



Supporting organisation



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Seminar on “Whistleblowing Reforms: Can Hong Kong learn from Australia?” and “The Failure of the Statutory Business Judgment Rule: What alternative protections should there be for company directors?”

25 September 2017 (Monday)

- Date : Monday, 25 September 2017
- Topic : Session 1 – Whistleblowing Reforms: Can Hong Kong learn from Australia?
Session 2 – The Failure of the Statutory Business Judgment Rule: What alternative protections should there be for company directors?
- Time : Session 1 – 10.00 am – 12.00 noon (Registration at 9.45 am)
Session 2 – 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm (Registration at 1.45 pm)
- Presenter : **Professor Jean Jacques du Plessis**, Professor of Law, Deakin University, Australia
- Moderator : **Professor CK Low FCIS FCS**, Associate Professor in Corporate Law, CUHK Business School
- Level : Intermediate
- Language : English
- Venue : Admiralty Conference Centre, 1804A, Tower 1, Admiralty Centre, 18 Harcourt Road, Admiralty, Hong Kong
- Fee : **For members of the HKICS, HKICPA or Law Society of Hong Kong or HKIoD**
HK\$450 for the full-day seminar or HK\$250 per session
- For non-members**
HK\$810 for the full-day seminar or HK\$450 per session
- Accreditations : HKICS (4 ECPD points; 2 ECPD points per session)
HKICPA (4 CPD points; 2 CPD points per session)
The Law Society of Hong Kong (TBC)

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About the Course

Session 1 – Whistleblowing Reforms: Can Hong Kong learn from Australia?

The Turnbull Government has – in the face of some criticism – promised comprehensive whistleblower reforms for Australia. This seminar will review the present whistle blowing regime in Australia before proceeding to analyse its deficiencies. It concludes by highlighting the areas where Australia has fallen behind global norms as accentuated by the G20 “Breaking the Silence” report. These insights will provide valuable lessons that companies and policy makers in Hong Kong may learn from the process as it strives towards achieving international standards in this vexed area of regulations.

Session 2 – The Failure of the Statutory Business Judgment Rule: What alternative protections should there be for company directors?

The introduction of the statutory business judgment rule in Australia was welcomed with enthusiasm as it was perceived to address directors’ concerns about their exposure to personal liability. However, on closer examination, this statutory rule and the few cases where it was used as a defence, reveal that the actual protection it provided for directors is negligible or illusory at best. This seminar will put forward proposals to afford directors with wider protection against personal liability. Given its common corporate law framework with Australia, the proposed reforms – if adopted in Hong Kong – would strike an appropriate balance between accountability and personal liability for directors.

About the Presenter

Professor Jean Jacques du Plessis

Professor Jean Jacques du Plessis is currently a Professor (Corporate Law) in the law school at Deakin and is Director of the Centre for Comparative Corporate Governance (CCC-G). He studied in South Africa and obtained his Doctorate in Law (LLD) in 1991 and graduated from the Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD) in 2011. He served a 3-year term as Head of the Deakin Law School from 2000-2002, was the President of the Corporate Law Teachers Association (CLTA) in 2007 and 2008, and is a member of the Deakin University Council until 31 December 2017. From 2004 to 2008, Jean was involved in the South African Corporate Law Reform Program as part of a small international reference group that assisted the South African Department of Trade and Industry with the new South African Companies Act 71 of 2008, which commenced on 1 May 2011. Jean teaches Corporate Governance, Corporate Law and Corporations Law.

Professor du Plessis has spent extensive time doing research in the UK and in Germany (as the Alexander von Humboldt Scholar) in the areas of corporate law and corporate governance. He is the recipient of the Anneliese Maier Research Award from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, an award of EUR250,000 over five years (2013-2018) to enable him to conduct research regarding the further internationalisation of the German corporate law and corporate governance models. He has published extensively in international refereed law journals in the areas of corporate law and corporate governance and has published several books as co-author in Australia, Germany and South Africa.

About the Moderator

Professor CK Low

Professor Chee Keong Low ('CK') FCIS FCS is an Associate Professor in Corporate Law at CUHK Business School with research interests in issues pertaining to corporate governance and the regulatory framework of capital markets. His research, which has published in journals in Australasia, Europe and the United States of America, is supported by private sector grants from Sino Group and Tricor Services.

An Advocate and Solicitor of the High Court of Malaya, CK is presently a member of the Process Review Panel of the Financial Reporting Council in Hong Kong and of the Executive Committee of the Asia-Pacific Structured Finance Association. He was previously a member of the Listing Committee of The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong from May 2006 to July 2010; the Financial Reporting Review Panel from July 2007 to July 2013; as well as of the Securities and Futures Appeals Tribunal from April 2011 to March 2017. In addition, he served as a Director of the Asian Institute of Finance in Malaysia for three years through April 2012.

CK is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators and of the Hong Kong Institute of Chartered Secretaries.

The Hong Kong Institute of Chartered Secretaries

Enhanced Continuing Professional Development (ECPD) Training

Seminar Enrolment Form

Seminar Title: _____ Joint Seminar on 'Whistleblowing Reforms: Can Hong Kong learn from Australia? (Session 1)' and
_____ 'The Failure of the Statutory Business Judgment Rule: What alternative protections should there be for company directors? (Session 2)'

Seminar Date: _____ 25 September 2017 **Time:** _____ 10.00 am – 12.00 noon and/or 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

Full Name (Mr/Ms/Mrs): _____ Membership No.: _____

Mobile No.: _____ (SMS notification in case of urgent notice)

For Non-member ONLY

Company Name: _____ Job Title: _____

Correspondence Address: _____

Email Address: _____

I agree to subscribe to HKICS e-Update

	Session 1 (10.00 am – 12.00 nn)	Session 2 (2.00 pm – 4.00 pm)	Full Day (10.00 am – 12.00 nn and 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm)
HKICS / HKICPA / Law Society Members* (Please circle*)	<input type="checkbox"/> HK\$250	<input type="checkbox"/> HK\$250	<input type="checkbox"/> HK\$450
Non-member	<input type="checkbox"/> HK\$450	<input type="checkbox"/> HK\$450	<input type="checkbox"/> HK\$810

CPD points required from The Law Society of Hong Kong

Total HK\$

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- (iv) The Institute reserves the right to change the listed presenter(s), date, time and venue if necessary. Any change of date, time and venue will be notified by email/sms. Please visit www.hkics.org.hk for latest seminar information.
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