



Issue 75/06

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.

Maurice WM Lee Solicitors

重要法庭信息

由 2018 年 12 月 3 日起，区域法院及小额钱债审裁处将审理较高价值的案件：

- 区域法院的民事申索由\$100 万港元上升至\$300 万港元限额；

- 小额钱债审裁处由\$50,000 港元上升至\$75,000 港元限额；
- 根据土地的应课差饷或年值计算，区域法院有关土地申索由\$24 万港元上升至\$32 万港元限额。

在小额钱债审裁处，当事人不可委派律师代表出庭处理，必须亲自出庭。在区域法院，当事人可在没有大律师陪同下，只委派事务律师代表出庭（在高等法院及以上法院，当事人则需要同时委派事务律师及大律师做出庭代表）。

由此可见，香港的诉讼费用有机会在将来大大下降。

李伟民律师事务所

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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