

Mr Patrick Wong Chi-kwong

Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*

Citation

Mr Patrick Wong Chi-kwong has excelled in so many different areas, unceasingly demonstrating how a life of great accomplishments can be combined with humility and a mission of serving others. His humble beginnings are the best place to start appreciating and understanding this modern-day “Renaissance Man”.

Born into a hard-working grassroots Hong Kong family in the early 1960s, Patrick devoted himself in his mid-teens to learning and striving for excellence. As his strength at that time was in mathematics, he was on track to pursue further studies in mathematics, statistics and computing at another tertiary institution in 1979. But, a chance encounter with an inspired student leader from the Chinese Department of the then Lingnan College changed everything. Fascinated by the world of classical Chinese studies, he enrolled in Lingnan College instead and spent the next five years studying under the prominent Chinese Professor Chan Cham-chuen and famous Chinese poet-scholar Professor Leung Kan-nang, while also developing an interest in English literature. He graduated from the Chinese Department of Lingnan College in 1984 and was admitted as a member of the UK-based Institute of Linguists (now the Chartered Institute of Linguists).

After graduation, Patrick worked in the distance education sector and later became a Community Relations Officer at the ICAC. During this time he obtained a law degree from the University of London through part-time study. He then went to the UK for the final examination for solicitors in England and came back to Hong Kong to join the prestigious law firm of Johnson Stokes & Master (now Mayer Brown) in 1990.

Qualifying as a solicitor, he then chose a path less travelled by local lawyers and joined the firm’s corporate finance practice. This coincided with the profound entrepreneurial transformation of China and the rapid growth of Hong Kong as an international financial centre. So in addition to serving established Hong Kong and international clients of the firm, he had the opportunity to contribute to the vibrant development of contemporary Mainland China, where his earlier years studying Chinese literature in Lingnan helped him immeasurably. Patrick’s love of classical China’s literature and his eloquence in English garnered him professional accolades and trust from colleagues and clients alike.

In the beginning, working with top talent from around the world was a tough and demanding task for a young lawyer. But Patrick braved all the challenges with immense patience, dedication, professionalism, and an acute sensitivity to cultural difference. Much of his virtue and wisdom can be traced from his early classical Chinese training in Lingnan College. Within just three years, he had established a thriving practice and was soon promoted to partnership at his law firm.

His remarkable leadership qualities of positive thinking, sophisticated communication skills, strong willpower and commitment resonate with Lingnan University’s ideals of liberal arts education. It is not surprising that Patrick was appointed to various management and governance positions in Mayer Brown covering

its corporate practices and later its global operations. And it is even less surprising that he was called upon to chair and serve on many professional, civic and public bodies, including serving for more than 10 years as the Chairman of the Company Law Committee of The Law Society of Hong Kong. He was also invited by the HKSAR Government to serve as a member of the Standing Committee on Company Law Reform of the Hong Kong SAR.

He was also invited to chair the Advisory Group on directors and officers related provisions during the Company Ordinance Rewrite exercise of the SAR Government, which contributed to the enactment of the current Companies Ordinance of Hong Kong. Since retiring from active legal practice in 2015, he has served as the Deputy Chairman of the Hong Kong Productivity Council, and the Deputy Chairman of the Applied Research Council, to name but a few of his many endeavours. Although he is retired, he has continued to expand his learning horizons, earning a Master of Arts degree in Japanese Studies from The Chinese University of Hong Kong. But his love of education is best evidenced by his lifelong service to Lingnan.

As a Lingnanian, he is also best known for his devotion to Lingnan's educational mission and upholding Lingnan's Red and Grey Spirit and legacy from countless influential Lingnan predecessors over the past 135 years. His dedicated service to Lingnan began shortly after his return to Hong Kong from his legal studies in the UK. Since 1991, Patrick has been a Director of Lingnan Education Organization (LEO), and has served on various governing bodies of Lingnan University, including the Board of Governors of Lingnan College, and the Court and Council of Lingnan University at different times. Patrick became the Chairman of LEO from 2007 to 2010 and from 2017 to early 2023, and was one of the key Council Members in Lingnan College and, later on, Lingnan University for a total of 25 years. Recently, he was appointed by the SAR Government as the Chairman of the Court of Lingnan University, starting in November 2023.

In honour of his contribution to the legal profession and the financial sector of Hong Kong, as well as his dedicated service to Lingnan and the Hong Kong community, Lingnan University conferred an honorary fellowship on Patrick in 2011, more than a decade ago. Since then, he has continued to build his legacy and contribute to Hong Kong and Lingnan.

In the hustle and bustle of daily life, although people may not always remember the names of outstanding individuals and their extraordinary achievements, their contributions and influence are still deeply imprinted in our society and culture. Today, as we bestow an honour for service and dedication on one of many remarkable Lingnanians, let us resolve to preserve these most precious memories. Mr Chairman, in recognition of his professional achievements in law and contributions to Hong Kong as well as the Lingnan community, may I present Mr Patrick Wong Chi-kwong for conferment of the degree of Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*.

Citation written and delivered by Professor Li Donghui

黃志光先生

榮譽法學博士

贊辭

黃志光先生在眾多領域中出類拔萃，印證了傑出的事業成就、謙遜的待人態度和服務他人的心志是可以並存的。要欣賞和瞭解這位現代「通才」，最好是從他的出身背景說起。

黃先生於六十年代初出生於香港一個克勤克儉的基層家庭，中學後期開始用功學習，致力追求卓越。由於他當時的強項是數學，他原本計劃在 1979 年到另一所大專院校進修數學、統計學和電腦。然而，機緣巧合之下，他認識的一位嶺南學院中文系學生邀請他旁聽了中文系教授的講課，這一下，徹底改變了他進修的路向。黃先生酷愛中國古典文學，選擇入讀嶺南學院中文系，在隨後的五年師從國學大師陳湛銓教授和中國著名詩人梁簡能教授；同時，他對英國文學也產生了濃厚興趣。1984 年，他從嶺南學院中文系畢業時，同時成為英國語言學會（現為特許語言學會）會員。

畢業後，黃先生曾從事遙距教育行政工作，後來加入廉政公署成為社區關係主任。在此期間，他以兼讀形式獲得倫敦大學的法律學位。其後，他前往英國考取律師資格最終考試，並於 1990 年回港，加入了赫赫有名的孖士打律師行成為見習律師。

取得律師資格後，黃先生選擇了本地律師較少走的路，加入了該律師行的企業融資業務部。當時正值中國企業改革開放，而香港亦急速發展，成為國際金融中心。因此，黃先生除了服務律師行既有的香港和國際客戶外，還有機會為當代中國內地的蓬勃發展作出貢獻，而他早年在嶺南習得的中國文學知識正好大派用場。他對中國古典文學的愛好以及一口流利的英語，為他贏得業界聲譽以及同事和客戶的信任。

剛開始執業時，他與來自世界各地的頂尖法律人才共事，當時對他這位年輕律師而言，工作極具挑戰性；但黃先生以極大的耐性、敬業精神、專業素養，以及對中西文化差異的敏銳，成功地應對了所有困難險阻。他的美德和智慧在很大程度上受益於嶺南學院古典文學的薰陶。在執業後的短短三年內，黃先生便取得彪炳的業績，並隨即獲晉升為律師行合伙人。

黃先生具有卓越領導者的素養，為人積極樂觀、善於溝通、意志堅強、勇於承擔，正好體現嶺南大學博雅教育的人格理念。他其後獲孖士打律師行委以重任，出任多個管理和治理要職，職務涵蓋律師行的公司法業務以至全球營運。他亦受邀擔任多個專業、公民和公共機構的主席或成員，包括出任香港律師會公司法委員會主席長達 10 多年，期間還應邀擔任香港特區政府公司法改革常務委員會委員。

在香港特區政府重新編制《公司條例》期間，黃先生還應邀出任關於董事和高級人員的條文的諮詢小組主席，協助制定了現行的香港《公司條例》。2015年，他從執業律師崗位退休後，曾擔任香港生產力促進局副主席和應用研究局副主席等公職。即使退下職場火線，他仍繼續拓闊學習領域，並取得香港中文大學日本研究文學碩士學位。但最重要的是，他對教育充滿熱忱，畢生竭力為嶺南服務的貢獻有目共睹。

作為嶺南人，他另一最為人稱道的就是他全力投入推動嶺南的教育使命，他也傳承了過去135年以來無數嶺南學長的紅灰精神和傳統。他在英國完成法律學業回港後不久，便投身服務嶺南。自1991年起，他一直是嶺南教育機構董事，並在不同時期加入嶺南大學多個管治團體，包括嶺南學院校董會、嶺南大學校董會和諮議會。2007年至2010年，以及2017年至2023年初，他出任嶺南教育機構主席，亦是嶺南學院以及後來嶺南大學的重要校董之一，前後服務嶺南長達25年。最近，黃先生再次榮獲特區政府委以重任，自2023年11月起出任嶺南大學諮議會主席一職。

為表彰他對香港法律界和金融界的貢獻，以及他對嶺南和香港社會的熱心服務，嶺南大學在2011年向黃先生授予榮譽院士銜。迄今，他對香港和嶺南的貢獻日益俱增，建樹良多。

在喧囂急促的日常生活中，儘管人們可能無法時刻記住傑出人士的名字和他們的非凡成就，但他們的貢獻和影響力仍深深地烙印在我們的社會和文化中。我們今天為這位嶺南人中的佼佼者頒授榮譽，以嘉許黃志光先生的服務熱誠及奉獻精神，讓我們對其貢獻銘記於心。主席先生，為表彰黃先生在法律界的專業成就，以及對香港和嶺南社群的卓越貢獻，本人謹恭請閣下頒授榮譽法學博士學位予黃志光先生。

贊辭由李東輝教授撰寫及宣讀