

**Welcome Address by
Mr Rimsky Yuen, SC, JP,
Law Reform Commission Chairman
at the Law Reform Essay Competition 2015
Certificate Award Ceremony on 15 June 2015**

Chief Justice, Members of the Law Reform Commission, Distinguished Guests, Ladies & Gentlemen:

First of all, on behalf of the Law Reform Commission (“LRC”), may I extend our warmest welcome to all of you for joining this Award Ceremony.

2. As I have said on other occasions, we believe that law reform plays an important role in any community which aspires to maintain the rule of law. Hong Kong is no exception. This Law Reform Essay Competition is one of the means we employ to promote the importance of law reform.

3. Indeed, this is the second time we hold the annual LRC Essay Competition. By offering law students an opportunity, not only to study a specific area of Hong Kong law, but also to consider and propose how it may be reformed, we hope that the competition will help to foster amongst Hong Kong law students an awareness and interest in law reform, as well as to enhance their understanding of its importance, complexity and implications.

4. The topic that was chosen for this year’s competition is: ***“Should Hong Kong legislate on cyber-bullying? If so, how?”*** This topic reflects the ever-changing and increasingly technological environment in which we live, where bullying can take place not only at home, school or the workplace, but also in the virtual world of cyberspace. In short, it is a topic of growing importance in Hong Kong as well as in some other jurisdictions, and hence we believe is a topic worth exploring.

5. In this year’s competition, a total of 34 essays were received. Eleven were short-listed, and the 5 finalists were chosen after very careful assessment by our Adjudicating Panel comprising Professor Lin Feng, Professor Michael Hor, Professor Christopher Gane, Mr Allan Leung, Mr Paul Wan (the Law Draftsman of the Department of Justice) and former LRC member Professor Michael Wilkinson. We are most grateful to all the

members of the Adjudicating Panel for their time and effort in considering and assessing the essays.

6. To the 5 finalists, I would like to congratulate each of you for your well-argued and thoroughly researched essays. The 5 essays are all of very high standard, both in terms of substance and presentation. Clearly, a great deal of research and reflection was undertaken, and some highly innovative measures to tackle cyber-bullying were suggested. Should you like to read the 5 essays (and I would recommend you to do so), they are available on the LRC's website.

7. The 5 winners are awarded a one-month attachment with leading law firms, barristers' chambers and the Department of Justice. I would like to thank the 4 sponsoring law firms and barristers' chambers for their support in offering internships to the finalists. They are: Mayer Brown JSM, ONC Lawyers, Temple Chambers and Woo Kwan Lee & Lo. Their support is instrumental in making this competition a success. I am very happy that Mr Ludwig Ng of ONC Lawyers, one of our sponsors and a strong supporter of law reform, will share with us his thoughts on the competition in a moment.

8. Apart from the people and law firms which I have mentioned, I would also like to thank the 4 participating universities, namely, the University of Hong Kong, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the City University of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Shue Yan University. Without their assistance in disseminating information to their students and encouraging them to participate, I am sure this competition would not have achieved such excellent submissions.

9. On this note, may I wish the finalists every success in their studies and future career in the legal profession. Thank you all for coming and I wish you an enjoyable evening. Thank you.