

**THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG**  
**LAW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (“HKULAA”)**

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REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT FOR THE PERIOD  
FROM 8 JANUARY 2016 TO 18 FEBRUARY 2017

Dear Members,

A major focus of our activities in 2016/2017 is mentorship.

Last year, we introduced a new arrangement for the mentorship programme by expanding the mentorship relationship from one year to four years to eligible first year law students. We acknowledged that relationship takes time to develop and mature. We hoped that by enabling the building up of a mentorship relationship with the students from their first year to their fourth year, the programme would be more beneficial to the students.

This year, we continued with the same arrangement for the mentorship programme. In addition, we encouraged interaction between mentees of last year and mentees this year, with a view to giving another perspective to the mentorship relationship.

We have also organised outings for those who participated in the mentorship programme.

In order to reach out to more students and to cater for different needs, we introduced a number of different mentorship activities this year, including the Meet the Mentors Evening and the Meet the Mentors Dinner Series.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to all mentors for your staunch support to the programme. I trust the students would learn from you.

Apart from the mentorship activities, other events held this year include exchanges with the mainland and Taiwan counterparts, as well as the annual concert of the Law Alumni Choir.

Our activities in 2016/2017 have been posted on our website: <http://www.law.hku.hk/alumni/events.html>. I highlight this year's major activities below.

### **Law Mentorship Programme 2015-16 – Dinner Gathering**

A Dinner Gathering was held on 15 March 2016 (Wednesday) as part of the Law Mentorship Programme 2015-16. This gathering was attended by twenty-nine mentors and all mentees. It marked an end of the official compulsory activities of the Law Mentorship Programme 2015-2016, at the same time we witnessed the building up of stronger bonding between mentors and their mentees.

### **Tour to Hong Kong GeoPark - Northeast Sedimentary Rock Region**

To facilitate and provide a variety of activities for mentors and mentees, we arranged a day trip to the Hong Kong GeoPark – Northeast Sedimentary Rock Region on 17 April 2016 (Sunday). There was a good mix of 49 participants comprising HKU law teachers, alumni, students, friends and families. During the trip, the professional GeoPark guides introduced to us different geographical features and the *Hakka* culture. Participants also had the opportunity to explore the reddish breccia at *Ap Chau*, the scenic Double Haven Marine Park and enjoyed a traditional *Kat O Hakka*-style Lunch. It was a refreshing and hearty trip.

### **Seminar – Dialogue: Civil Law and Common Law – Synergies and Opportunities**

Co-organized with the Hong Kong Bar Association, the Peking University Law School and the HKU Faculty of Law, the HKULAA organized on 20 July 2016 (Saturday) a seminar titled “Dialogue: Civil Law and Common Law – Synergies and Opportunities” at the Moot Court, 2/F., Cheng Yu Tung Tower. The event was officiated by Professor Michael Hor (Dean of the HKU Faculty of Law), Ms. Winnie Tam, S.C. (the then Chairman of the Hong Kong Bar Association), Professor Qiang Shigong (Professor of the Peking University Law School), and I (President of HKULAA).

A lively forum was moderated by Professor Fu Hualing (Associate Dean (China Affairs) of the HKU Faculty of Law) with four speakers, namely Ms. Winnie Tam, S.C. (the then Chairman of the Hong Kong Bar Association), Dr. Richard Wu (Associate Professor of the HKU Faculty of

Law), Tong Jingjing and Wang Xizhen (both are graduates from the Peking University Law School who have then pursued legal studies in Hong Kong). At both the forum and the lunch, there were meaningful exchanges of ideas and experiences in respect of the two legal systems.

### **Law Mentorship Programme 2016-17 – Main Programme**

This is the second year of the Law Mentorship Programme in the new format. 65 mentees (out of 105 applications) were selected to match with 35 mentors, who have continuously and tremendously supported this Programme over the past few years.

#### *Briefing session*

A briefing session was held on 14 September 2016 (Wednesday) to introduce to potential mentees the mentorship programme and instil better understandings on mentorship relationship. There were informative sharing from our mentors Ms. Cissy Leung (LLB 1988, PCLL 1989) and Mr. Alfred Cheng (LLB 2003, PCLL 2004), and past mentees, Ms. Au Yee Nok, Flavia (LLB 2016, current PCLL student), Mr. Lau Ka Yu, Martin (LLB 2016, current PCLL student) and Ms. Wong Yik Yu, Michelle (BBA(Law)&LLB2).

#### *First Gathering*

The First Gathering was held on 23 November 2016 (Wednesday). There was a cocktail reception with ample opportunities for exchanges and sharing between the mentor and mentees. Twenty-eight mentors, all 65 current mentees and some of the mentees last year have attended the First Gathering.

#### *Dinner Gathering*

A Dinner Gathering is scheduled to be held on 23 March 2017 (Thursday) for all current mentors and mentees. Mentors and mentees last year are welcomed.

### **Law Mentorship Programme 2016-17 – Meet-the-Mentors Evening**

With the popular demand and positive feedback for the Meet-the-Mentors Evening in 2015, we organised it again on 13 October 2016 (Thursday) at

the Moot Court, 2/F., Cheng Yu Tung Tower. This year, we have invited guest speakers from the Bar, the Solicitors, the Department of Justice and in-house lawyers respectively. Mr. Paul Lam, S.C. (then Vice-Chairman and now Chairman of the Hong Kong Bar Association) (LLB, 1990, PCLL 1991), Ms. Heidi Chui (Partner of Messrs. Stevenson Wong & Co.) (LLB, 1999, PCLL 2000), Mr. Martin Hui, S.C. (Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions) (LLB, 1994, PCLL 1995, LLM(HR) 2013), and Ms. Cissy Leung (Head of Legal Services of the Hong Kong Land Ltd.) (LLB 1988, PCLL 1989) have shared on stage their invaluable professional experience and advices with participating students.

A cocktail reception was held immediately after the sharing session at the foyer of 1/F., Cheng Yu Tung Tower. Twelve mentors from different branches of the profession and fifty participating students have much interaction and discussion at the cocktail reception, with the last group of participants reluctantly left when the venue switched off the light.

### **Law Mentorship Programme 2016-17 – Meet-the-Mentors Dinner Series**

Aiming at providing an opportunity to law students to have dialogues with junior practitioners on how to start their legal career, the HKULAA, for the first time, organized a total of four dinner sessions.

Two sessions were held on 26 October 2016 (Wednesday) and 21 November 2016 (Monday) at the Senior Common Room, HKU. Students in a group of six to eight were arranged to dine with one to two HKU law alumni in the same table. There were three tables in each of these two sessions. Two further sessions are scheduled to be held on 21 February 2017 (Tuesday) and 5 April 2017 (Wednesday) with priority to junior law students.

### **Law Alumni Choir Concert**

The Law Alumni Choir (“**Choir**”) gave its seventh annual concert at the Grand Hall, Lee Shau Kee Lecture Centre of the HKU Centennial Campus on 12 November 2016 (Saturday). Named “Imagine”, the Choir shared with the audience selections from popular music in the 1970s, including favourites from *Evita* and *Fiddler on the Roof*, as well as other iconic songs such as the eponymous “Imagine”. The Choir was accompanied by an

instrumental ensemble played by musicians comprising HKU law alumni members and current HKU law students.

### **Meeting with the Delegation from the Law Alumni Association of the College of Law, National Taiwan University**

A delegation of six members from the Law Alumni Association of the College of Law, National Taiwan University, led by Professor Ming-yan Shieh, has visited us on 5 December 2016 (Monday). Mr Albert T. da Rosa, Jr, Ms Julienne Jen and I received them. During the meeting, we have introduced the association to each other and explored possible interaction and collaboration in the future.

### **Other events**

The Executive Committee held six general meetings.

I attended the Chinese University of Hong Kong Law Society Inauguration Ceremony on 22 February 2016 (Monday).

I attended the High Table Dinner of the Law Association, HKU on 31 October 2016 (Monday).

Mr. Albert T. da Rosa, Jr. and I attended the 196<sup>th</sup> congregation of the Faculty of Law and joined the procession on 1 December 2016 (Thursday).

I continued to be a member of the Faculty Board.

### **Thank you**

I would like to thank each of the members of the Executive Committee, without whom the above activities would not come to a fruition.

I am also thankful for the generous support from the Faculty of Law. To Professor Hor (Dean) for the encouraging support; to Ms. Cora Chan (Associate Professor of the HKU Faculty of Law) and Ms. Julienne Jen (Principal Lecturer of the Department of Professional Legal Education) for their having seamlessly bridged the Faculty and HKULAA; and to Ms. Scarlett Cheung, Ms. Linda Dan, Ms. Grace Chen and Ms. Rita Wai for the cheerful, efficient and proactive support.

I am most honoured and privileged to have the opportunity to serving the HKULAA as the President for the past four years. I still vividly remember the faces of each of you who have participated in the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration and all other alumni activities in these four years. Thank *you* all for the contribution and support in different manners.

I wish the HKULAA and all our members would continue to have fulfilling and memorable days filled with joy and good health!

18 February 2017

Elaine Liu

President

The University of Hong Kong Law Alumni Association