

Legal Advice
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S. C. M.?

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Advice scheme benefits 2,000

About 2,000 people have taken advantage of free legal consultation offered by the Law Society Legal Advice and Assistance Scheme since it was introduced 15 months ago.

Speaking at a dinner meeting last night, a representative of the Law Society, Mr B. K. Ho, expressed satisfaction with those figures and said the free service should continue to expand.

Since November 1978, two advice bureaux have been operating every Thursday evening in the Mongkok and Eastern City District Offices.

A third bureau was opened three months ago in the Wong Tai Sin City District Office to cope with the increasing demand.

Mr Ho said the free legal service aims to provide advice to individuals without regard to their financial means.

Volunteer lawyers man the centres.

Cases involving matrimonial disputes, commercial and property disputes, landlords and tenants, torts, employment and accident compensation have been handled so far.

The Law Society also provides free legal representation in certain types of cases.

Citizens accused of membership in an unlawful society, loitering, unlawful possession, going equipped for stealing, obstructing a police officer or possessing dangerous drugs can qualify for the free representation.

Mr Ho said that over 100 lawyers appear regularly on behalf of such defendants.

The Law Society has handled 3,340 cases since the free legal representation services were established.

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