

The Hon Wong Yan-lung GBM, SC

DOCTOR OF LAWS *honoris causa*

Citation

Mr Wong Yan-lung was born in Hong Kong in 1963 and grew up in the Wanchai District. As a boy, Mr Wong already excelled at his studies. He attended Queen's College where he distinguished himself for his all-around performance. His outstanding academic record at secondary school qualified him for a Prince Phillip Scholarship to the University of Cambridge, where he matriculated in 1983. At Magdalene College, Mr Wong was taught by many of the great minds of English jurisprudence, including one truly memorable mentor — R W M Dias.

Mr Wong graduated from Cambridge in 1986 with a BA in Law, and was later conferred an MA in Law. In 1987, he was called to the Bar in England & Wales. In that same year, he was also called to the Hong Kong Bar. He was appointed Senior Counsel in 2002 and then a Justice of the Peace in 2005. He was elected a Master of the Bench of Middle Temple in October 2007, and was conferred an Honorary Fellowship by Magdalene College in 2009.

Mr Wong sat as a Deputy High Court Judge of the Court of First Instance in July and August 2003, and served as a Council member of the Hong Kong Bar Association from 1989 to 1990, from 1997 to 2002 and from 2003 to 2005. He was Chairman of the Special Committee on Legal Education of the Association from 2003 to 2005.

Mr Wong has also served as Chairman of the Buildings Appeal Tribunal, the Criminal and Law Enforcement Injuries Compensation Boards, and the Non-local Higher and Professional Education Appeal Board. He has also served as Vice Chairman of the CEDAR Fund and a member of the Steering Committee and volunteer of the Christian Concern for the Homeless Association in Hong Kong.

In October 2005, Mr Wong was appointed Secretary for Justice and served in that position until 30 June 2012. Throughout his life and career, he has demonstrated great integrity, as evidenced both in his professional and personal life. As only the second Secretary for Justice to serve in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Mr Wong has a keen understanding of his role in upholding the rule of law in Hong Kong.

In the most recent address to newly appointed Senior Counsel, Mr Wong stated, "What makes Hong Kong unique as a city in China and in the world, what enables Hong Kong not to be marginalised against the massive economic growth in the mainland, is the law and the uncompromising standards of the law." He further emphasised the importance of the integrity of the law: the role of any lawyer was not just about winning cases or advancing one's career, but rather "to signify the continuation of the Common Law tradition, the adherence to the rule of law and proper administration of justice, despite rapid changes in the macro-political and economic landscape, and rising above different political beliefs or personal ambitions."

This basic principle of the rule of law as expressed by A V Dicey is simply that law serves to bind all persons equally. In Dicey's words, the rule of law carries "the absolute supremacy or predominance of regular as opposed to the influence of arbitrary power, and excludes the existence of arbitrariness, of prerogative, or even of wide discretionary authority on the part of government."

During his tenure as Secretary for Justice, Mr Wong consistently recognised the need and worked to preserve Hong Kong's unique constitutional arrangement based upon the principle of "one country, two systems." In addition, he has sought to further enhance Hong Kong's position as a centre for international dispute resolution by revamping the Arbitration Ordinance and attracting top overseas international arbitration bodies to establish a presence here. He has also worked tirelessly to promote the use of mediation in Hong Kong, including chairing a cross-sector task force and enacting the Mediation Ordinance.

A corresponding attribute of deep personal integrity is also evident in Mr Wong's personal life, as shown through his on-going commitment to charitable organisations such as the Christian Concern for the Homeless Association (which is very much in keeping with Lingnan's motto of "Education for Service"). The Association displays genuine concern for homeless people by responding to their physical, psychological and spiritual needs. These efforts were further demonstrated by his lead in establishing a cross-bureau task force to tackle the problem of youth drug abuse. As a result of this initiative, the community has become better informed about this issue, and young people today are better protected.

Mr Chairman, for his distinguished service to the Hong Kong SAR Government and to the wider community, may I present Mr Wong Yan-lung to you for conferment of the degree of Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*.

English citation written and delivered by Mr James Rice

黃仁龍先生

榮譽法學博士

贊辭

黃仁龍先生 1963 年出生於香港，在灣仔長大。黃先生自小學業優異，就讀於皇仁書院期間，各項表現皆出類拔萃。後因中學成績出眾，獲菲臘親王獎學金資助，於 1983 年負笈劍橋大學麥格達倫學院，師從多位英國法理學泰斗，包括令人終生難忘的導師——迪亞斯。

黃先生於 1986 年從劍橋大學畢業，獲文學士（法律）學位，後獲文學碩士（法律）學位。1987 年，他獲認許為英格蘭與威爾斯大律師，並於同年取得香港執業大律師資格。他於 2002 年獲委任為資深大律師，2005 年獲委任為太平紳士。2007 年 10 月，他獲選為中殿律師學院委員，並於 2009 年獲麥格達倫學院頒授榮譽院士榮銜。

2003 年 7 至 8 月間，黃先生曾任香港高等法院原訟法庭暫委法官。他先後於 1989 至 1990 年、1997 至 2002 年、以及 2003 至 2005 年，擔任香港大律師公會執委會成員，並於 2003 至 2005 年出任該會法律教育及專業進修委員會主席。

此外，黃先生曾任建築物上訴審裁小組主席、暴力及執法傷亡賠償委員會主席，以及非本地高等及專業教育上訴委員會主席。他亦曾擔任香港施達基金會副主席，以及香港基督教關懷無家者協會督導委員會成員，並參與該會的義務工作。

2005 年 10 月，黃先生獲任命為律政司司長，直至 2012 年 6 月 30 日任期屆滿。無論在事業和個人生活方面，黃先生都顯示其高尚正直的品格。作為香港特別行政區第二任律政司司長，他深知維護香港法治的職責。

黃先生在最近一次對新任的資深大律師演講中指出：「香港之所以能夠成為中國甚至世上獨特的城市，沒有被內地巨大的經濟增長邊緣化，正在於法律與其絕不妥協、一視同仁的標準。」他更強調司法公正的重要性：律師的角色不僅在於贏得訴訟、拓展前程，更在於「超越政見分歧及個人抱負，展示普通法系傳統的延續，遵從法治，妥善執法，不論宏觀政治和經濟形勢如何迅速改變。」

按照法學理論家戴雪的定義，法治的基本原則就是法律之下，人人平等。戴雪曾道，「相對於專制權力的影響，法治享有規範的絕對優勢和至高無上的地位，並排斥政府的專斷、特權，甚至廣泛的酌情權。」

任職律政司司長期間，黃先生深明在「一國兩制」原則基礎上保存香港獨特憲制安排的必要，並一直致力維護香港的憲制。此外，為進一步加強香港作為國際糾紛解決中心的地位，他還修訂了《仲裁條例》，並吸引海外頂尖仲裁機構來港。他並致力推廣香港的調解服務，包括領導跨界別專責小組和制定調解條例。

黃先生品格正直，從其個人生活中亦可見一斑。他多年來堅持為基督教關懷無家者協會等慈善組織工作（這與嶺大「作育英才，服務社會」的校訓不謀而合），該協會對露宿者身心健康及信仰方面的需求均表現誠摯的關懷。此外，黃先生亦領導成立跨部門的青少年毒品問題專責小組，旨在解決青少年吸食毒品問題，更顯示其貢獻社會的精神。該小組的努力，加深了社會對毒品問題的認識，使青少年得到更好的保護。

主席先生，為表揚黃先生為香港特區政府以及社會所作的傑出貢獻，本人恭請閣下頒授榮譽法學博士學位予黃仁龍先生。

英文贊辭由 *James Rice* 先生撰寫及宣讀