李偉民律師事務所 MAURICE WM LEE SOLICITORS

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Important Legal News

With effect from 3 December 2018, the District Court ("DC") and Small Claims Tribunal ("SCT") will hear court cases of higher monetary value:

- The limit of the civil jurisdiction of the DC has increased from HK\$1 million to HK\$3 million.
- The SCT limit has gone up from HK\$50,000 to HK\$75,000.
- The limit for land matters in the DC has increased from HK\$240,000 to HK\$320,000 in terms of the annual rent or rateable value of the land.

At SCT level, parties must act in person and cannot instruct lawyers to represent them in the hearings. At DC level, parties can instruct only solicitors (for High Court and above, parties shall instruct additionally a barrister plus a solicitor) without a barrister in the hearings.

It is believed that litigation costs for parties involved in court actions may substantially go down.

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重要法庭資訊

由 2018 年 12 月 3 日起,區域法院及小額錢債審裁處將審理較高價值的案件:

● 區域法院的民事申索由\$100萬港元上升至\$300萬港元限額;

- 小額錢債審裁處由\$50,000港元上升至\$75,000港元限額;
- 根據土地的應課差餉或年值計算,區域法院有關土地申索由\$24 萬港元上升至\$32 萬港元限額。

在小額錢債審裁處,當事人不可委派律師代表出庭處理,必須親自出庭。在區域法院,當事人可在沒有大律師陪同下,只委派事務律師代表出庭(在高等法院及以上法院,當事人則需要同時委派事務律師及大律師做出庭代表)。

由此可見,香港的訴訟費用有機會在將來大大下降。

李偉民律師事務所

Nothing shall constitute advice to any person by Messrs. Maurice WM Lee Solicitors (Tel: (852) 2537 5833) (Website: www.wmleehk.com)

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