremony 2007-2008 held at Rayson Huang Theatre, Runme Shaw Building and also addressed the Class of 2011.
4. On 1 September 2007, the President attended the PCLL Opening Ceremony held at Rayson Huang Theatre, Runme Shaw Building.
5. On 17 November 2007, the President attended the 2007 Graduation Ceremony for Bachelor of Laws Graduates held at Loke Yew Hall and participated in the Procession.

***The Association***

1. *Informal Gatherings with Alumni*
  - Current members of the Executive Committee and friends of the Association attended a dinner organized by Professor Johannes Chan on 13 March 2007 when former President Mr Kenneth Kwok, S.C. was formally thanked for his leadership and contribution during his presidency.

<http://www.hku.hk/law/community/dinner07.pdf>

- On 12 October 2007, an Evening Drinks Party was held at the Helena May. More than 40 attended consisting of members of the Executive Committee of the Association, alumni and previous mentors of the Law Mentorship Programme. It was an excellent opportunity for junior members of the legal profession to get to know senior members of the legal profession.

## 2. *Talk and Workshop for Current Students*

The “First Day in Legal Practice” talk was held on 26 March 2007. Ms Josephine Tjia, Mr Henry Ma and Mr Lewis Law generously shared their experience of their first day at work with 26 law students.

[http://www.hku.hk/law/community/file/report\\_190407\\_02.pdf](http://www.hku.hk/law/community/file/report_190407_02.pdf)

## 3. *Job Interview Workshop*

- The Job Interview Workshop was held on Monday, 24 September 2007. Preparation work by members of the Executive Committee of the Association began several weeks before with evening discussion sessions with the 3 experienced alumni who have kindly agreed to conduct the mock interviews, Ms Au Miu Po, Her Honour Judge Mimmie Chan and Mr Simon Ip Shing Hing. 149 students attended the workshop, which was conducted in three parts. The President said a few words to the students before the start of workshop. Ms Cissy Leung, member of the Executive Committee of the Association, then shared with students on the preparations and the “dos” and “don’ts” for a job interview. Two individual mock interviews were then conducted by Ms Au Miu Po, Her Honour Judge Mimmie Chan and Mr Simon Ip Shing Hing. A group interview of three law students was then conducted. Finally Ms Cissy Leung and the guest interviewers gave their feedback on the mock interviews and a Q & A session followed for all the students there. To prepare for the workshop, students were instructed to apply to a hypothetical employer, Messrs. Woo, Kwan, Lee & Lo, for a trainee position.
- In response of the feedback of last year, for the first time, a follow-up session was introduced this year. It took place on 8 October 2007 and 21 students attended. The students were separated into various groups for interviews - 9 Alumni including members of the Executive Committee attended to conduct and participate in the group interviews.

[http://www.hku.hk/law/community/file/Job\\_Interview\\_Workshop\\_2007\\_Report.pdf](http://www.hku.hk/law/community/file/Job_Interview_Workshop_2007_Report.pdf)

## 4. *Law Mentorship Programme*

The Law Mentorship Programme started on 4 October 2007 with a Briefing Session for the students who have applied for the programme. A total of 315 students attended the Briefing Session. The President said a few words at the Briefing Session reminding the students, inter alia, of the generosity of the mentors in giving their time to the Programme. The total number of mentees selected is 219. Mentorship dinners were then held on the evenings of the 29, 30 and 31 October and 1 November 2007 respectively. The Faculty Development

Officer's report on the Mentorship Programme was received on 16 November 2007. Please see the report in Appendix I below.

5. *Charitable Organization*

The HKU Law Alumni Charity Limited, a section 88 charitable body under the Inland Revenue Ordinance, Cap. 112, received a further donation this year.

December 2007

**Report on the Mentorship Programme 2007-2008**

**Introduction**

The Law Mentorship Programme 2007-2008 is the fifth mentorship programme since its first launch in October 2002. The Law Mentorship Programme (“the Programme”) is jointly organized by the Faculty of Law and The University of Hong Kong Law Alumni Association (“the Law Alumni Association”). It aims to provide law students with the opportunity to meet legal practitioners and judges and to enhance their educational, social and personal growth through a supportive relationship with their mentors. Over the years, the Law Alumni Association has provided tremendous support and assistance in the organization and running of the Programme, particularly in engaging the support of members of the profession and the Judiciary, many of whom are our alumni.

For the academic year 2007-2008, 103 mentors and 219 mentees participated in the Programme. To initiate the first contact between the mentors and their mentees, the Faculty and the Law Alumni Association organized the Mentorship Dinners on 29 October, 30 October, 31 October and 1 November 2007. It is expected that the mentees will take the initiative to organize at least one more gathering before end of March 2008. It is also hoped that apart from these two gatherings, individual mentees and their mentors can develop further relationship through other communications or meetings.

**1. Purposes of the programme**

- To provide an opportunity for law students to learn more about the careers in the legal profession
- To enhance personal development of students through interaction with their mentors
- To enable members of the legal profession to understand more about the life of law students nowadays

**2. Recruitment**

*Recruitment of Students*

The total number of applicants for the academic year 2007 – 2008 is 358. Out of these applications, 316 students had attended the Briefing Session on 4 October 2007 and mentees were selected from students who had attended the Briefing Session. Priority was given to PCLL students and students who were rejected in the previous year. The total number of mentees selected is 219.

Please see Annex 2 for the profile of mentees.

*Recruitment of Mentors*

Invitation letters were sent out to all mentors who have participated in previous years, alumni and practitioners who were unable to participate in previous years on 24 September 2007. By about end of October 2007, 103 mentors have confirmed their participation .

Please see Annex 3 for the profile of the mentors.

### **3. The Briefing Session**

A briefing session on the Programme for interested students was held on 4 October 2007 in T2 of the Meng Wah Complex. The Briefing Session started at 6:30 pm and Dr. Richard Wu was the MC of the session. The following mentors and mentees shared their experience and thoughts about the Programme. The session was well received by the students. Our sincere thanks to the following speakers for their sharing at the session:

Master S Kwang of the High Court (LLB 1985)

Mr. Albert da Rosa (LLB 1977)

Mr. Martin Hui (LLB 1994)

Mr. Kelvin Kwok (BBA(Law)3)

Mr. Dick Yeung (LLB4)

Ms Lucy Yen, President of the Law Alumni Association, attended the Briefing Session and addressed our students. The briefing session concluded at about 7:45 pm and most of the students stayed for the whole session.

### **4. The Mentorship Dinners**

#### *Dates and Venues*

4 nights were scheduled for the Mentorship Dinners: 29 October, 30 October, 31 October and 1 November 2007. The Mentorship Dinners took place at the Joseph's at the Graduate House of the University campus.

#### *Pre-dinner briefing to Mentors*

On each of the four nights, Mentors first gathered in Room KK303 (the Moot Court) for a pre-dinner briefing session. The Dean, Professor Johannes Chan, Mr. Michael Jackson, Head of the Department of Law and Professor Michael Wilkinson took turns to brief the mentors attending the mentorship dinners. The briefing to Mentors covered the mainly the following points:-

- Acknowledging support of the Mentors
- The objectives of the Programme
- The pairing arrangement
- Possible follow-up activities
- The role of students in initiating subsequent gatherings

#### *Pre-dinner briefing to Mentees*

Ms Karen Kong and Ms Agnes Cheng took turns to brief our students on the four evenings. The briefing to mentees mainly covered the Dos and Don'ts on the part of mentees, including matters in relation to the dinner, follow-up activities and communication with mentors etc..

### *Pre-dinner speech*

During the dinners on the four nights, the following alumni gave speeches based on their own chosen topics:-

| <b>Date</b>     | <b>Speaker</b>                             |
|-----------------|--|
| 29 October 2007 | Ms Amy Liu (LLB 1972, PCLL 1973)           |
| 30 October 2007 | Judge David Lok(LLB 1987 , PCLL 1988)      |
| 31 October 2007 | Mr. Gilbert Mo (LLB 1984, PCLL 1985)       |
| 1 November 2007 | Mr. Anderson Chow, SC(LLB 1986, PCLL 1987) |

Ms Lucy Yen, President of the Law Alumni Association, attended the Mentorship Dinners on all of the four evenings. On the first evening, Ms Yen attended the Mentorship Dinner in her capacity as both the President of the Law Alumni Association and as a Mentor. On the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> evenings, Ms Yen attended the pre-dinner speeches and said a few words on behalf of the Law Alumni Association to thank all mentors. She also reminded the mentees to be appreciative of this wonderful opportunity and the generosity of the mentors in giving their time to the Programme. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> evening, in response to Mr. Gilbert Mo's speech, Ms Yen stressed the importance of maintaining Hong Kong as an international financial centre and the essential role of the rule of law.

### **5. Comment from the Mentors and Mentees**

Mentors were reminded at the pre-dinner briefing session to complete the evaluation forms (which were provided to them in their information kits) and return to the Law Faculty before June 2008. An email attaching an evaluation form will be sent to all mentees in late November 2007 requesting the representative of each group to complete and return the interim evaluation form to the Faculty of Law before 15 December 2007.

### **6. Suggestions on improvement**

New issues have arisen in the preparation of this year's Mentorship Programme and I would like to set out for Exco member's consideration:-

#### *Selection of Mentees*

The number of mentors have remained at about 100-130 in previous years. Priority is given to PCLL students and final year law students, and then to students who were rejected in the previous year.

Invitations were not sent to first year students for this year's programme. There are two reasons for this. Under the new curriculum reform, LLB students will have another 3 years plus the PCLL year if they are interested in joining the Mentorship Programme. Secondly, some mentors in previous years have commented that first year students (especially the double degree students) have difficulty understanding legal issues. This is because first year double degree students study very few law subjects in their first year and they may have difficulty following the discussion of the mentors.

Looking at the profile of mentees for this year, about 92 applicants are PCLL students or students who have been rejected in the previous year. The remaining places are then filled by

fresh applicants or returning mentees. There are about 30 fresh applicants (who are all second year students) who are unable to join this year's programme. It is suggested that for next year's programme, they should have priority over returning mentees. The number of returning mentees account for the majority of applicants. This year there are 93 returning mentees. If all returning mentees are excluded, the pool of mentees will be significantly smaller.

The number of part-time PCLL students have increased in recent years. Some students who are unable to secure places in the full-time mode have to enroll in the part-time mode even though they are not actually working. In the past, applications were only open to full-time students. Exco members may wish to consider whether the programme should also be open to part-time students in the future.

*Choice of topics for pre-dinner speeches*

Exco members may also wish to consider whether speakers for the Mentorship Dinners should be given specific topics and briefing before hand.

*Prepared by  
Agnes Cheng  
Faculty Development Officer*

## Annex 1

### Work Schedule for the Law Mentorship Programme 2007-2008

#### Key Dates

|  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Dispatch of invitation letters to Mentors: | 24 September 2007                    |
| Dispatch of invitation letters to Mentees: | 24 September 2007                    |
| Briefing session to students:              | 4 October 2007                       |
| Deadline for reply by students:            | 8 October 2007                       |
| Deadline for reply by mentors:             | 8 October 2007                       |
| Dates of the Mentorship Dinners:           | 29, 30, 31 October & 1 November 2007 |

#### Statistics

|                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Total no. of mentors:        | 103 |
| Total no. of mentees:        | 219 |
| New mentors:                 | 12  |
| No. of mentors (29/10/2007): | 32  |
| No. of mentees (29/10/2007): | 69  |
| No. of mentors (30/10/2007): | 22  |
| No. of mentees (30/10/2007): | 44  |
| No. of mentors (31/10/2007): | 14  |
| No. of mentees (31/10/2007): | 29  |
| No. of mentors (1/11/2007):  | 35  |
| No. of mentees (1/11/2007):  | 77  |

#### No. of participants in the past and current year

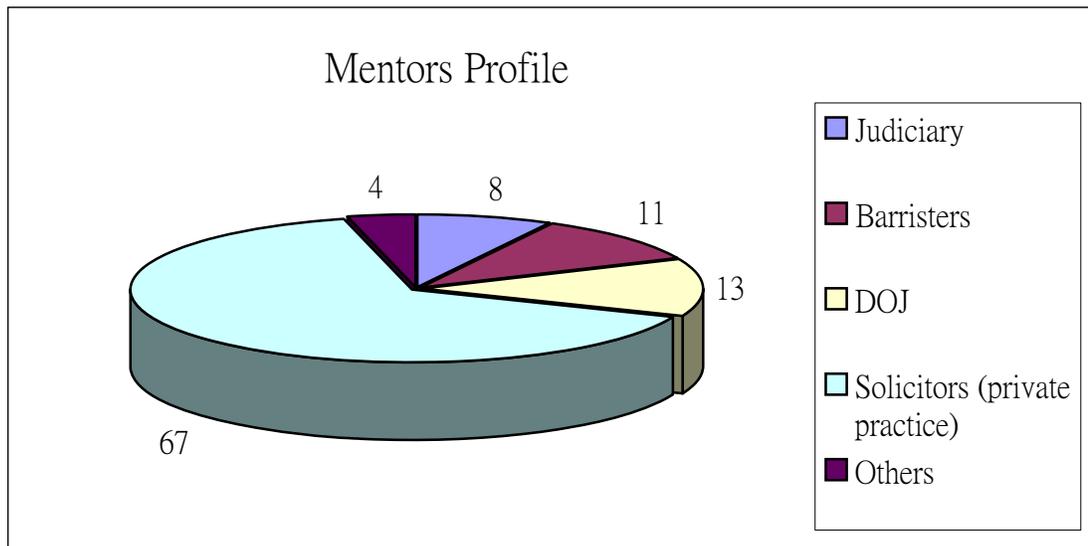
| Participants / Year | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2005-06 | 2006-2007 | 2007-2008 |
|---------------------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| Mentors             | 114     | 118     | 135     | 137       | 103       |
| Mentees             | 454     | 241     | 315     | 293       | 219       |

## Annex 2 – Mentees Profile

| <b>Year</b>        | <b>No.</b> | <b>%</b> |
|--------------------|------------|----------|
| PCLL               | 63         | 28.77    |
| LLB 4              | 19         | 8.68     |
| Mixed Degree LLB 4 | 19         | 8.68     |
| LLB 3              | 26         | 11.87    |
| LLB 2              | 50         | 22.83    |
| BBA III            | 20         | 9.13     |
| BBA II             | 7          | 3.20     |
| BEng II            | 2          | 0.91     |
| BSS III            | 6          | 2.74     |
| BSS II             | 7          | 3.20     |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>219</b> |          |

### Annex 3 - Mentors Profile

|                               |            |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| Judiciary                     | 8          |
| Barristers                    | 11         |
| DOJ                           | 13         |
| Solicitors (private practice) | 67         |
| Others                        | 4          |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>103</b> |



- Total number of mentors is 103