



SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

CRIMINAL PRACTICE & COURT LIAISON



Vasudevan Appu

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This year was a challenging year for all the criminal lawyers with the pandemic of Covid-19 and most of the trials have been postponed due to the Movement Control Order (MCO) and Covid-19 and for the Criminal Practice & Court Liaison Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee members worked hard to plan, coordinate and carry out various projects for the year of 2020.

Sub-Committee members had met meetings using all the online applications, and when needed, they were tasked to contribute to the activities of The Selangor Bar Committee.

The Sub-Committee had successfully undertaken the following events/assignments:



Meeting with the Selangor Chief Police Officer, Datuk Arjunaidi Mohamed at IPK Selangor

- This meeting was held at the Ibu Pejabat Polis Kontinjen Selangor, and various issues were sorted out. The meeting was held with the attendance of CPO, Head of Departments, the Selangor Bar Committee members and the Selangor Bar Representative.
- Many important issues with regards to Prevention of Crime Act 1959 (POCA), Security Offences (Special Measures) Act 2012 (SOSMA) and police procedures where police officers standing and taking notes of the conversation below:-
 1. If there is a lawyer on record, police should not tout and refer to other lawyers
 2. Families are afraid, if they don't take the lawyer recommended by the police, the OKT must bear the consequences
 3. Court instructs to give the passport back to foreigners after acquitted and discharged
 - The IO keeps the passport and informs family / employer to come to the police station to collect passport. Passport must be given immediately after the case
 4. Some IOs try to avoid giving HP numbers
- The CPO was very receptive and the meeting ended well with a firm stand by both parties that there will be more cooperation and understanding whilst carrying out the duties between lawyer's and police officers. We also highlighted where the counsels and OKT were handcuffs inside the court and where Investigating Officers does not answer phone calls to inform when the Accused will be brought to Court to be charged.

Creation of Free Criminal Service

- We had created of setting up of free criminal service in court premises in Selangor where the Legal Aid Selangor and Yayasan Bantuan Guaman Kehakiman (YBGK) will be stationed in court and provide free for the people in need on bail application and mitigation and to eradicate the issues of Touting in court and will be implemented after the Movement Control Order (MCO).
- The Criminal Practice & Court Liaison Sub-Committee had voted against the online based trial for criminal cases.

Report submitted by:

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Co-Chairpersons

Criminal Practice & Court Liaison Sub-Committee