

Mr Larry KWOK Lam-Kwong, SBS, JP

Born and raised in Hong Kong, Mr Larry KWOK Lam-Kwong completed his secondary and tertiary education in Australia where his family ties can be traced back to his grandfather almost a century ago. As inspired by an Australian judge, Mr Kwok believed in the rules of economics, accounting and laws for the sound operation of any modern society. He hence pursued a 5-year combined law degree programme at the University of Sydney, Australia. He graduated with a double bachelor's degree in accounting / economics in 1979, a bachelor's degree in laws in 1981 and later a master's degree in laws in 1986 specialising in international business law and international taxation law. He was then qualified both as an accountant and a lawyer. As a life-long learner, he made use of his sabbatical leave to attain the Advanced Management Programme diploma from Harvard Business School. Armed with an excellent set of legal, accounting, economics and business management knowledge and skills, Mr Kwok has been serving in the legal profession for nearly 40 years. He founded Kwok & Yih, one of the first few Hong Kong Chinese corporate law firms focusing on corporate finance work, in 1994 and relaunched it under the name Kwok Yih & Chan in 2014. His distinguished practice has earned him high reputation over the years.

Mr Kwok's career model bears eloquent witness to dynamic abilities and drives of the Hong Kong professionals to internationalise their operations and capture business opportunities stemming from China's modernisation. It is this kind of ability that spearheads the dynamic growth of Hong Kong in its recent history. Over the years, Mr Kwok gained a broad mix of experience from working as an accountant in Ernst & Young, an international accounting firm in Australia to becoming a lawyer at Baker McKenzie, the largest international law firm in the world upon his return to Hong Kong in the mid-80s. He later became the first Chinese partner at a top-10 London law firm, Simmons & Simmons. Mr Kwok founded his brand in 1994 and led Kwok & Yih to further internationalise its operations by joining Andersen Legal's international network as a co-operating firm in Hong Kong and Mainland China in 2001. He became the Managing Partner of Andersen Legal in Hong Kong and Mainland China. Mr Kwok's practice covers corporate finance, capital markets, mergers and acquisitions, corporate insolvency and restructuring and regulatory investigation work, and he advises on complex transactions at both domestic and international levels.

Riding on the globalisation trend, Mr Kwok strived to grow his legal business to new heights by some transformative actions. He merged his firm with the leading Australian international law firm Mallesons Stephen Jaques in 2004. He further engineered the merger of Mallesons Stephen Jaques with the leading PRC law firm King & Wood to form King & Wood Mallesons in 2012 where he was appointed Managing Partner, Asia Strategy & Markets. It is worth noting that at that time, the merger of these two giant law firms helped not only the PRC law firm King & Wood to internationalise its business operations, but, more importantly, to undertake the many outbound investments from China, and to gain access to valuable mineral and energy resources from Down Under.

His outstanding practice has been repeatedly recognised throughout the years by the legal profession. Mr Kwok was rated as a leading lawyer in Capital Markets / Corporate / M&A practice by various international legal publications, such as *Chambers Asia*, *The Asia Pacific Legal 500*, *PLC Which Lawyer?* and *The Legal Who's Who in Hong Kong*. He was recognised by *Asian Legal Business* in 2001/2002 and 2004 as among the 100 hottest lawyers in China.

In addition to practising law, Mr Kwok has a remarkable record of leadership and experience in public service. He has served on numerous Government boards and committees. To note a few, he was appointed Convenor of the Disciplinary Appeals Committee of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, Chairman of the Traffic Accident Victims Assistance Advisory Committee, Chairman of the Appeal Board of the Criminal & Law Enforcement Injuries Compensation Boards and Vice-Chairman of the Consumer Council. As Vice-Chairman of the Consumer Council, he was a strong advocate for the protection of ordinary people's rights as consumers against corporate trade malpractices and big corporate interests. Mr Kwok was awarded the Bronze Bauhinia Star by the Hong Kong government in 2008 for his contribution to the promotion of consumer rights. He is the immediate past Chairman of the Transport Advisory Committee. During his term, the Committee urged the police to step up enforcement actions against rampant illegal parking, supported the Government's proposal to increase illegal parking penalties; proposed measures to ease traffic congestion; monitored the increase of fares of all public transport to safeguard the interests of the travelling public; and drove the initiative to install the first intelligent traffic lights in Hong Kong on the dam section of the Tai Tam Reservoir as a pilot project to ease traffic standstill. In recognition of his distinguished and long public and community services particularly his valuable contributions to the transport field as Chairman of the Transport Advisory Committee since 2012, he was awarded the Silver Bauhinia Star in 2017. In 2014, Mr Kwok took up the chairmanship of the Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC). During his term as Chairman, the IPCC has made strides in governance and management so as to enhance the protection of citizen's rights against abuse of police power. The tangible results are manifested in diligently ensuring an independent, fair and unbiased collection of evidence in connection with the investigation of complaints against the police; streamlining the complaint vetting process so as to shorten by nearly 1 month, i.e., 1/3 of the review time; driving improvement changes in police procedures and practices in their dealings with citizens; and clearing all accumulated backlog complex cases in previous years.

Mr Chairman, in recognition of his professional achievements and his significant contributions to Hong Kong society and beyond, may I present to you Mr Larry KWOK Lam-Kwong for conferment of an honorary fellowship.

Citation written and delivered by Professor Esther LI