



## HONG KONG BAR ASSOCIATION

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Our Ref: Discipline 01/2017

8 March 2017

Mr. Robert Tibbo  
Barrister-at-law  
Suite 1301A,  
13/F, Wayson Commercial House,  
68-70 Lockhart Road,  
Wan Chai, Hong Kong

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**BY POST**

Dear Mr. Tibbo,

**Re: Complaint lodged against you  
in relation to Mr. Edward Snowden**

The Standing Committee on Discipline notes that an anonymous complaint has been made against you about your role in the escape from Hong Kong of Mr. Edward Snowden, the former CIA employee (“**Snowden’s Escape**”).

With reference to four newspaper articles attached herewith, the complaints against you in broad terms are that you have, *inter alia*:-

- (a) Put your non-refoulement clients, who took part in assisting Snowden’s Escape as arranged by you, in danger and/or undesirable positions;
- (b) Engaged in unacceptable (if not disgraceful) touting; and
- (c) As a result, brought the legal profession into disrepute.

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In light of the above, the Standing Committee on Discipline requires you to provide a written reply to the following questions within twenty-eight (28) days. Upon consideration of your reply, a decision will be made as to the way forward of this complaint and whether or not a disciplinary inquiry is necessary.

1. How did you initially come into contact with Mr. Snowden?
2. Under what circumstances have you agreed to assist in Snowden's Escape?
3. In respect of what matters have the your non-refoulement clients, namely, Supun and his partner Nadeeka (from Sri Lanka), Vanessa (from the Philippines), and Ajith (from Sri Lanka) (collectively "**Your Non-Refoulement Clients**"), sought your legal advice and representation?
4. What are your reasons for seeking assistance from Your Non-Refoulement Clients?
5. What considerations did you take into account when seeking assistance from Your Non-Refoulement Clients, in particular, their personal safety by providing confidential details permitting the publication of their details and photos for publication, and the consequence that Your Non-Refoulement Clients will never be able to resettle in a third country.
6. Under what circumstances have Your Non-Refoulement Clients agreed to assist Mr. Snowden?
7. How have you initially come into contact with Ms. Theresa Tedesco, the author of two news articles in The National Post about Snowden's Escape, and about yourself?
8. How much of the content in the newspaper articles attached, come from you directly as a source, in particular, the following statements:-
  - a. *"[You are] one of the busiest human rights lawyers in the Chinese city-state, and the strain of coming to the constant aid of more than 70 refugee clients who depend on [you] for more than just their asylum cases is showing."*
  - b. *"That changed in 2012 amid mass arrests in the local asylum community. Tibbo established a legal clinic to help hundreds of destitute refugee claimants who had mostly been tortured or sexually abused in their home countries, notably Sri Lanka, Indonesia, the Philippines and West Africa. "My phone never stopped ringing as people who were incarcerated started seeking me out rather than seeking out legal aid," he said."*
  - c. *"Tibbo has certainly parlayed his association with Snowden to burnish his human rights credentials in Hong Kong. He said he is overwhelmed with*

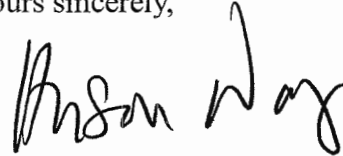
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*refugee client requests, for which he is paid about HK\$750 an hour (approximately C\$135). Still, his cases haven't won him accolades within the conservative local legal fraternity."*

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anson Wong". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Anson Wong, SC  
Chairman  
Standing Committee on Discipline

Encls.  
AW/ct