

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

**ANNUAL REPORT  
2010**

**1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010**

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

(1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010)

This is the fifth annual report of the Standing Committee since its establishment in 2005. Section 74A of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance Cap. 159 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 2010 to 31 December 2010 (“Reporting Period”). Its composition is at Annexure 2.

## Matters Considered

### Practising Law in Chinese

2. The Standing Committee noted there is an increasing demand in the use of Chinese in connection with the practice of law, both in drafting as well as advocacy.
3. There are concerns on how equipped the legal practitioners are to meet the demand and how the LLB and PCLL providers in Hong Kong have addressed the deficiency, if any, in the use of Chinese in legal practice, in their curricula.
4. The Standing Committee conducted research on how the legal education system in other bilingual jurisdictions like Canada, Singapore and India dealt with the demand on language proficiency.
5. The Standing Committee noted there are two aspects to the language requirement, namely, as an entry requirement to universities, and as a medium of instruction.
6. The Standing Committee is satisfied the 3 LLB and PCLL providers in Hong Kong, namely, City University of Hong Kong, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, and The University of Hong Kong are aware of the importance of Chinese in legal practice. The Standing Committee noted efforts had been made by the providers to design the relevant curricula to improve the standard of Chinese and to teach students transferable skills in Chinese to meet the changes in the demand in the market.
7. The Standing Committee will continue to keep this issue under review.

### Juris Doctor (“JD”) Degree

8. The three LLB and PCLL providers are also offering a JD programme. The JD programme is a graduate entry programme for graduates in non-law disciplines. It is a qualifying law degree for the purpose of entry to the PCLL. Apart from reviewing the programmes, the details of which are set out in the respective JD reports in Annexures 3 to 5, the Standing Committee has also considered the Chinese translation for JD.
9. Although the English term of JD includes “Doctor”, it is not a degree equivalent to a doctoral degree. Currently, the three JD programmes on offer by the three providers have different Chinese translations for the title of JD. To avoid any misunderstanding over the nature of the degree through inappropriate or inconsistent Chinese translations for the JD title, the Standing Committee invited the three providers in Hong Kong to agree on a uniform Chinese translation for JD.
10. The three providers endeavoured to agree on a uniform translation but resolved each would maintain the English title of “JD” in their formal documents and would otherwise use its own Chinese translation. The providers have undertaken they would eliminate any representations from their formal publications and websites that “JD” confers a doctoral degree on the graduates.

### “3+3+4” Academic Structure

11. As reported in the 2009 annual report, on the basis that a 4-year LLB programme will be able to provide an all-round learning experience which is to be made available to students of all other disciplines whilst maintaining the scope and content of the legal education and training expected of a professional degree, the Standing Committee is inclined towards maintaining the status quo of a 4-year LLB and it has informed the University Grants Committee of its views.
12. The Standing Committee considered the implications of the 3+3+4 Academic Structure for the 3 LLB and PCLL providers.
13. The 3 providers advised the Standing Committee they had made preparations to meet the double cohort entering the LLB programmes in 2012 by revising their curricula, deploying additional manpower and resources and by introducing double-degrees and exchange studies.
14. The Standing Committee also noted the necessity to alert the 2 branches of the legal profession, other potential employers like commercial corporations and the Government departments about the implications of the double cohort. The double cohort does not only increase the competition for LLB and PCLL places at the universities, but has repercussions for Summer placements and internships.
15. The Standing Committee will continue to monitor the impact of the 3+3+4 Academic Structure on legal education and training.

### Webpage

16. The Standing Committee is designing a webpage and the Department of Justice has kindly agreed for the webpage to be included on its website.
17. The webpage will include information about the functions, terms of reference, composition, structure and contact details of the Standing Committee. Publications of the Standing Committee including its annual reports and any press release can be downloaded from the webpage. There will be a link to the Conversion Examination Board.
18. The webpage is designed to enhance the dissemination of information about the work of the Standing Committee.

### LLB, JD and PCLL

19. The Standing Committee continued to review the following legal education programmes:
  - (a) the reports on its LLB, JD and PCLL programmes by City University of Hong Kong are at **Annexure 3**;
  - (b) the reports on its LLB, JD and PCLL programmes by The Chinese University of Hong Kong are at **Annexure 4**;
  - (c) the reports on its LLB, JD and PCLL by The University of Hong Kong are at **Annexure 5**.

### English Language Proficiency

20. The Standing Committee approved the recommendations of the Sub-Committee on English Language Proficiency that the following existing policy on English language requirement be continued for the academic year 2009/10:
  - (a) the requirement for submission of an International English Language Testing System (“IELTS”) score 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.

21. The composition of the Sub-Committee is at **Annexure 6**.

#### Conversion Examination

22. The Conversion Examination Board met on six occasions during the Reporting Period to oversee the administration of the Conversion Examination including the following:

- (a) vetting of applications for exemption from sitting the Conversion Examination;
- (b) review of examination results;
- (c) review of examination syllabi and reading lists;
- (d) appointment of examiners;
- (e) consideration of enquiries from applicants;
- (f) formulation, in consultation with the Chief Examiner, of the procedures for a review of the examination results; and
- (g) updating the website of the Conversion Examination Board.

23. The Conversion Examination was held twice during the Reporting Period in January and June 2010 respectively.

24. 644 and 680 candidates took part in the Conversion Examination in eight different pre-requisite subjects in January and June 2010 as compared to 624 and 591 candidates respectively in the January and June 2009 Conversion Examinations.

25. The average pass rate of the subjects examined in January 2010 was 75.5% (as compared to 75.9% in the January 2009 results) and that in June 2010 was 75.3% (as compared to 76.5% in the June 2009 results).

26. The Conversion Examination Board is pleased that Mr. Justice K. H. Woo, VP has agreed to continue as Chief Examiner until 31 December 2011.

27. The composition of the Conversion Examination Board is at **Annexure 7**.

#### **Chairmanship**

28. The Standing Committee would like to record a note of thanks to Mr. Christopher Chan Cheuk B.B.S, who was the Chairman between August 2007 and April 2010.

29. Mr. Chan led the Standing Committee diligently and ably and has built on the foundation laid by Mr. Bob Allcock, S.B.S, for the Standing Committee to perform its role as an overseer of legal education and training.

**Overall position**

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

# Annexure 1

## SECTION 74A OF THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ORDINANCE

### 74A. Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training

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

## Extract of Section 74A of the Legal Practitioners Ordinance

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

# Annexure 2

## THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- Chairman:** Mr. Christopher CHAN Cheuk B.B.S.  
(from 12 August 2007 to 28 April 2010)
- Acting Chairman:** The Honourable Mr. Justice Patrick CHAN Siu-oi  
(from April 2010)
- Members:** The Honourable Mr. Justice Azizul Rahman SUFFIAD  
(on the nomination of the Chief Justice)
- Mr. Peter WONG Hing-hong  
(from 12 September 2010)
- Ms. Lena CHI Hui-ling  
(from 12 August 2005 to 31 August 2010)  
(on the nomination of the Secretary for Justice)
- Ms. Amy WONG Pui-man  
Principal Assistant Secretary (Higher Education),  
Education Bureau  
(on the nomination of the Secretary for Education)
- Mr. Albert WONG Kwai-huen, J.P.  
(from 22 February 2010)
- Mr. Lester Garson HUANG, J.P.  
(from 12 August 2005 to 11 January 2010)  
(on the nomination of The Law Society of Hong Kong)
- Mr. Dieter YIH Lai-tak  
(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. Kenneth KWOK Hing-wai, S.C., B.B.S., J.P.  
(on the nomination of Hong Kong Bar Association)
- Professor Johannes CHAN Man-mun, S.C.  
Dean, Faculty 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  
(on the nomination of the Vice-Chancellor of The  
University of Hong Kong)

Professor WANG Guiguo  
Dean & Chair Professor of Chinese and Comparative  
Law, School of Law, City University of Hong Kong  
(on the nomination of the President of City University of  
Hong Kong)

Ms. Sushma SHARMA  
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 Mike McCONVILLE  
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  
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. Graham CHENG Cheng-hsun, O.B.E., J.P. (Member  
appointed under S74A(3)(a)(viii) of the Legal  
Practitioners Ordinance Cap.159 (“Ordinance”))

Mrs. Pamela CHAN WONG Shui, B.B.S., J.P. (Member  
appointed under S74A(3)(a)(viii) of the Ordinance)

Dr. Danny CHOONG Ewe-leong  
(on the nomination of The Federation for Continuing  
Education in Tertiary Institutions)

**Secretary:**

Ms. Heidi CHU Kit-peng, Deputy Secretary General  
The Law Society of Hong Kong  
(from September 2005 to September 2010)

Ms. Vivien LEE, Director of Standards & Development  
The Law Society of Hong Kong  
(from September 2010)

# Annexure 3

## School of Law City University of Hong Kong

### *LLB Status Report (January to December 2010) to the Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training*

March 2011

This is a status report on the LLB (Hons) Degree Programme (LLB Programme) at the School of Law (School), City University of Hong Kong (the University). The report covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2010.

During the period of this report, the LLB Programme was offered only in full-time (UGC-funded) study mode. The part-time LLB has been discontinued in order to devote more resources to the double cohort intake in 2012.

#### **1. 2010/11 Admissions**

In the 2010/11 academic year, the School admitted 48 full-time LLB students in total, of whom 26 were JUPAS applicants, 21 non-JUPAS applicants, and 1 Mainland student who had completed a foundation year at the University.

##### *1.1 JUPAS Admissions*

The School of Law received a total of 655 qualified applications for the 2010 JUPAS entry. The number of qualified applicants has been steadily increasing over the years. The JUPAS admission score for the 2010 entry of the School has gone up as compared to 2009. According to the University's statistics, the average Use of English score of the School's JUPAS students of 2010 entry was the best within the University.

Admission interviews were arranged in June 2010. A selected group of JUPAS applicants who put the LLB programme in the Band A were invited to attend group discussion interviews held in June 2010.

In 2010, 12 students were awarded the LLB Admission Scholarship, which was launched in 2008 to reward high quality students who were nominated by their school principals and successfully enrolled in the LLB Programme through JUPAS. The value of each scholarship is HK\$50,000.

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

The School of Law received a total of 294 direct (non-JUPAS) applications. Among the 21 students admitted through the direct application route, 2 of them were non-local students (one each from Finland and Germany). For direct applications, the selection criteria generally

entailed looking at applicants' GCEAL or IB results. A special attention was paid to English proficiency. For applicants who have already finished a bachelor degree, their grades in the bachelor degree are taken into account. Individual admission interviews were conducted, mostly via telephone, before making offers.

### *1.3 Double Degrees*

The School together with the Department of Accountancy offers double major programmes in Accountancy and Law. All students enrolled in the double major programmes should complete 30 credits in law in order to get a second major in law. Students who wish to pursue a LLB degree should complete at least another 60 credits of law compulsory and elective courses. In the 2010/11 academic year, one graduate of BBA Accountancy and Law was admitted to the LLB programme.

## **2. Academic Standards**

Several mechanisms have been put in place to maintain high academic standards. In addition to having External Academic Advisors from various leading universities in the world, the School established an International Advisory Board (IAB) in 2007. The IAB comprised judges, experienced legal practitioners, and renowned professors from law schools such as Harvard, Oxford and Yale. The IAB members provide periodic advice to the School on academic standards, curriculum development and assessment practices.

## **3. Exchange Programmes**

Both the University and the School have a number of exchange programmes with foreign Universities. The latest exchange agreement in this series was signed with the Faculty of Law, Monash University. Since the School sees overseas exchanges as an important element in the acquisition of global legal perspectives, students are encouraged to make use of these exchange programmes. In 2010, whereas one student went to the Erasmus University Rotterdam, Netherlands for exchange, 11 students from overseas jurisdictions, including Australia, Canada, China, New Zealand, studied at the City University Law School as exchange students.

In 2010, the School launched an innovative Summer School programme at Monash University Sunway Campus in Malaysia. The Summer School provides students an opportunity to share classrooms with students from several partner universities and study elective law courses taught by leading academics from Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Malaysia, and Singapore. 3 LLB students attended the Summer School in 2010.

## **4. Global Legal Education And Awareness Project (G-LEAP)**

In order to complement the conventional semester-long exchange programmes and to produce law graduates who could deal with the challenges of working in a globalised environment, the School of Law in 2007 launched G-LEAP for LLB students. In summer 2010, 26 LLB students spent a month at the Faculty of Law, Monash University to study a credit bearing law course, *Intellectual Property: Theory Copyright and Design*. Similarly, 26 LLB students spent a month at the University College, Oxford to study a credit bearing law course, *European Competition Law and Policy*.

The School has received highly positive feedback about the G-LEAP. Students who took the courses very much enjoyed the comparative focus of these courses and the learning environment.

## **5. Legal Placement**

The School has incorporated legal placements into the credit-bearing curriculum of the LLB Programme. The objective of the course is to provide students with a structured opportunity to obtain practical experience from working in law offices or a law-related working environment. The course provides legal work experience in two major jurisdictions at this stage: Hong Kong and Mainland China. In summer 2010, 14 LLB students did one-month legal placement at diverse places (such as legal departments, NGOs, local/international law firms and law publishers) in Hong Kong. On the other hand, 24 LLB students participated in the Mainland legal placement programme.

## **6. Mooting Competitions**

The School considers mooting as an integral part of students' legal education and provides them with extensive training to participate in internal and international mooting competitions. During the reporting period, LLB students participated in several international mooting competitions such as the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot, Frankfurt Investment Arbitration Moot, Red Cross International Humanitarian Law Moot, Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot held in Vienna, Willem C. Vis (East) International Commercial Arbitration Moot and Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition. The participation in these competitions provided students an opportunity to develop their skills, to meet with students from other jurisdictions, and gain confidence by meeting international standards.

The performance of LLB students in these mooting competitions was quite good. One LLB student was ranked as the top 3<sup>rd</sup> Oralist in the Philip C Jessup International Law Moot (HK Regional Round). In addition, the Jessup team won the award of Best Applicant Memorial. The team of Frankfurt Investment Arbitration Moot Court Competition was ranked 6<sup>th</sup> out of a total of 21 teams. The team of 8<sup>th</sup> Red Cross International Humanitarian Law Moot, including our LLB students, was awarded with the Second Honourable Submission. The team was also one of the Top Five Defendant teams. In addition, the moot team for the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Willem C. Vis (East) International Commercial Arbitration Moot, comprising also LLB students, has been awarded with the Honourable Mention for the Best Memorandum on Behalf of Claimant as well as Respondent. The team also won the Honourable Mention for the Best Memorandum on Behalf of Respondent at the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot held in Vienna. The moot team of the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition, including the LLB students, earned the Best Memorial Award at its Asia Pacific Regional Round held in Sydney. One LLB student was ranked as the top 3<sup>rd</sup> Oralist in this competition.

## **7. City University of Hong Kong Law Review**

As stated in the last status report, a new student edited law journal, *City University of Hong Kong Law Review* (*CityU LR*), was launched in October 2009. Law students edit two issues of the *CityU LR* every year under the mentorship of faculty members and guidance of a

distinguished International Board of Advisors. Volume 2:1 was published in July 2010 and has received positive feedback. Several measures are being taken to promote the *CityU LR* locally and internationally. The journal is already available on HeinOnline and will soon be available on Westlaw.

## **8. LLB in 2012**

The School has recently approved the new structure for LLB to be implemented from the year 2012. The new structure will require students to complete a minimum of 126 credit units (each course worth 3 credits) comprising all the core law courses, GE courses from other disciplines, and law electives. Students will be doing some new courses such as Mooting & Advocacy and Legal English. It is hoped that School would continue offering a LLB Programme that matches international standards and produces graduates with knowledge-cum-skills relevant both locally and globally.

Dr Surya Deva  
LLB Programme Leader  
School of Law  
City University of Hong Kong

**POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN LAWS (PCLL)  
at City University of Hong Kong  
2010 Annual Report**

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**1. Applications and Admissions for 2010-2011**

*Applications for 2010-11:* We received 435 applications for the full-time PCLL (not including 13 applications which were withdrawn during the admissions period).

*Admissions:* Offers (including conditional offers) were made to 133 full-time applicants. Applicants with 2:1 or above outnumbered available UGC places. 5 applicants to whom conditional offers were made were unable to take up their place due to them being unsuccessful in one or more of the Conversion Exam Board examinations. We introduced “interview” for borderline cases. We interviewed 41 students and gave offers to 33 students.

The final numbers registered by School were 120 full-time students [not including one student who enrolled to the programme (without attending any class) but withdrew in week 2]. Up-to-date, we have 118 full-time students in class - one student has taken leave of absence and will resume studies next academic year; and one student has withdrawn from the programme due to family reasons. In addition there are 29 part-time (Year 2) PCLL students.

**2. Full-time and Part-time Modes**

As previously reported, our full-time programme is a one-year programme while the part-time programme is spread over two years. While the curriculum, course materials and exams are common to the two programmes, large groups and small groups are held separately for students in the two programmes. This practice continued in 2009-10 and 2010-11. The PCLL (part-time) programme has been suspended for the 2010 cohort.

**3. Class Size**

We continued to limit our small group size to 10 students except for some of the elective courses where the students opting for the elective course are taught in either the seminar style or the number of students is around 15.

## 4. Assessment Regime and Outcomes

### 4.1 Assessment Regime

As previously reported all written assessments are to be 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 of the courses continue to be assessed by mid-term written examinations as well as end of term examinations.

### 4.2 Assessment Outcomes

2008-09:

No. of students who failed PCLL: 1 full-time and 1 part-time  
No. of students who sat resits: 21 full-time and 9 part-time

2009-10:

No. of students who failed PCLL: 1 full-time and 1 part-time in Year 1  
No. of students who sat resits: 23 full-time and 4 part-time

## 5. Staffing

In Semester B of 2009-10, 16 full-time staff and 15 part-time staff (practitioners) taught in PCLL programme.

In Semester A of 2010-11, 15 full-time staff and 9 part-time staff (practitioners) taught in PCLL programme.

Many of them have taught PCLL for some time and provide input on features of current practice.

## 6. Structure

The core and elective courses for 2010-11 are listed below:

### SEMESTER A

Interlocutory Advocacy and Interviewing	2 credits
Mediation and Negotiation	2 credits
Corporate and Commercial Practice	3 credits
Civil Litigation Practice	3 credits
Professional Conduct and Practice	3 credits
Conveyancing Practice	2.5 credits
Wills and Probate Practice	2 credits
Litigation Writing and Drafting	1.5 credits

## SEMESTER B

Trial Advocacy	2 credits
Criminal Litigation Practice	3 credits
Corporate and Commercial Practice	3 credits
Conveyancing Practice	2.5 credits
Solicitors' Accounts	1 credit
Commercial Writing and Drafting	1.5 credits
Electives x 2	4 credits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bar Course (2 credits)</li><li>• Understanding Financial Statements and Financial Regulatory Practice (2 credits)</li><li>• Foundations in Mainland Related Legal Transactions (2 credits)</li><li>• Litigation Practice II (2 credits)</li><li>• International Arbitration Practice (2 credits)</li></ul>	

The OBTL (Outcome Based Teaching and Learning) format has been implemented in the year 2008-09 for all courses.

### 7. The Future

*Restructuring of the Courses:* We plan to divide or combine a few of the core courses that are currently offered in the PCLL programme. The main reason behind it is to facilitate teaching and assessments. We also have plans to offer new electives so that students have more choice.

*Part-Time PCLL Programme:* We have decided to suspend our part-time PCLL programme for 2011-2012.

Sushma Sharma  
PCLL Programme Leader  
City University School of Law  
March 2011

**Report to the Standing Committee**  
**updated as at 17 March 2011**

**School of Law**  
**City University of Hong Kong**

The JD (Juris Doctor) Programme is a post-graduate level programme for non-law entrants and law graduates from non common law jurisdiction. It equips students with knowledge and skills to pursue a legal profession in Hong Kong or advanced legal knowledge of their own interest.

**1. 2010/2011 Admission**

Competition for admission to the JD programme has always been keen. The number of applications has been steadily increasing in recent years.

For the admission year during 2010-11, the School received a total of 383 applications for the full-time programme\*. Applicants should have met the following minimum entrance requirement and the English proficiency requirements.

\* The intake of the part-time students in 2009-2010 was suspended. The School discontinued the part-time programme with effect from 2010-11.

1. A Bachelor's degree (or equivalent) in a non-law discipline; or
2. A Bachelor's degree (or equivalent) in law from a non-common law jurisdiction, which was obtainable after at least eight semesters of full-time study. Holders with a law degree from a common law jurisdiction are not eligible to apply.
3. Applicants must be proficient in English.

**English Proficiency Guidelines**

For applicants whose entrance qualification is obtained from an institution where the medium of instruction is not English, the minimum English language proficiency requirement will usually be:

- a TOEFL score of 580 (paper-based test) or 92 (internet-based); # or
- an overall band score of 7 in IELTS; or
- a total of 490 in the Chinese mainland's College English Test (Band 6); or
- other equivalent qualifications.

# The TOEFL score of 237 (computer-based test) was discontinued in September 2006 and they are no longer valid. Therefore, we removed the computer-based score from the English proficiency requirement.

The School has stipulated a validity period of three years for results of the above tests. Applicants are required to provide their English test results obtained within the three years preceding the commencement of the University's application period.

Table 1 is a brief summary outlining the number of applications and enrolments for the full-time programme in 2010-11.

Table 1

Mode	No of applications	No of Enrollments
FT	383	75

Table 2 provides the percentage of qualifications of our full-time entrants.

Table 2

	Bachelor Degree	Postgraduate degree
Full-time (P43)	79%	21%

JD applicants come from varied academic backgrounds including arts, translation, criminology, sociology, civil law, accountancy, business, finance and banking, government and public administration, and science. The richness that stems from different academic disciplines and professional experiences not only enhances the diversity of the JD student body but also stimulates and enriches their class interactions and discussions.

## **2. Full-time and part-time modes**

The JD programme can be undertaken full-time or part-time<sup>^</sup> (^applicable to existing students only). The full-time programme may be completed in three years of study. Full time students may elect to fast track their studies by enrolling in some courses during the Summer Term, thereby allowing them to complete their study in two years. The part-time JD programme may be completed in three and a half years. Our JD programme also offers some flexibility to students allowing them to switch between full-time and part-time programmes should their personal circumstances change. However, with the suspension of the part-time intakes in 2009 and the discontinuance of the part-time programme with effect from 2010, full-time students will not be advised to switch to the part-time mode.

## **3. Programme Structure**

The JD Programme comprises of a total of 71 credit units. Students have to complete 4 required courses including Hong Kong Legal System, Legal System of the People's Republic of China, Common Law Legal Method, and Jurisprudence. They have to choose either Independent Research or Dissertation in fulfillment of the research requirement. The remainder of credits can be made up by designated elective courses from the JD, and LLMArbDR programmes.

The JD programme provides the necessary course requirements for admission to the Postgraduate Certificate in Laws (PCLL) programme. Apart from the requirement on the required courses and the research course, students who have passed the above postgraduate elective courses from the JD Programme will be eligible to apply for the PCLL Programme which leads to a legal career path in Hong Kong. Students who do not intend to pursue a legal profession can still benefit from the JD programme by choosing a series of elective courses from the JD and the LLMArbDR Programmes. We offer a wide variety of elective courses including family law, energy and environmental law, International air law, Chinese and comparative company law, Chinese and comparative commercial law, Chinese foreign trade & investment law and maritime arbitration law for our students.

#### **4. Teaching and Learning**

The School has reached the stage where all law courses have been converted into Outcome Based Teaching and Learning (OBTL) format. Both the teaching and learning activities and the assessment activities have to be aligned with the Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (PILOs) and the Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs).

The JD courses are offered at a postgraduate level and the students are expected to achieve a higher standard of competency in undertaking the JD courses in terms of the Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs) and Assessment Tasks (ATs). Students are also required to achieve a minimum passing mark of 40% in each of the coursework and examination component in addition to the existing requirement on a 40% aggregate mark.

In view of a small number of existing JD part-time students and the LLB part-time students, the School if and where necessary would arrange combined lecture for both groups of students. However, to maintain the standard and quality of our programmes, the School will ensure students are appropriately assessed in their courseworks and examinations at their respective undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

Two modes of teaching are conducted in the School: traditional lectures and tutorials. The lectures are usually carried out in a large class size whereas the tutorials are carried out in smaller groups. The smaller group sessions (tutorials) are extremely beneficial in that they greatly enhance the interaction not only amongst students but also between student and staff thereby facilitating greater class participation and discussion.

#### **5. Assessment**

The assessment pattern for most courses is in the form of coursework assignment, in-class participation and final examination. As mentioned earlier, the assessment activities must be conducted in line with the CILOs.

#### **6. Academic Quality**

The School of Law maintains the academic quality of our academic programmes by having in place a rigorous system of external academic advisors. All examination papers are subjected to two forms of moderation: an internal and an external moderation whereby the examination papers are perused and reviewed by the School's cluster groups and the external examiners. The mechanism serves to ensure that the examination papers are of consistent and appropriate standard. Inputs provided by external examiners are indispensable to the improvement of courses offered by the JD and the LLB programmes.

The role of the assessment panel is to endorse the course grades and to deal with cases of extenuating circumstances which might have affected students' ability to attend the examinations or their examination performance.

#### **7. Other activities**

Apart from the taught courses conducted in CityU campus, the students' learning environment is enriched by their participation in other activities detailed below.

### **A) Mooting competitions**

Our School continues to support students' participation in various regional and international mooting competitions. In the academic year 2009-2010, we have seen successes in these moots which include 4<sup>th</sup> LAWASIA International Moot 2009, 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot, Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition 2010 (HK (Regional)), 8<sup>th</sup> Red Cross International Humanitarian Law Moot 2010, 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Williem C.Vis (East) International Commercial Arbitration Moot, Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition 2010 (Asia Pacific Regional Round), 11<sup>th</sup> Annual International Maritime Law Arbitration Moot, and International ADR Mooting Competition 2010 (HK). Please refer to the table (Appendix I) outlining our students' achievements.

### **B) Legal Placement**

As with last year, the credit-bearing Legal Placement course hosted by the LLB Programme continued to provide the JD students with opportunities to carry out their legal placement in two different legal environment: (1) local and international legal firms in Hong Kong and (2) attachment to the People's Court in Shanghai, Nanjing and Beijing.

### **C) Global Legal Education Awareness Project (G-LEAP)**

G-LEAP aims to promote excellence in legal education with a view to providing opportunities for our law students to have a global perspective in the study of law. Apart from the LLB students, JD students are provided with the opportunity to participate in the G-LEAP in the summer 2010 in the Monash University, Australia, University College, Oxford and the Monash University Sunway Campus in Malaysia. The opportunity was taken up by our students in the G-LEAP in Oxford and in Malaysia in Summer 2010. The School recognizes that as JD students are self-financing students, the cost for participation in the G-LEAP is high for them. To encourage and further support JD students in availing themselves of the opportunity, the School would provide students from 2010 cohort and thereafter with an 80% sponsorship (subject to the approval of the University Provost) for their participation in the Summer Term 2011 (i.e. June – August 2011).

## **8. Library and other facilities**

The Law Section of the Run Run Shaw Library has an excellent collection of law materials including print and electronic resources as well as an extensive array of research support facilities. A multi-media meeting room is available for faculty members. Two discussion rooms are open to students, one of which is for moot preparation. Law school members and students can also access the full range of collections and services of the Main Library.

Apart from library facilities, the School of Law is also equipped with excellent teaching facilities including a video seminar room and a moot court room. The former is for the conduction of classes through video-conferencing. Our course Intensive Seminar is a good example in which Prof Michael Reisman and Prof Adrian Zuckerman delivered lectures to our LLB and the JD students via video-conferencing. The latter provides a imitated court environment for mooting practices and even mooting competitions.

## **9. Exchange activities**

The School has recently entered into collaborative agreements with other universities including Maine University, U.S, University of San Francisco, U.S, and Jonkoping International Business School, Jonkoping University, Sweden and the University of Tsinghua, China. Since the collaborative agreements the School has received a number of incoming exchange students from the universities in U.S. The School is currently negotiating with other law schools like Columbia Law School and Villanova Law School for potential collaborations in the near future.

The Programme greatly values the rich exchange of students and greater learning opportunities for our students. In addition to bringing a vibrant and cosmopolitan feel to the classrooms, student exchange activities is vital in the globalization of legal education and practice environment by providing a platform for students to meet and exchange ideas and experiences about legal research and legal culture.

### SLW Moot team Achievements 2009/2010

Name of Competition	Student Achievements	Team Members
Foreign Direct Investment International Moot Competition 2009, > Held in Frankfurt on 22-24 Oct 2009	* Ranked 8 out of 19 teams	Law Wing Suen (LLB) Lo Cheuk Him (PCLL) Ng Gene Bond (LLB) Tang So Man, Candy (PCLL)
4 <sup>th</sup> LAWASIA International Moot 2009 > Held in Vietnam on 9-12 Nov 2009	* Top 6th Oralist - Chan Sum Yi, Priscilla * Top 11th Oralist - Chan Ka Hang, Louie	Chan Ka Hang, Louie (LLB) Chan Sum Yi, Priscilla (JD)
Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition 2010, HK (Regional) > Held in Hong Kong on 20 Feb 2010	* Best Applicant Memorial * Top 3rd Oralist - Chan Ka Hang, Louie	Chan Ka Hang, Louie (LLB) Chan Tin Lok (LLB) Chen Zhaoxu, Michelle (JD) Hui Man Hei (LLB) Wat Lai Yee, Winnie (LLB)
8 <sup>th</sup> Red Cross International Humanitarian Law Moot 2010 > Held in Hong Kong on 5-6 March 2010	* Second Honorable Submission * Top Five Defendant Teams	Anthony Michael Gormley (JD) Inge Roggeveen (JD) Ip Gee Kin, Ken (LLB) Li Wai Shan, Sonia (LLB)
Frankfurt Investment Arbitration Moot Court Competition 2010 > Held in Frankfurt on 9-12 March 2010	* Ranked 6 out of 21 teams	Kang Yanan (LLB) Law Wing Suen (LLB) Man Ho Yin, Jacky (LLB)
7 <sup>th</sup> Annual Willem C. Vis (East) International Commercial Arbitration Moot > Held in Hong Kong on 15-21 March 2010	* Ranked 18 out of 75 teams * Honourable mention for the Best Memorandum on Behalf of Claimant * Honourable mention for the Best Memorandum on Behalf of Respondent	Kaur Prabhjot (LLB) Lau Ching Kar, Karen (LLB) Mok Ham Dick, Dickie (JD)

		Suraj Sajnani (LLB)
		Tse Sau Wai, Flora (JD)
17 <sup>th</sup> Annual Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot > Held in Austria on 26 March – 1 April 2010	* Ranked 69 out of 250 teams * Honourable mention for the Best Memorandum on Behalf of Respondent	Kaur Prabhjyot (LLB)
		Lau Ching Kar, Karen (LLB)
		Mok Ham Dick, Dickie (JD)
		Suraj Sajnani (LLB)
		Tse Sau Wai, Flora (JD)
Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition 2010 (Asia Pacific Regional Rounds) > Held in Australia on 13-17 April 2010	* Ranked 3 out of 29 teams * Best Memorial Award * Top 3rd Oralist - Au Lut Chi * Top 4th Oralist - Kong Cheuk Man, Cheryl	Au Lut Chi (LLB)
		Kong Cheuk Man, Cheryl (JD)
		Lam Ho Yan (LLB)
11th Annual International Maritime Law Arbitration Moot > Held in Australia on 2-6 July 2010	* Ranked 7th at the conclusion of the General Rounds * The AMTAC Spirit of the Moot award, Yeung Pui Ying, Ada	Leung Yuen Quan, Malisa (JD)
		Ma Ching Kong (JD)
		Yeung Pui Ying, Ada (JD)
International ADR Mooting Competition 2010 > Held in Hong Kong on 9-14 August 2010	* Highest Ranked Team in the General Rounds * Best Team in Mediation (General Rounds) * Best Oralist (Arbitration proceedings) in General Rounds - Liu He, Angel * Runner-up for Best Mediator - Ms Chung Hiu Yee * Runner-up Team in the Final	Chung Hiu Yee (PCLL)
		Li Jiani, Theo (JD)
		Lin Wah Tong, Jamie (JD)
		Liu He, Angel (JD)
		Yuli Yan (JD)
		William Yip (PCLL)

# Annexure 4

**Faculty of Law**  
**The Chinese University of Hong Kong**  
**Report on the LLB Programme**  
**(Reporting period: January to December 2010)**

## 1. Admissions

The LLB programme has continued its success in recruiting quality students. The number of JUPAS applications has been steady while there has been continuous increase in the number of non-JUPAS applications. The pattern is in line with the latest development in secondary school education, that is, some local schools have started to offer non-JUPAS curriculum to local students.

The target quota for the 2010-2011 intake on the LLB was 65. In total 64 LLB students were admitted in 2010, of which 44 were JUPAS candidates, 1 was an EAS student, 18 were non-JUPAS candidates and 1 student was admitted through the CUHK Mainland Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) admission scheme. The actual number admitted was one below the target quota as a result of withdrawal after the start of the academic year. Many non-JUPAS candidates receive offers from other prestigious universities overseas. Retaining the best students is one of the challenges faced across institutions.

On average the academic quality of the LLB year one intake has improved year on year. There was further improvement in the median programme weighted grade point average for the 2010 JUPAS intake as compared to the 2009 intake. The LLB programme remained one of the top ten undergraduate degree programmes offered by CUHK in terms of the intake quality for the 2010 admission exercise.

Of the 2010 JUPAS intake, 100% have attained Grade 5 or better in HKCEE English and 100% attained Grade 4 or better in HKCEE Chinese; 80% attained Grade B or better in HKALE Use of English and 82% attained Grade B or better in HKALE Chinese Language and Culture. No student obtained lower than Grade C in any of their HKCEE or HKALE English or Chinese language subjects.

The Faculty has continued to practice its admissions policy of handpicking its LLB students by interviewing all shortlisted JUPAS, Non-JUPAS, EAS and Mainland applicants. Interviews will continue to form a central part of the selection process for the upcoming 2011 admission exercise.

## 2. Course Offering

In addition to the LLB required courses, PCLL prerequisites and current elective courses, four new electives, namely *Mediation, Banking and the Law*, the *Refugee Internship Programme*, and *Construction and the Law*, were offered in the 2009-10 Academic Year. These new elective courses were well received by students. The Refugee Internship

Programme has been further refined and will be delivered as the *Refugee Clinical Legal Assistance Programme* with effect from the 2010-11 Academic Year.

Two new electives, namely *Corporate Crime and Social Responsibility* and *Law and Liberal Studies*, were approved this year. *Corporate Crime and Social Responsibility* will be offered in Term 2 of the 2010-11 Academic Year.

### **3. Out-of-class Learning Activities**

Our LLB programme has been designed to equip students with the skills needed for the profession in the 21st century through learning in classes and through the provision of various out-of-class experiential learning activities, such as the Summer Study Abroad Programmes (SSAP), exchange programmes, internships, the Distinguished Professional Mentorship Scheme and visits to legal institutions and law firms. We are very grateful for the strong support from the legal profession in making the out-of-class learning activities a great success. In the 2010-11 Academic Year, 59 Distinguished Professional Mentors drawn from the legal profession are advising and supervising our LLB students.

As regards the enrichment of the students' international experience, the Faculty has expanded its SSAP from Beijing to Sydney and Washington in addition to the regular term or year based exchange programmes offered at both the Faculty and University levels. More than half of the LLB students have participated in the SSAP and their feedback has been very positive. They found the learning experience fruitful and memorable. Their exposure to the laws and legal systems of the relevant jurisdictions has significantly broadened their learning horizon.

The Faculty has also organized our LLB students to participate in other short-term exchange and study tours hosted by Dalian Maritime University, China University of Political Science and Law and Zhejiang University in the summer of 2010. Coupled with exchange activities organized by Colleges and the University, our students have been able to expand their learning experience in the summer, which compliments the knowledge and skills they learn inside classrooms during term time.

### **4. Career Preparation for our Graduates**

The Faculty provides pastoral care to our students through a close teacher-and-student relation, the Academic Mentorship Scheme, and the Distinguished Professional Mentorship Scheme. Students can always seek advice from their course teachers, academic mentors and Distinguished Professional Mentors on their career plans.

Numerous career talks and workshops were organized in 2010. An encouraging number of law firms also indicated their interest in offering internships to our LLB students prior to their year-3 studies.

The Faculty has launched a Virtual Career Resources Centre. Students can obtain career resources, career-related programmes and information on-line anywhere with internet access. The Centre also serves as a contact point to prospective employers.

## **5. Graduates**

We are very glad to see our first class of graduates in 2010. Over 70% of our graduates currently pursue their PCLL studies with the Faculty. Those not joining the Faculty have great adventures planned. As an example, one of these graduates has been awarded the prestigious Sir Edward Youde Memorial Fellowship to study the BCL programme at Oxford University.

## **6. Quality Assurance**

The Faculty has made great efforts in the area of quality assurance and has introduced mechanisms to ensure high quality legal education. The external examiner of the LLB programme was invited to visit and monitor the teaching and learning of the LLB programme in June 2010. The review report of the external examiner was highly complimentary and commended the quality of the LLB programme. In addition, formal channels of communication between the faculty and students are in place. The two Assistant Deans meet LLB year representatives in each academic term to understand any concerns or requests of the students in relation to teaching and learning. Students' concerns have been taken seriously by the Faculty to improve the learning environment and enhance the quality of education.

## **7. Preparation for the New 3+3+4 Curriculum**

While the LLB programme will not add one more year of study under the new 3+3+4 curriculum, it is facing the challenge of the 2012 intake of the double cohorts and the development of the new curriculum in line with University requirements. The Faculty has been working and coordinating with the relevant committees and teaching units of the University in order to implement the new 3+3+4 curriculum and the Outcome-Based-Approach Strategy in 2012.

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Faculty of Law  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

**Faculty of Law**  
**The Chinese University of Hong Kong**  
**Report on the PCLL Programme**  
**(Reporting Period: January – November 2010)**

**2009/2010 PCLL Programme**

**1. Completion and Attrition Rates of the 2010 Graduating Class**

In the 2009 intake, 101 students were able to satisfy the conditions of the offer and register on the PCLL. In addition there was one student admitted in the 2008 intake but to whom deferred admission was granted because of exceptional personal circumstances. One student withdrew after commencement of the programme, so there were 101 students enrolled.

Altogether, 97 of the class of 101 students successfully completed the programme at the end of the 2009-10 Academic Year. Four students had to discontinue their studies at the end of Term 1 in accordance with the Assessment Regulations of the PCLL as a result of their failure in more than two core courses in Term 1. All students who survived into Term 2 successfully graduated. We are very pleased again to have achieved such a high pass rate in this competitive and demanding programme.

**2. Programme Delivery**

The 2009/2010 programme was temporarily moved to the new Law Faculty building at the main campus in Shatin. The facilities include a Moot Court, where most of the Large Group Sessions were taught, a large Interactive Classroom divided into 16 pods each with 8 students, with electric sockets and space enough for their laptops and papers, together with 5 large breakout rooms. We retained the teaching model of a combination of Large Group Sessions and Small Group Sessions (LGSs and SGSs) as this had proved so effective in 2008/09.

The same 5 core courses were offered in Term 1, namely Professional Practice, Commercial Practice, Property and Probate Practice, Civil Litigation Practice and Criminal Litigation Practice. 11 elective courses were offered in Term 2, of which the students had to select and complete 5 courses; these were Writing and Drafting Litigation Documents\*, Conference Skills and Professional Conduct, Lending and Finance, Corporate Finance, Writing and Drafting Opinions and Advices\*, 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 had to study the 3 asterisked electives, reduced from 5 the previous year. This gave intending barristers greater scope in their elective choices. These 3 electives were not of course confined to intending barristers and it is noteworthy that many intending solicitors also chose to study one or more of these courses.

All teachers on the programme are or have been practising lawyers and through all the courses the emphasis was on the teaching of skills, and on the students “learning by doing”.

To that end on all courses the students were taught and then practised skills they would need in practice.

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. Oversight by the Professions**

Each course has an External Course Assessor (ECA) nominated by the Law Society and the Term 1 core courses and Bar Electives (except Trial Advocacy) also have ECAs nominated by the Bar. 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 nothing but positive.

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

### **4. Contribution by the Judiciary and the Professions**

We are also very fortunate to be able to call upon so many volunteers from the judiciary and the professions. By way of example in our Trial Advocacy course in May 2010 we had 25 barristers come in the evening to give individual feedback to the students on their videoed performances earlier each day; their final assessment was a mini-trial in courtrooms in the High Court, for which we had 14 invited judges from the judiciary and the professions.

This year's students recently had their interlocutory advocacy assessment in their Civil Litigation Practice course, before, amongst others, one CFA judge and three CFI judges.

We have also had throughout the years numerous guest speakers from the judiciary and the professions, including the Chief Judge of the High Court, as he then was.

We are very fortunate indeed to have such support and greatly appreciate it, as do the students.

### **5. Placement of the 2010 Graduates**

Our placement results over the first two years of our PCLL have been very pleasing indeed. Nearly all students from both years of our PCLL have obtained training contracts or pupillage, many in leading firms and sets of chambers. Some progressed to further studies. Of the 2010 PCLL graduating class, seven progressed to further studies, two to LLMs at Cambridge.

## **2010/2011 PCLL Programme**

### **1. Admissions of the 2010-2011 Class**

The Faculty received 391 applications to read for the PCLL and made 167 conditional offers.

Of the 167 candidates to whom the Faculty made conditional offers, 154 accepted and 13 declined. Of those accepting conditional offers, 146 were able to satisfy all of the conditions and register on the PCLL. Among these 146 students, 1 applied to withdraw from the PCLL programme in September 2010 due to personal reasons. The 2010 – 2011 PCLL intake accordingly, comprises 145 candidates.

## **2. Changes for 2010/2011**

The major change is that the PCLL has returned to its permanent home in our Graduate Law Centre at Bank of America Tower. This has been welcomed by the vast majority of students.

The Academic Board has recently approved a combining of two Elective courses, Conference Skills and Professional Conduct and Writing and Drafting Opinions and Advices. This should make for a more intensive course and one which more accurately reflects practice. The combined Elective course, “Conference Skills and Opinion Writing” will be one of the Bar Electives.

Other than these changes and the obvious updating of materials, the current PCLL will take the same format as its two predecessors. This has so far worked very well.

### **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 pupilage.

We now have two successful PCLLs to build upon and are hopeful that we can make the 2010/2011 even better than its forbears.

Richard Morris  
PCLL Programme Director  
Faculty of Law  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

November 2010

**The Chinese University of Hong Kong**  
**Juris Doctor Programme**  
**2010 Report for the Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training**

## **1. Background**

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

## **2. Teaching philosophy and structure**

The JD Programme at The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) is taught exclusively at graduate level. JD students enjoy a dedicated programme and do not share any courses with undergraduate LLB students.

The JD is examined as a graduate programme and students must perform to graduate standards. To secure alignment with these standards, the JD and the LLB are both overseen by the Senate of CUHK and an eminent External Examiner who is fully briefed on the level demanded of graduate programmes and what is expected of a JD benchmarked against international standards.

## **3. Admission requirements**

Applicants for admission to the JD Programme in 2010-2011 are required 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 were also required to satisfy the JD Programme's English Language Proficiency Requirement by:

- possessing a bachelor's degree obtained by completing a programme of study in Hong Kong or an English-speaking country, or which was taught primarily in the English language; or
- achieving a result of Band 7.0 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 580 (Paper Based Test), or 237 (Computer Based Test), or 92

(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 structure**

The JD Programme at CUHK provides students with an intellectually-enriching general education in law, while simultaneously permitting them to complete 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 Programme consists of 72 credit units. Students have an average of 3 contact hours per week with teachers in each course. Students entering the JD Programme in 2010-2011 may complete the Programme in full-time mode or part-time mode.

It is possible for full-time mode students to complete the programme in 24 months by completing courses in each summer term; but students may take up to 48 months to complete the Programme.

Part-time mode students can complete their studies in 42 months (students may, in exceptional circumstances, apply to accelerate their studies and complete the Programme in 36 months with the permission of the Graduate Council on the recommendation of the Faculty of Law). Part-time mode students are permitted to take up to 84 months to complete the Programme.

In order to graduate, all students must complete five required courses ("Legal System", "Jurisprudence" "Legal Research, Analysis and Writing", "The Individual, the Community, and the Law" and either "Independent Research" or "Independent Research Dissertation"). The required components are designed to provide JD students with 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 which it serves and regulates.

Students aspiring to admission as a barrister or solicitor in Hong Kong may pursue elective courses which will enable them to apply for admission into the Postgraduate Certificate in Laws (PCLL) programme. These elective courses are also open to students who do not plan to enter the PCLL.

All JD students are permitted to choose further elective courses shared with LLM students from a wide range of intellectually stimulating and professionally enhancing offerings, thereby enabling them to complete their degree requirements while achieving their own academic and professional goals.

#### **5. JD Courses**

The JD Programme is structured to accommodate the interests both of those who intend to enter the legal profession and those who are studying for other reasons. For this reason, the programme comprises a mixture of required and elective courses, as detailed below:

**(i) Required courses**

-	Legal Research, Analysis and Writing
-	Legal System
-	The Individual, the Community, and the Law
-	Jurisprudence
-	Independent Research* OR Independent Research Dissertation*

\* Students are required to 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\*\**

-	Australian Constitutional Law	-	International Economic Development and the Law
-	Business and the Law in Hong Kong	-	International Economic Law Skills
-	Canadian Constitutional Law	-	International Economics
-	Chinese Accounting and Law	-	International Finance and Accounting
-	Chinese Banking Law	-	International Financial and Banking Law
-	Chinese Civil Law	-	International Legal Advocacy
-	Chinese Civil Procedure Law	-	International Relations
-	Chinese Commercial Law	-	International Taxation
-	Chinese Company Law	-	Interviewing and Counseling
-	Chinese Constitutional and Administrative Law	-	Issues in Company Law
-	Chinese Contract Law	-	Issues in Contract
-	Chinese Economy and Law	-	Issues in Criminal Law
-	Chinese Environmental Law	-	Issues in Equity and Trusts
-	Chinese Finance and Law	-	Issues in Human Rights
-	Chinese Financial Law	-	Issues in Land Law
-	Chinese Foreign Trade and Investment Law	-	Issues in Remedies
-	Chinese Intellectual Property Law	-	Issues in Tort

- Chinese Law Internship	- Jessup International Law Moot
- Chinese Politics and Law	- Law and Literature
- Chinese Practice on International Law	- Law of International Business Transactions I
- Chinese Securities Regulation	- Law of International Business Transactions II
- Chinese Tax Law	- Legal System and Methods in China
- Common Law: Globalization and Convergence	- Mooting
- Common Law: Origins and Development	- Non-Marine Insurance Law
- Comparative Company Law	- Principles of Employment Law
- Comparative Constitutional Law	- Principles of Environmental Law
- Comparative Constitutional Traditions	- Principles of Family Law
- Comparative Contract Law	- Principles of Intellectual Property
- Comparative Corporate Governance	- Principles of International Law
- Comparative Legal Traditions	- Principles of Mediation
- Competition Law	- Principles of Remedies
- Conflict of Laws	- Principles of Revenue Law
- Copyright, Digital Subject Matter and Information Technology	- Principles of Securities Regulation
- Crime and the Sanctioning Process	- Private International Law in China
- Dispute Resolution	- Property Law in China
- Dispute Resolution in China	- Refugee Clinical Legal Assistance Programme
- European Union Law	- Secured Transactions and the Law
- History, Culture, and the Law	- Shipping Law
- International and Comparative Environmental Law	- The Law of Electronic Commerce
- International and Comparative Intellectual Property Law	- Trans-national Legal Problems
- International Commercial Dispute Resolution	- World Trade Law

\*\* The offering of an elective course in any particular term is dependent on teacher availability and sufficient student interest.

## 6. Student intake

The JD has proved to be a highly competitive programme in terms of applications and admissions. For the academic year 2010-2011, the Programme received 1150 applications meeting the minimum admission requirements (703 applications for full-time mode and 447 applications for part-time mode). The admission requirements set out in (3) above are *minimum* requirements and many applicants who satisfied these requirements did not receive offers of admissions from CUHK in 2010-2011. The JD attracts students of the very highest quality, and the student body also constitutes a rich mixture of well-educated new graduates together with seasoned professionals who have already achieved considerable success in their chosen fields. The Faculty admitted a total of 224 students having made offers only to the

top segment of applicants, as can be seen in the qualifications of admitted students.

No. of applications received for academic year 2010-2011 (full-time mode)	703
No. of students admitted for academic year 2010-2011 (full-time mode)	144
No. of applications received for academic year 2010-2011 (part-time mode)	447
No. of students admitted for academic year 2010-2011 (part-time mode)	80

All JD students admitted in 2010-2011 possess at least an Upper 2<sup>nd</sup> bachelor's degree or a credit master's degree (or equivalent) as can be seen in the following Table detailing the entry grades of the 2010-2011 cohort:

Band 1	24.55% (55)
Band 2	32.59% (73)
Band 3	42.86% (96)
Total	100% (224)

Band 1: 1<sup>st</sup> class bachelor's degree; or Cumulative GPA 3.5 (4-point scale); or PhD; or above or equivalent.

Band 2: Borderline 1<sup>st</sup> class bachelor's degree; or Cumulative GPA 3.4 (4-point scale); or Master (Distinction); or above or equivalent.

Band 3: Upper 2<sup>nd</sup> class bachelor's degree; or Cumulative GPA 3.2-3.3 (4-point scale); or Master (Credit); or above or equivalent.

As noted above, many of the JD students are taking the Programme to assist their existing careers or to enhance their skills-level and they have no intention of entering the legal profession. Most of the part-time students are professionals with qualifications including Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA), Certified Public Accountants (CPA), Certified Financial Planner (CFP), or membership of The Hong Kong Institute of Chartered Secretaries (HKICS), Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (CHKICPA), The Hong Kong Institute of Bankers (HKIB), The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE), British Physiological Society (BPS), qualified lawyers from various jurisdictions and medical professionals. Some of our students are already in prominent management positions, such as CEO, CFO, VP, AVP, HR Director in local or international firms and organizations e.g. JP Morgan, HSBC, PCCW, Dow Jones & Co., Bloomberg L.P., RTHK Microsoft Corporation, Four Seasons Hotel, Big Four audit firms, leading law firms, and other listed companies.

## 7. Library

The Faculty has necessarily placed great emphasis upon its library holdings given the centrality of law reports, ordinances and scholarly writings to the study of law. The Lee Quo Wei Law Library contains over 87,800 volumes and has 230 print journal titles and access to 2,697 electronic law journals. There are 61 electronic legal databases available to students and staff. Wherever possible electronic format is the preferred option for acquisition of law

journals and serials. The Faculty is investing heavily in library materials to support future year of the various law programmes and has already committed funds to that purpose up to 2010 when the budget allocation will be reviewed and it is envisaged that similar funding levels will be put in to support the law school's teaching and research activities.

Whilst the Lee Quo Wei Law Library houses the main law collection the Legal Resources Centre at the Graduate Law Centre where the JD teaching takes place contains a short loan collection and a small collection of law reports and reference materials. Research materials needed by students at the Graduate Law Centre are provided by a daily courier service funded by the Law Faculty.

The Law Library has developed an extensive array of resource guides and indexes that are accessible via the Library website. Reference services are provided at both library locations. The Faculty of Law has also embedded Information Literacy into the curriculum of the JD programme.

## **8. Physical accommodation**

The JD programme is taught at the Graduate Law Centre (GLC) in Central. The GLC accommodation includes three lecture theatres, a state of the art moot court, small break-out rooms, multi-purpose classrooms, dedicated computer facilities, and a Legal Resources Centre.

## **9. Concluding Remarks**

The JD Programme at CUHK is now a well-established feature of the legal education landscape in Hong Kong. Most of the full-time students admitted into the foundation class in 2006-2007 have now completed the PCLL programme. They, together with this year's graduates and continuing JD students, have received job placement offers from top international and local law firms, government agencies and other organizations and businesses in Hong Kong and abroad. Many have also undertaken pupillage and commenced a career at the Hong Kong bar. The JD students are highly-qualified, highly-motivated and thoroughly prepared for class. Classes are, in consequence, highly interactive with students bringing expertise and experience to enrich the learning environment both within and outside the classroom. Student satisfaction with courses is very high and is monitored independently by the University's Centre for Learning Enhancement and Research. Students on the JD have taken the initiative to set up the Graduate Law Students Association and organised activities, supported by the Faculty, to benefit the whole student body. Mooting teams composed of JD students have already represented the Faculty at both regional and international competitions and achieved outstanding results. Whilst some JD students will not choose a career in law, those that proceed to the PCLL have a great deal to offer the profession and will help answer the call in the Redmond-Roper Report for increased diversity of practitioners in Hong Kong.

Professor Stephen Hall  
JD Programme Director

18 November 2010

# Annexure 5

The University of Hong Kong  
Department of Law

Head's Report to the  
Standing Committee on Legal Education and Training

March 2011

## Admissions and Exchange in 2010-2011

Admissions to the undergraduate law degrees remain highly competitive, and the Department of Law (Department) continues to maintain a high admission standard.

Admissions figures this year for the LLB programme are similar to that of the previous year, with a total intake of 104 made up as follows: 41 through the JUPAS scheme; 26 through our Faculty's non-JUPAS admissions process; 38 through the Early Admissions Scheme for Form Six students; and 9 through mainland recruitment. In addition, a further 131 students have been admitted to the three double degree programmes leading to an LLB after five years of study (76 for BBA (Law); 46 for BSocSc (Govt & Laws); and 9 for BEng (CivELaw).

The number of foreign exchange and visiting students coming to HKU to study law in the Faculty continues to increase. This influx of students from overseas has remained stable in the past year. In 2010-2011, 99 students, from 10 countries spent one or two semesters on exchange with us. Students mostly came from Australia (11), Canada (28), UK (18) and USA (23).

Our own students continue to have a keen interest in applying to undertake exchange studies overseas for either a full-year or a single semester in their upper years of studies. Current figures for out-going law students for 2010-11 comprise 69 students, undertaking studies in 8 countries, mostly in Canada (15), UK (26) and USA (16). Alongside the greater number of exchange places we have been able to put in place, it is evident that our four-year LLB programme and five-year mixed degree programmes have provided the necessary flexibility to our students to spend one semester or two in an overseas university.

## The New Curriculum

The "3+3+4" educational reform agenda requires the Department to re-design the LLB and double degree curriculum structure.

We are in a process of re-designing a LLB curriculum for 2012 and a working group has been formed in the Department to carry out the preparatory work. To make a gradual transition to the year 2012, the Department started a new curriculum — a partial implementation of the new four year curriculum for 2012 — for students admitted in 2010-2011.

Curriculum reform during the transition years in the Department has two components. The first component is the introduction of Common Core Curriculum (CCC). The CCC is in place from 2010 onwards and students admitted in 2010-2011 are required to take two 6-credit common core courses. The Department has amended the LLB curriculum to accommodate the additional 12 credits CCC requirement for the transitional years. By 2012 all undergraduate curricula, including law, will include six 6-credit common core courses, totaling 36 credits. The second component of the curriculum reform is the reform of the first year curriculum, including the restructuring of Legal Research and Writing (LRW) course and a possible introduction of elective courses in the first year curriculum.

The “3+3+4” reform presents a unique challenge to the double degree curriculum structure. As mentioned above, we have three double degree programmes: BBA (Law); BSocSc (Government & Laws); and BEng (Civil Engineering and Laws). The Civil Engineering and Law mixed degree will be replaced by a new mixed degree of Law and Literary Studies. All the double degree programmes will remain as a 5-year programme.

In the meantime, we are working closely with our double degree partners in developing an integrated five year curriculum structure with interdisciplinary courses uniquely designed to connect law and the other disciplines.

### **Experiential Learning and the Use of Chinese Language**

The Department promotes experiential learning and provides credit-bearing opportunities for law students to develop their lawyerly skills and to develop a *pro bono* culture. A 6-credit Clinical Education Course is now in place which enables us to revive the on-campus Free Legal Advice Scheme and to allow students to participate in supervised legal service delivery in real life cases. We have expanded our internship to the Mainland and will send the first batch of students, mainly from the LLB programme, to work as interns in legal aid centres, NGOs, public interest law firms and courts for six to eight weeks.

On top of our Clinical Legal Education course, the Department is re-designing mooting into a 6-credit course to include mediation as part of the course. The Department also maintains a vibrant Summer Social Justice programme.

The use of Chinese language has also received enhanced attention in the Department. We have expanded the course on the use of Chinese in law which has been offered for many years. We have offered a new advanced course on the use of Chinese in law successfully, and are actively planning more structured courses on the use of Chinese with the School of Chinese of our University.

### **International Mooting**

Mooting is an indispensable part of legal education. We continue to promote and support our students to go abroad to participate in international mooting and competitions. The mooting competitions that we already finished include:

- The 5<sup>th</sup> LAWASIA International Moot Competition (11-14 Nov 2010)
- The 6<sup>th</sup> ICC International Commercial Mediation Competition (4-9 Feb 2011)
- Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition (Hong Kong Regional Round competition) (25-26 Feb 2011)

- The 9<sup>th</sup> Red Cross International Humanitarian Law (IHL) Moot (3-5 March 2011)
- The ELSA Moot Court Competition (Asia-Pacific Regional Round) (1-6 March 2011)
- Oxford Intellectual Property Moot 2011 (18-19 March 2011)

We have decided to participate in the following competitions:

- The 4<sup>th</sup> ICC Trial Competition (10-15 April 2011)
- The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Willem C. VIS International Commercial Arbitration Moot (14-22 April 2011)
- The Annual Willem C. VIS (East) International Commercial Arbitration Moot (4-10 April 2011)
- The 12<sup>th</sup> International Maritime Law Arbitration Moot Competition (1-5 July 2011)
- The Asia Cup 2011 (Aug 2011)

Professor Fu Hualing  
Head  
Department of Law

**REPORT ON THE PCLL**  
**AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG**

**January – December 2010**

I am pleased to provide a report on the PCLL at The University of Hong Kong covering the period from January 2010 to December 2010.

*Admissions*

The number of applications for the 2010/11 intake has further increased. A total of over 600 applications were received, of which about 83% designated HKU PCLL as first preference. We followed the same admissions policies and guidelines on admissions as previously agreed by members of the Admissions Committee of our Academic Board and conducted a small number of interviews.

275 students were eventually admitted, among those 226 are studying full-time and 49 are studying part-time. 17 applicants failed to take up our conditional offers because of their failure in the conversion exams.

HKU graduates take up about 50% of the total number of places. Overseas, including UK CPE, graduates take up about another 30%. The remaining places are shared among other local applicants with external LLB degree, local CPE or LLB or JD graduates from City University or Chinese University of Hong Kong. About 25% of our new intakes have an IELTS overall band score of 8.5 or above.

We allocated the government-funded full-time places on merit. About half of those places were given to HKU graduates. The remaining places were shared among other categories of applicants with the UK graduates having the largest share (about another one-third).

*The Curriculum*

The following three changes have been implemented this academic year 2010/11.

- (1) Civil and Criminal Litigation have been segregated (again) into two core practice areas namely, Civil Litigation and Criminal Litigation.
- (2) The Private Client Matters Elective has been renamed as Wills and Estate Planning.
- (3) A new elective Use of Chinese in Legal Practice bearing the same name has been offered to our full-time cohort for preliminary selection.

Our part-time Year 2 students have started their Electives. Because of the smaller number of students, not all of the Electives are able to secure sufficient enrolment.

The Law Society continues their monitoring of the HKU PCLL through their nominees as our external examiners who attend some of the classes, review and comment on our teaching

materials, review our assessment papers and all distinction, failed and borderline scripts to ensure quality delivery and standards. We are grateful for their feedback which has been very positive and assistance.

It has been further proposed to rename ‘Wills and Estate Planning’ to ‘Wills, Trusts and Estate Planning’ in 2011/12. The use of trust in estate planning has always been taught and emphasized in this Elective.

### *Human Resources Planning and Development*

To cope with the various demands posed on the Department by (a) the full-time and the part-time PCLLs, (b) the running of a few PCLL pre-requisites in the extended LLB and the newly established JD and (c) the running of the new curriculum, particularly the Electives, we have recruited two more new Senior Teaching Consultants who have practical legal experience in Hong Kong suitable to fill in the teaching gaps and needs. The expansion of the full-time staff establishment has probably reached its maximum limit.

The challenge ahead will be to consolidate the existing establishment and utilize and develop our network with the profession to expand our pool of well-qualified and experienced part-time teachers.

We look forward to the continuing dialogue and co-operation with the profession via the professional bodies, firms and chambers, as well as individual members of the profession for the better development of the HKU PCLL.

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

January 2011

**Faculty of Law**  
**The University of Hong Kong**  
**Juris Doctor Programme**  
**Report 2011**

**Background**

In September 2009, the Faculty of Law of The University of Hong Kong welcomed the inaugural class of the JD programme. The design of the JD programme has been benchmarked against the JD programmes offered by some of the leading law schools in the world, with advice from experts from Harvard Law School and The Melbourne Law School. A unique feature of our JD programme is that it provides solid training in the common law system through small-group teaching.

We have admitted only a small intake to enable a most satisfying, challenging, and interactive learning experience. With our strong reputation for offering quality legal education and our extensive network of alumni and friends, both local and overseas, we have received very strong support for our JD programme.

**Programme Structure**

The JD is a full-time, two-year law degree that provides comprehensive and in-depth legal education to students without prior background in the law. The emphasis of the programme is not on rote learning of legal rules, but on critical appreciation and assessment of the policy underpinnings of these rules. The programme distinguishes itself by its small class size of about 40 students. JD students take their core courses separately from the LLB students. We believe that an intimate environment will facilitate interaction and enhance the learning experience.

The JD programme can usually be finished in two years. There are three semesters in each academic year: the first semester, which lasts from September to December; the second semester, which lasts from January to May; and the one-month June semester.

In order to complete the programme, students are required to take courses worth a total of 144 credits. A one-semester course in the JD programme is usually worth 6 credits, and a full-year course 12 credits. 84 of the required 144 credits comprise core courses, which are listed below. Students are also required to complete a 6-credit dissertation. The remaining 54 credits are devoted to electives. Students who wish to apply for the PCLL must take the following 6-credit courses: Company Law, Evidence, Civil Procedure, Criminal Procedure, and Land Law III.

The core courses are :-

Contracts I & II  
Torts I & II  
Equity & Trusts I & II  
Land Law I & II  
Criminal Law I & II  
Constitutional Law  
Commercial Law  
Legal System  
Legal Research & Methods  
Dissertation

As to electives, the Faculty of Law offers electives in a wide variety of cutting-edge areas of law, such as financial law, international arbitration, environmental law, competition law, intellectual property law, to name but a few. There are no restrictions on the selection of electives, except that students must choose at least one elective from the “International, Comparative and Theoretical Perspectives of Law (“ICT”)” list of courses, and one elective from the “Chinese Law” list of courses. Students are also encouraged to take part in local and international mooted competitions.

## **Admissions Criteria**

### Basic Selection Criteria

The JD programme looks for a record of demonstrated academic excellence. We expect to admit applicants with degree qualifications with at least a 2:1 or the equivalent (cum laude from North American universities) from a reputable university in Hong Kong or overseas. We seek to admit students with diverse backgrounds and relevant professional and other experiences. The application entails a personal statement, a writing sample, an English language requirement, and letters of reference. To help us make better decisions, some applicants may be asked to attend in-person or telephone/videoconference interviews.

### English Language Requirement

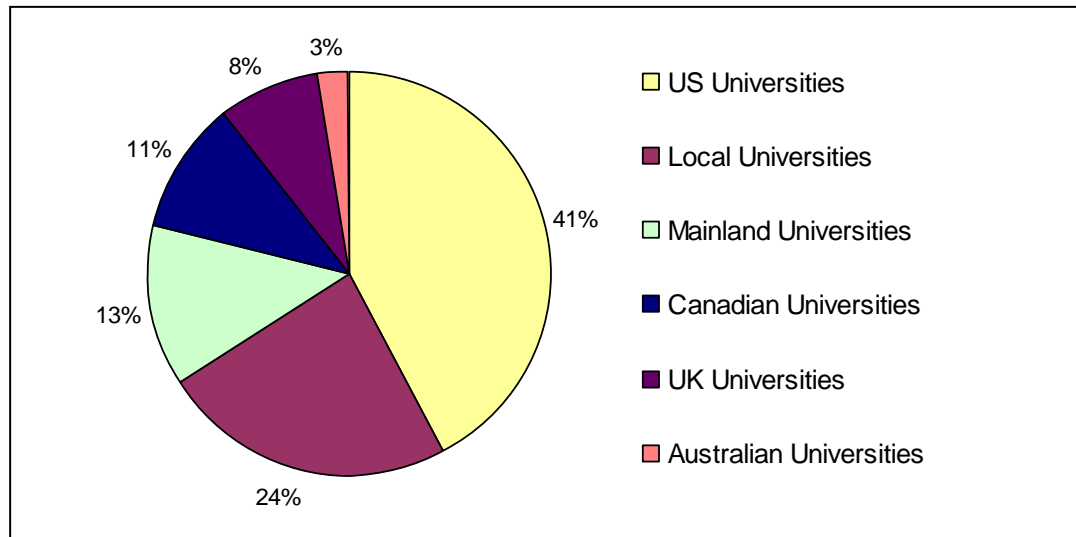
Applicants who did not graduate from a university in which the medium of instruction is English are required to take either IELTS (International English Language Testing System) **or** TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language). The following are minimum requirements on IELTS and TOEFL for admission to the JD programme:

**IELTS:** a minimum overall band score of 7.5, with no individual score below 6.5, and a minimum band score of 7.0 in the academic writing module

**TOEFL:** a minimum score of 600 on the paper-based test (or 100 on the internet-based test)

## The First JD Class

We are very pleased to have admitted a highly qualified inaugural class for the JD programme. In our first year, we received more than 360 applications, and made 50 initial offers. The acceptance rate is therefore approximately 13.9%. 38 students matriculated, of whom graduates of U.S. universities account for close to a majority. Roughly one quarter of the matriculated students received their undergraduate degrees from a Hong Kong university. The remainder of the class consisted of graduates from universities in the U.K., Canada, Australia, and Mainland China.



43% of the matriculated students possess prior full-time work experience. 15% of them have advanced degrees. The most popular undergraduate subjects in the first JD class are: finance (21%), economics (11%), English (9%), and politics (9%). Other subjects include business, engineering, and history. Lastly, the first JD class consists of 23 female students and 15 male students.

All of our admitted students have obtained at least a 2:1 or a GPA of 3.3 in their first degree. We are very pleased with the first cohort of students. Apart from their maturity, they have displayed very positive aptitude in and attitude towards the study of law, and in particular the challenges of acquiring legal skills. We are convinced that they are at least of comparable if not better quality to the graduates of any good law school. At the Faculty of Law, we pride ourselves in maintaining a rigorous standard of grading for all programmes. We do not mark the JD students any less or more leniently than we do the LLBs. Our marking practices are similar to those in English universities.

The first JD class has continued to prosper in the second year of their study. Their academic results from the first year were satisfactory. Many of them successfully secured summer internships in their first-year summer, and have subsequently obtained training contracts. Having completed their first-year courses in Contracts, Torts, Criminal Law, Constitutional Law, Company Law, Legal Systems, and Legal Research & Methods, they now devote their attention to electives. Most JD students take the PCLL prerequisites courses, while a handful of them do not, as they do not intend to practice law. The rest of their course load consists of

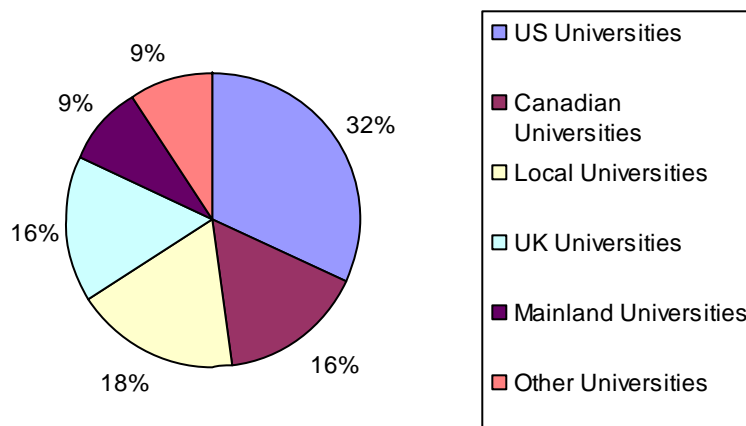
free electives, which the students have used to sample courses in environmental law, financial law, competition law, banking law, animal law, securities regulation, human rights law, and intellectual property law. Two of the students have been selected to participate in the exchange programme with University of Pennsylvania Law School, and will finish their JD study by pursuing an LL.M. degree at Penn in their third year.

The first JD class has also served as role models for their juniors, taking their own initiative to organize an informal “buddy” programme. Through this programme, second-year students are paired up with first-year students to offer advice on academic work and job search.

We are very pleased with our first batch of JD students and look forward to graduating them in a few months’ time.

**The second JD class**

Admissions statistics in 2010 also demonstrate continuous strength. Currently, 44 students are enrolled in the first year, out of over 380 applications we received. They obtained their undergraduates degrees in a variety of English- and Chinese-speaking jurisdictions such as the States (14 students), Canada (7 students), United Kingdom (7 students), Hong Kong (8 students), mainland China (4 students), as well as the Netherlands, Australia, Egypt, and the Philippines. Below is a diagrammatic presentation of the composition of the students. There is a relatively even spread in their undergraduate disciplines, with Economics (16%), Politics (12%), and the Sciences (12%) being the three most popular disciplines. Nonetheless, 8% of them had first-degree training in language and translation, and 6% in Law (in particular, mainland civil law), while the rest of the cohort studied Engineering, Piano Performance, Archaeology, History, Psychology, Business, as well as Philosophy.



A quarter of our current Year 1 students have obtained postgraduate degrees, almost half of them (43%) have had full-time working experience before commencing their JD study.

## **Conclusion**

We believe the JD programme has filled an important gap in legal education in Hong Kong, namely the provision of a law degree education to people who have acquired a first degree in another discipline. We have also endeavoured to maintain the most rigorous standard of legal study in the JD degree. Although it is extremely challenging for students from a variety of disciplines and work experience to acquire the skill sets of a lawyer in an intensive two-year programme, we believe this is possible with the common, single-minded dedication of both Faculty and students.

## Annexure 6

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

- Chairman** : Mr. Kenneth KWOK Hing-wai, S.C., B.B.S., J.P. (from March 2010)  
Hong Kong Bar Association
- Mr. Lester Garson HUANG, J.P. (from September 2005 to March 2010)  
The Law Society of Hong Kong
- Members** : Dr. Danny CHOONG Ewe-leong  
The Federation for Continuing Education in Tertiary Institutions
- Mr. Richard MORRIS (from 15 June 2009) (Professor Elsa KELLY  
from 4 January 2007 to 14 June 2009)  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- Ms. Heather DOUGLAS (from 9 April 2009)  
City University of Hong Kong
- Ms. Amanda WHITFORT  
The University of Hong Kong
- Secretary** : Ms. Heidi CHU Kit-peng (from September 2005 to September 2010)  
The Law Society of Hong Kong
- Ms. Vivien LEE (from September 2010)  
The Law Society of Hong Kong

# Annexure 7

## THE HONG KONG CONVERSION EXAMINATION BOARD

- Chairman** : Mr. Lester Garson HUANG, J.P.  
The Law Society of Hong Kong
- Members** : Mr. Edward CHAN King-sang, S.C., J.P.  
Hong Kong Bar Association
- Professor Johannes CHAN Man-mun, S.C.  
The University of Hong Kong
- Ms. Heather DOUGLAS  
City University of Hong Kong
- Mr. Richard MORRIS  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- The Honourable Mr. Justice Azizul Rahman SUFFIAD  
Court of First Instance of the High Court
- Secretary** : Mr. John CRIBBIN  
HKU School of Professional and Continuing Education