

# *Annual Report*

*for the period from 2 September 2008  
to 31 December 2009*



HONG KONG  
ACADEMY of LAW  
香港法律專業學會

## Aims

Hong Kong Academy of Law Limited (“Academy”) was incorporated on 2 September 2008 as a company limited by guarantee and its charitable status was confirmed by the Inland Revenue Department shortly after its incorporation.

The Academy is promoted by The Law Society of Hong Kong and is wholly dedicated to reaching out and promoting law to the local and international communities through public education and training.

The main aims of the Academy are:

- (a) to raise public awareness of the rule of law and other core values of the legal profession;
- (b) to enhance public interest in the learning of law and to promote law as a “public profession”;
- (c) to nurture social awareness of the connection between law and other community development; and
- (d) to provide pathway guidance to law students and quality development programmes for the profession.

## Inauguration

On 23 October 2008, the Hong Kong Academy of Law was officially inaugurated by Patron of the Academy, the Honourable Chief Justice Mr Andrew Li, the Honourable Secretary for Justice Mr Wong Yan Lung and the Chairman of the Academy and Immediate Past President of the Law Society of Hong Kong, Mr Lester Huang.



*(From left to right) The Honourable Secretary for Justice Mr Wong Yan Lung, the Chairman of the Academy Mr Lester Huang and Patron of the Academy, the Honourable Chief Justice Mr Andrew Li at the Inauguration Ceremony of the Academy on 23 October 2008.*



*The Honourable Chief Justice Mr Andrew Li, the Honourable Secretary for Justice Mr Wong Yan Lung and Mr Justice Anthony Kennedy celebrating the inauguration of the Academy with the Executive Committee of the Academy on 23 October 2008  
(From left to right: Mr Dieter Yih, Mr Ip Shing Hing, Mr Huen Wong, Secretary for Justice Mr Wong Yan Lung, Chief Justice Mr Andrew Li, Mr Lester Huang, Mr Justice Anthony Kennedy, Mr Billy Ma, Mr Michael Lintern-Smith and Mr Raymond Ho)*

## Rule of law

To celebrate the inauguration of the Academy and to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Academy offered a free public seminar on “Human Rights and The Rule of Law” on 24 October 2008. The seminar was led by a Panel of distinguished speakers, namely,

- Mr Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States
- The Hon Mr Justice Stock, Justice of Appeal of the Court of Appeal of the High Court
- Mr Jeffrey Lehman, Chancellor and Founding Dean of the Peking University School of Transnational Law
- Ms Gladys Li, Senior Counsel
- Mr William S Clarke, Solicitor, member of Constitutional Affairs Committee of the Law Society of Hong Kong

The seminar was very well received and about 200 participants attended.

With the consent of the speakers, the seminar has been recorded and the speeches are posted on the Academy’s website freely accessible to the public.



*Mr Justice Anthony Kennedy speaking at the Seminar on “Human Rights and the Rule of Law” held by the Academy on 24 October 2008.*



*The Panel discussion at the Seminar on “Human Rights and the Rule of Law” held by the Academy on 24 October 2008. The Panel members were (from left to right) Mr Jeffrey Lehman, the Honourable Mr Justice Stock, Mr Huen Wong, Mr Justice Anthony Kennedy, Ms Gladys Li and Mr William Clarke.*

## **CJR Training**

To assist legal practitioners and those interested in the development of legal reforms to gain a deeper understanding of the changes effective from April 2009 brought about by the Civil Justice Reform (“CJR”), the Academy has offered a total of 50 public free training courses on CJR between November 2008 and December 2009. Over 11,300 participants have been trained.

The Academy is grateful to the following presenters who have assisted in making the CJR Training Programme a success by selflessly contributing their valuable time and sharing their expertise and knowledge with the public:

- Registrar Queeny Au-Yeung, High Court
- Mr Geoffrey Booth, Partner, Haldanes
- Mr John Budge, Partner, Wilkinson & Grist
- Mr Patrick Burke, Sole Proprietor, Burke & Co
- Ms Amelia Cheung, Partner, Amelia Cheung & Co
- Ms Melissa Chim, Solicitor, Barlow Lyde & Gilbert
- Mr William Clarke, Consultant, Brian Kong & Co
- Mr Nigel Francis, Partner, Minter Ellison
- The Honourable Mr Justice Barnabas Fung, Judge of the Court of First Instance of the High Court
- Mr Glenn Haley, Partner, Deacons
- Master Ho Chi-yin, Andy, Deputy Registrar, High Court
- Mr Lester Huang, Partner, P C Woo & Co
- Mr Nicholas Hunsworth, Partner, JSM
- The Honourable Mr Justice J Lam, Judge of the Court of First Instance of the High Court
- Mr Jeffrey Lane, Partner, Gall & Lane
- Mr Allan Leung, Partner, Lovells
- Master Lung Kim-wan, Deputy Registrar, High Court
- Ms Maureen Mueller
- Mr AB Nasir, Partner, Nasirs®
- Her Honour Judge Marlene Ng, Judge of the District Court
- Mr Louis Pe, Partner, Yam & Co
- Mr Martin Rogers, Partner, Clifford Chance
- Mr Andrew Sheppard, Barrister
- Ms Mary Thomson, Consultant, Hammonds
- Mr Kenneth Wong, Partner, Woo, Kwan, Lee & Lo
- Mr Norris Yang, Partner, Boughton Peterson Yang Anderson
- Mrs Helena Yuen, Partner, C.T. Chan & Co





*A CJR training course on “All you need to know on mediation” held by the Academy on 2 December 2009  
(From left to right) Ms Amelia Cheung, Mr Lester Huang, Mr Norris Yang, Ms Melissa Chim and Mr Patrick Burke*



*The Honourable Mr Justice Barnabas Fung, Judge of the Court of First Instance presented at a CJR training course on “CJR and personal injuries practice” held by the Academy on 30 March 2009.*

## **Mediation**

CJR highlights the importance of mediation and actively promotes mediation as a means to resolve disputes.

To assist in promoting mediation and in strengthening the capability of the legal profession to meet the increasing demand for this alternative means of dispute resolution, between November 2008 and December 2009, the Academy has organised:

- (a) seven courses on general and family mediation training leading to accreditation as general and family mediators;
- (b) five courses on introduction on mediation, mediation advocacy skills training, mediation skills practice workshops and mediator assessor skills training.

The above courses provided training to a total of over 430 participants.



*A general mediation training course organised by the Academy on 15 May 2009*



*A family mediation training course organised by the Academy on 24-26 September 2009*

With the increasing importance of mediation, the quality of mediators must be maintained at the highest standards in the interest of the public. Accreditation of mediators has become a topical issue.

In April 2009, the Academy organised a Round Table Discussion with the Honourable Mr Justice Murray Kellam, Court of Appeal, Supreme Court of Victoria, Australia at which he shared his valuable experience in relation to mediator accreditation in Australia. Mr Justice Kellam has kindly given his consent to have the discussion materials posted on the Academy's website which is freely accessible to the public.



*The Honourable Secretary for Justice Mr Wong Yan Lung (right) and the Chairman of the Academy, Mr Lester Huang (left) presented a souvenir to Mr Justice Murray Kellam at the Seminar held by the Academy on 6 April 2009.*

## **Training on Convention Against Torture (“CAT”)**

Following the judgment of the Court of First Instance in *FB and others v Director of Immigration* [2008] in which the court lay down requirements on the standards of fairness in handling torture claims, the Government has implemented a publicly funded legal assistance scheme to meet the Court's requirements.

In support of the legal assistance scheme, the Academy organised a 4-day public training programme on the laws and practices in handling torture claims in December 2009. Distinguished speakers of the programme included Professor Manfred Nowak, UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Head of the Research Platform Human Rights in the European Context, Department of European, International and Comparative Law, University of Vienna, Austria and Mr Rodger Haines, Adjunct Lecturer in Law at the Faculty of Law, University of Auckland and Deputy Chairperson of the New Zealand Refugee Status Appeals Authority.

A total of over 300 participants attended the full 4-day training. With the consent of the speakers, CAT Training Programme has been recorded. The video and the materials are posted on the Academy's website which is freely accessible to the public.



*The guest speakers (from left to right) – Mr Johnson Hau, Mr Chow Wing-hang, Mr Peter Barnes, Mr Mark Daly, Mr Martin Jones, Mr Rodger Haines and Professor Manfred Nowak, were being introduced by the Chairman of the Academy, Mr Lester Huang (at the podium) on the first day of the CAT Training Programme on 14 December 2009.*



*Professor Manfred Nowak, UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Head of the Research Platform Human Rights in the European Context, Department of European, International and Comparative Law, University of Vienna, Austria, presented at the CAT Training Programme on 14 December 2009.*



*Mr Rodger Haines, Adjunct Lecturer in Law at the Faculty of Law, University of Auckland and Deputy Chairperson of the New Zealand Refugee Status Appeals Authority, presented at the CAT Training Programme on 16 December 2009.*



*Our panelists (from left to right) – Mr Peter Barnes, Mr Mark Daly, Ms Christine Lin and Mr Philip Dykes, discussed issues raised by the participants on the last day of the CAT Training Programme on 17 December 2009.*

## **PRC initiatives**

With the ever increasing integration between Hong Kong and the Mainland socially, economically and culturally, it is important that there should be corresponding deeper mutual understanding. To promote the learning of cross boundary laws and legal systems, the Academy has jointly organised a seminar on “Guangdong Hong Kong Cross Boundary Legal Services” with the Sun Yat-Sen University School of Law and Guangzhou Lawyers Association and the Law Society of Hong Kong in June 2009.

The Academy also organised a seminar by Mainland judges on “Civil Hearings Involving Hong Kong Elements – Principles, Issues and the Way Forward” jointly with the City University of Hong Kong and the Law Society of Hong Kong in June 2009.





*Mr Huen Wong, President of the Law Society of Hong Kong, delivered the opening speech at the Seminar on “Civil hearings Involving Hong Kong Elements – Principles, Issues and the Way Forward 涉港商事審判的實踐、問題與展望” held on 17 June 2009.*



*Mr Huen Wong, President of the Law Society of Hong Kong (right) and Professor Wang Gui Guo, Dean of School of Law, City University of Hong Kong (left) presented a souvenir to the speaker, Mr Huo Min, Vice President of the High People’s Court of Guangdong Province.*

## Pathway guidance

In June 2009, the Academy held a sharing session with law students working as interns in law firms in Hong Kong. Mr Huen Wong, President of the Law Society, led a panel of experienced practitioners to share their insights in the many career options open to law students. Each Panel guest has a successful career in a different law-related field – Mr Huen Wong in private practice, Her Honour Judge Mimmie Chan, District Court Judge, the Honourable Ms Anna Wu, member of the Executive Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and Mr Peter Griffiths, General Counsel of Deloitte-China, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu.

About 70 law students working as interns in 19 law firms participated in the sharing session.



*Our panelists (from left to right) – Mr Peter Griffiths, the Honourable Ms Anna Wu, HH Judge Mimmie Chan and Mr Huen Wong*



*Participants at the sharing session held on 22 June 2009.*



## **Joint programmes**

The Academy also jointly organised many training programmes with other organisations to facilitate an exchange of expertise across different professions and different sectors of the community.

- (a) In May 2009, the Academy, jointly with the Bar Association of Hong Kong, organised a course on PRC Labour Law by Professor Yeh Jing Yi from the Law School of the Beijing University;
- (b) In July 2009, the Academy jointly with the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants organised a course on an overview of the rules and regulations on accounts relating to legal practice;
- (c) Also in July 2009, in collaboration with the City University of Hong Kong, the Academy organised a course titled “Ten Common Mistakes of Lawyers in the Mediation Process” by Professor Patrick Cavanagh from Bond University, Australia.
- (d) In November 2009, the Academy organised a course on “The Actuarial Perspectives of Personal Injury Compensation in Hong Kong” jointly with the Actuarial Society of Hong Kong.

The joint courses attracted a total of about 300 participants.

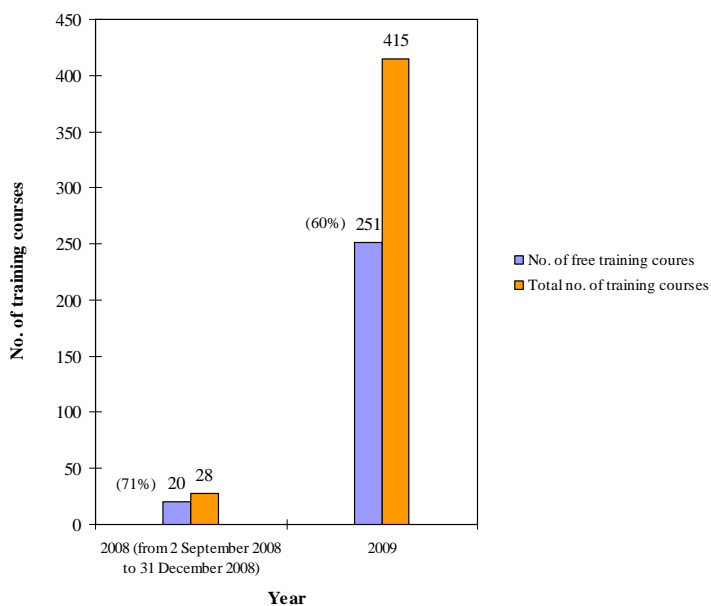
## **Statistics**

Apart from the above highlights, the Academy has organised a variety of many other training programmes to promote legal education and the learning of law.

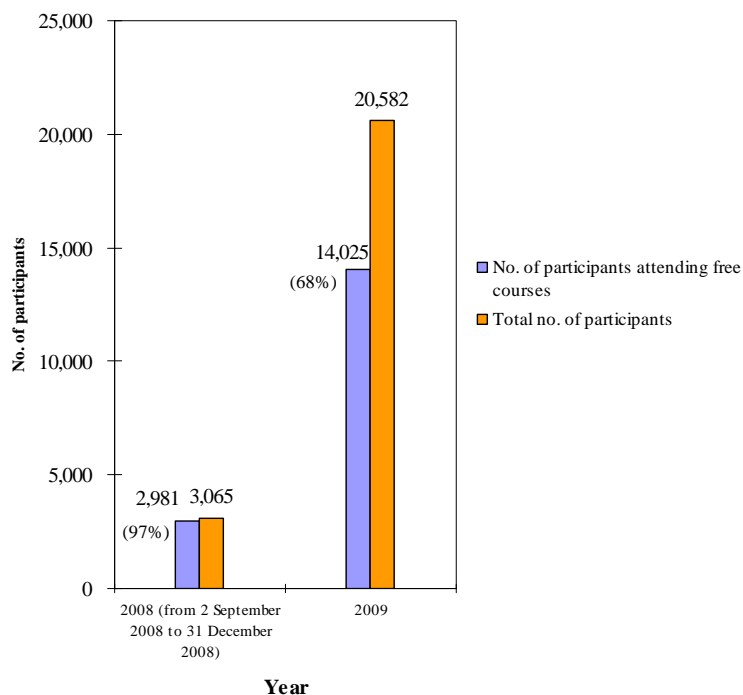
For the period from 2 September 2008 to 31 December 2009, the Academy has organised a total of 443 courses and activities:

- (a) 132 of which have been accredited by the Law Society of Hong Kong as Continuing Professional Development courses; and
- (b) 309 of which have been accredited by the Law Society of Hong Kong as Risk Management Education courses.

**No. of training courses/activities organised by the Academy in 2008 and 2009**



**No. of course participant attendances in the training courses/activities organised by the Academy in 2008 and 2009**



The Academy is grateful to the 121 presenters (for a full list, please click [here](#)) who are experienced solicitors, barristers, foreign lawyers, judges and prominent members of society for sharing their valuable knowledge and expertise at the Academy's training programmes.