

Mr Patrick Wong Chi-kwong

The success of Hong Kong as an international financial centre can be attributed, among other factors, to the availability of a pool of diligent and committed professionals. These professionals play a pivotal role in consolidating and supporting the development of the financial sector as one of the pillar industries in Hong Kong. One of our alumni is a member of that pool of talent. Mr Chairman, we are honoured to have Mr Patrick Wong Chi-kwong with us today.

Mr Wong is a partner of the renowned global law firm, Mayer Brown JSM, which has 1,600 lawyers around the world. He is also a member of the firm's Partnership Board, which serves the function of ensuring that the voices of the partners are heard on key issues and decisions. In addition, he has been nominated a Leading Capital Markets Equity Lawyer in the latest (2011) edition of IFLR1000, which is a guide to the world's leading financial law firms.

Mr Wong started his legal career in 1990 as an articled clerk of the then Johnson Stokes & Master, which was a famous law firm and had enjoyed an exceptionally prestigious position in Hong Kong and around the world since its founding in 1864. He qualified as a solicitor in 1992. With his knowledge and experience in corporate finance, he was one of the few solicitors whose legal advice was sought by enterprises from mainland China seeking to raise funds here in Hong Kong through initial public offerings in the 1990s. Companies he helped listed in different capacities in the 90s include, to name a few, Shanghai Industrial Holdings Limited and Beijing Enterprises Holdings Limited. Therefore, it is not surprising that he was promoted on the fast track to partnership within four years in 1996. Over time, he was appointed to lead the corporate finance and then the corporate practice of the firm.

Mr Wong graduated from the Chinese Department of Lingnan College in 1984. During his time at Lingnan, he enjoyed very much the learning environment and was inspired by Prof Chan Cham-chuen and Prof Leung Kan-nang—two of the best classical Chinese scholars at the time, and he thoroughly enjoyed the company of like-minded classmates. His fondness for the Chinese classics even drove him to form a study group with his classmates to promote a deeper understanding of Chinese classical literature on campus. He has derived not only a lot of satisfaction and friendship from his studies and college life at Lingnan, but also learnt a lot about core human values as well as the importance of commitment, dedication and determination. Having decided which career to follow, he started to explore a completely new field of law and finance after graduation. A few years of hard work sufficed to make him a dedicated professional in the field.

Mr Wong understands well the motto of Lingnan, i.e. Education for Service. He has inherited from the Chinese great books a humanitarian concern, and believes that people should contribute to the well-being of society and not only care about themselves. He puts belief into practice by serving the community in various capacities. He has served for six years as a member of the Standing Committee on Company Law Reform established by the Hong Kong SAR government, and is now Chairman of the Company

Law Committee of the Law Society. He is a director and the honorary secretary of The Hong Kong Central Hospital Limited. He has also maintained a long relationship with Lingnan after his days here as a student. He has been a director of Lingnan Education Organization Limited since 1991 and served as honorary secretary between 1991 and 1994, when its support was critical to the relocation of Lingnan to its current campus and the renaming of Lingnan as a university. He was Chairman of the organization between 2007 and 2010, and has also served on the Board of Governors of the former Lingnan College and the Council of Lingnan University.

Mr Chairman, for his contributions to the legal profession and the financial sector of Hong Kong, as well as his dedicated services to Lingnan and the Hong Kong community, may I present Mr Patrick Wong Chi-kwong to you for the conferment of an honorary fellowship.