

December 31, 2018

Ms. Melissa Pang
President
The Law Society of Hong Kong
3/F, Wing On House
71 Des Voeux Road Central



AmCham
The American Chamber
of Commerce in Hong Kong
1904 Bank of America Tower
12 Harcourt Road, Hong Kong

Dear Ms Pang,

The American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong appreciates the opportunity to express, on behalf of itself and its legal profession members who are also members of the Law Society, its views on the Law Society of Hong Kong's Proposed Amendments to the Foreign Lawyer Registration Rules (and other Rules) ("Proposed Amendments").

We are an organization whose core mission is to enhance Hong Kong as an international business and financial center. Our position represents the views of our organization and the individual members who would be impacted by the Proposed Amendments.

AmCham understands that these amendments have been proposed as a result of the Law Society's concerns in relation to promote the hire of local Hong Kong lawyers and non-qualified lawyers practicing Hong Kong law. While we appreciate that these issues may need to be addressed, we are of the view that the Proposed Amendments are inconsistent both with Hong Kong's identity and image as the world's most free and open economy and with its crucial differentiating role as the leading provider of high value-added services within the Greater Bay Area, as well as in the increasingly integrated PRC economy more generally.

We understand that the Law Society must maintain high standards of legal practice in Hong Kong and ensure that there is equal opportunity to practice law in Hong Kong. However, we believe that the Proposed Amendments are not practical in the context of Hong Kong as an international hub and may have consequences which far outweigh any expected benefit from the changes.

We urge the Law Society Council to reconsider the Proposed Amendments in consideration of the impact the passage of these proposed amendments could have on Hong Kong. In order to achieve our common goal of ensuring that Hong Kong remains a healthy and robust international business and financial center, we and our members would welcome the opportunity to consult further with the Law Society to derive a sensible solution which will meet the long term needs of the entire legal profession while ensuring that Hong Kong will not lose its attractiveness as the primary center for legal services in Asia.

AmCham would be very pleased to provide further feedback. Should you have any questions, please contact Ms. Agnes Tsang, Director of Government Relations & Public Affairs at atsang@amcham.org.hk, or by phone: 2530 6927.

Yours faithfully,

Jack Lange
2018 Chairman

Tara Joseph
President