



## **From law degree to PCLL at HKU**

**2 September 2011**

The Faculty of Law and The University of Hong Kong Law Alumni Association co-organized a seminar for the new PCLL students this year. Professor Johannes Chan SC (Hon), Dean, gave a welcoming speech. Mr Malcolm Merry, Head, Department of Professor Legal Education, gave the concluding speech. Professor Douglas Arner, Head, Department of Law, also attended. The event was informative and meaningful. The students were so keen to ask questions that it took some time to conclude the mingling session at the end.

The three of us shared our personal stories in the PCLL. We talked about the differences in the learning experience in LLB and in the PCLL. The differences lie in terms of the learning mindset, the teaching style, the nature of reading materials, and most importantly, the passing rate.

We also gave the students a glimpse of how demanding a legal career could be. We therefore stressed the importance for the students to build a solid foundation of technical legal skills in the PCLL.

Dr Richard Wu also addressed the students. He pointed out that the percentage of overseas students in the PCLL this year is much higher than previous years. From past experience, it appears that overseas students would need some time to find their feet in the exam environment in Hong Kong. Therefore, Dr Wu encouraged the overseas students to consider that they might need to put in more effort for the PCLL exams.

Another challenge for the overseas students is the Chinese language. Prof Johannes Chan explained that the business reality is that more and more businesses of law firms are coming from China. As a result, students could well be asked to draft contracts in Chinese or be sent to China on a due diligence exercise on his/her own. Therefore, it is crucial that students brush up their Chinese and Putonghua as soon as possible.

We wish the new PCLL students all the best in their challenging years ahead.

Edwin Choi (LLB 2008, PCLL 2009)

Renee Chung (PCLL 2011)

Jeffrey Sham (PCLL 2009)