

### **MOJ Regulates the Joint Operation among Law Firms of HK, Macao and Mainland China**

Chinese version Beginning on March 6, 2008, Hong Kong (HK) and Macao law firms that have established representative offices in Mainland China are eligible to be engaged in the joint operations with a law firm in Mainland China, so as to respectively provide HK, Macao and Mainland legal services to the consignors.

China's Ministry of Justice (MOJ) released, on March 6, 2008, the Decisions on Modifying the Administrative Measures for the Joint Operations between Law Firms of Hong Kong and Macao Special Administrative Region and the Law Firms in Mainland China. Under the Decisions, besides the current requirements, Hong Kong and Macao law firms that apply for such joint operations must be qualified with the requirements as follows: no administrative penalties are imposed on their representative offices within 2 years prior to their applications; if the representative offices fail to have been established for 2 years when they apply for the joint operations, then no administrative penalties shall be imposed on them since the date of establishment of the representative offices.

Besides, if both parties of the joint operations decide to share a same office, then they must choose that of the Mainland representative offices of the HK and Macao law firms or that of the Mainland law firms as the public office.

(Source: Ministry of Justice)

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