

Mr Simon Ip Shing-hing

Honorary Fellow

Citation

Mr Simon Ip Shing-hing was born and raised in Hong Kong and received his legal training at The University of Hong Kong. He is currently the senior partner at Christine M Koo & Ip, Solicitors & Notaries LLP, and holds directorships at CCB International (Holdings) Limited, Far East Hotels and Entertainment Limited, Binhai Investment Company Limited, PC Partner Group Limited, The Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, and Association of China-Appointed Attesting Officers Limited. Mr Ip was a member of the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education and has been Vice Chairman of Hong Kong Young Legal Professionals Association Limited since 1997. He has served The Law Society of Hong Kong in various capacities, including as Council member (1991-2002), Vice President (1999-2002) and President (2002-2004). He was also the President of the Association of China-Appointed Attesting Officers Limited (2012-2014).

During his long and distinguished legal career, one case stood out as particularly memorable for Mr Ip, an extraordinary experience that continues to inform his meticulous approach to professional and community work. This litigation case was initially handled by a legal team that included a prominent barrister, but the case was lost so disappointingly that the barrister was certain that an appeal had “zero” chance of success. The client, however, insisted on an appeal, and as the original team wanted nothing more to do with the case, Mr Ip took on mission impossible. Thanks to Mr Ip’s patience, perseverance and keen eye for detail, and much to everyone’s surprise, the appeal was successful. To this day, Mr Ip continues to believe that even in the most seemingly impossible situations, there is always a chance to turn things around.

Apart from his achievements in the legal profession, Mr Ip has also made valuable contributions to the Lingnan community. Mr Ip was appointed to Lingnan University’s Council in 2009 and served as its Deputy Chairman and ex-officio Member of the Court between 2014 and 2020, serving on a variety of important committees during an important period of the University’s development. He was appointed Chairman of the Board of Governors of The Community College at Lingnan University (CCLU) and Lingnan Institute of Further Education (LIFE)* in February 2013, serving until October 2020. Mr Ip was appointed Convenor of the Inquiry Panel of the CCLU and LIFE in October 2012, with responsibility for reviewing the operations of CCLU and LIFE during the admission exercise of 2012-13. Between October

and December 2012, the Panel held 14 meetings, totalling over 70 hours, including interviews with 51 individuals. Under Mr Ip's leadership, the work of the Panel laid important foundations for CCLU and LIFE's further developments.

Mr Ip's work in the Council and Court, and this intensive bout of work with the Inquiry Panel deepened his knowledge of and interest in Hong Kong's higher education sector, including the complexities of its operations. As he believes that quality education must not only nurture students to develop their potential but also serve society's changing needs, lifelong education is of paramount importance not just for our students but for everyone. Mr Ip is certainly one who walks the talk in this regard; he leads by example. Not only does he have a keen interest in cutting edge innovations; he has also recently completed another degree and has plans for further research on the legal ramifications of new technologies.

Mr Chairman, in recognition of Mr Ip's outstanding achievements to the legal profession, and his significant contributions to Lingnan University, I am honoured to present Mr Simon Ip Shing-hing for the conferment of an honorary fellowship.

*Retitled to Board of Governors of Lingnan Institute of Further Education (LIFE) in September 2020

Citation written and delivered by Professor Annie Chan Hau-nung