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## **JAWATANKUASA PEGUAM PULAU PINANG PENANG BAR COMMITTEE**

Court Liaison 4/19

30 Apr 2019

To Members of the Penang Bar,

### **Issues from Meeting with Penang Courts**

Members of the Penang Bar Committee recently held meetings with the Penang High Court as well as the Subordinate Courts' Judges and Officers.

A summary of the issues discussed at the said meetings is produced below for members' information and attention:

### **High Court**

#### **1. E-Review and Video Conferencing**

- The E-Review system for Penang Courts applies to cases filed from 1 Apr 2019 onwards.
- There is still no confirmation on when Video Conferencing facilities will be open for utilisation at the Penang High Court. We were informed that details are still being worked out by the Court authorities in POJ.

#### **2. Robing of Pupils during Admission to the Bar**

- The Committee notes that in recent times, family members have been asked to robe Pupils during their Admission to the Bar, when the Rules and Rulings of the Bar Council clearly provide as follows:

#### ***10.04. Duties and obligations of a master as regards his/her pupil's call to the Bar***

*(1) It is the master's duty to arrange for an Advocate and Solicitor of more than 7 years' standing to move his/her pupil's call to the Bar.*

*(2) The master shall make every effort to be present in Court for his/her pupil's call.*

*(3) Only an Advocate and Solicitor with a valid practising certificate and who has at least 7 years' standing shall robe a pupil upon admission to the Bar by the Presiding Judge.*

*(4) Any Advocate and Solicitor who robes a pupil on the admission to the Bar shall be in Open Court attire.*

*(5) The master shall ensure that his/her pupil strictly follows the Open Court attire.*

- Members', especially Pupil-Masters, are requested to pay attention to this Ruling and request for compliance of the same to avoid any embarrassment to the Court in denying requests to allow family members to robe the Pupils during Call proceedings.

3. Administrative Issues at the Penang High Court

- SAR Puan Diannee Ningrad binti Nor Azahar is the Administrative Officer at the Penang High Court as of 22 Apr 2019, taking over from Deputy Registrar, Puan Nurzafirah Binti Mohamed Ali who went on transfer to the Alor Star High Court on 8 Apr 2019. Puan Diannee has also been assigned to hear Execution matters.
- Puan Diannee will be assisted by Deputy Registrars, Tuan Muhammad Firdaus bin Abdul Wahab and Puan Liza.
- SAR Tuan Savinder Singh a/l Jugindar Singh has been assigned to hear Foreclosure matters. He is also serving as Registrar to YA Dato' Akhtar Tahir's Court.

**Subordinate Courts**

1. Punctual Attendance in Court

- Members who have multiple cases to attend on the same day or are delayed for one reason or another are reminded once again to inform the Court interpreters and their opponents to have their matters stood down.
- The Court has assured us that they will accommodate such requests to stand down cases as long as they receive prior notification verbally or in writing.

2. Relocation of Georgetown Civil Courts hearing Civil Cases involving Road Accidents

- The Court has informed us that they are in the midst of finalising plans to rent a private premises in Green Hall to relocate the Georgetown Civil Courts that hear Civil Cases involving Road Accident.
- Members would be aware that the said Civil Courts had relocated from Georgetown to Balik Pulau in Sept 2018 due to the closure of the main Penang High Court Building and subsequent movement of several Court rooms and registries. The relocation to Balik Pulau has caused inconvenience to members of the Bar, litigants and all other parties involved, which both the Court and the Bar has been aware of and we have been in constant discussions with the view of finding a solution or compromise.
- The Court is not able to provide an exact timeline or date for the relocation to Green Hall, but they have assured us that it is in the pipeline and the relevant approvals and permits are being applied for.

3. Problems occurring in and around Court premises

- Both the Court and Committee agreed that ongoing incidents of touting continue to be a problem in various Courts.
- The Court has informed us that they view this issue seriously and appropriate measures will be taken to inform the proper authorities. The Bar is fully in support of this.

We once again urge members to inform us of any Court-related issues or problems by sending them in writing to the Penang Bar Secretariat (e-mail: [secretariat@penangbar.org](mailto:secretariat@penangbar.org) / fax: 04-262 8664).

**Lee Guan Tong & Imavathi Subramaniam**  
**Co-Chairpersons**  
**Court Liaison Subcommittee**