

Dr Simon Ip Sik-on, GBS, JP

Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*

Citation

Dr Simon Ip Sik-on was born in Hong Kong, and received his education here and in the UK, where he completed his legal training in London. In 1972 he returned to Hong Kong and began working at the city's leading law firm, Johnson Stokes & Master, where he became its Senior Partner and Chairman from 1996 to 2004. Dr Ip is celebrated not only for his stellar career as an expert in litigation and dispute resolution, but also for his distinguished contributions to a long list of public services, including President of the Law Society, member of the Basic Law Consultative Committee, member of the Legislative Council, Founding Council Chairman of The Hong Kong Institute of Education (now The Education University of Hong Kong), Founding Council member of The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, as well as member of The Hong Kong Jockey Club's Board of Stewards and most recently, the Club's Chairman.

On each occasion when he was invited to take on one of the many important public services he now has under his belt, he would ask himself "Why me?" He had not actively sought these positions and privately doubted his own suitability and readiness. It is indeed a blessing for Hong Kong that this question did not stop Dr Ip from accepting these important challenges. His achievements result from his ability to transfer his professional skills to a variety of seemingly unrelated contexts and projects. What are those skills? A successful litigation lawyer must be incisive and grasp quickly the dynamics of a situation; he needs to be able to decipher the facts and distil those relevant to the issues at hand; he must know the relative strengths and weaknesses of opposing positions and be a strategic thinker and astute tactician. Few litigation cases are ever identical, and so a good litigator must adapt adroitly to different and often fast changing circumstances.

During the latter part of the 1980s when he was President of the Law Society and a member of the Basic Law Consultative Committee, Dr Ip initiated a platform for different professions to exchange views on the drafting of the Basic Law. The result of these exchanges provided valuable input for the Basic Law Drafting Committee and for that purpose, he led several delegations of professional organisations to Beijing. In 1991, motivated by a desire to help prepare for a smooth reversion of sovereignty in 1997, he accepted the nomination to contest the Legislative Council's legal functional constituency seat and won. Among his many duties at that time, he was elected Chairman of the Legislative Council's Bills Committee which scrutinised draft legislation for the establishment of the Court of Final Appeal.

Despite not having attended university and professing not to be academically gifted, Dr Ip played leadership roles in establishing The Hong Kong Institute of Education and The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

A keen equestrian and horse racing enthusiast, from 1999 to 2018 Dr Ip brought his professional and results-oriented approach to the Jockey Club's Board of Stewards and Board of Trustees. During his chairmanship of the Club, two of the Club's most iconic projects were completed and unveiled. The first is Tai Kwun-Centre for Heritage and Arts, on the site of the former Central Police Station which recently received the UNESCO award for Excellence in Heritage Conservation. The other is the world-class race horse training centre in Conghua, Guangzhou, first of its kind on the Mainland to support and expand the Club's racing operations in Hong Kong and to further the Club's charitable and community initiatives for our citizens. It is no exaggeration to say that Dr Ip has participated in some of the most important milestones in the making of Hong Kong, during some of its most glorious as well as more difficult times.

"Serendipity" is the word that Dr Ip humbly uses to account for his achievements. He describes himself as the "black sheep" of a family of distinguished educators, "a bit of a rebel" who enjoyed being outdoors more than in a classroom. The turning point came when the Law sparked his interest, and litigation became his passion and lifelong career. This explains why he excelled as a litigator, even though he "barely scraped through school", to quote his words. The qualities that made him a successful litigator shine through all his endeavours in public service. As a true professional, he has taken on each public service task with the same enthusiasm and rigour as he would to resolve a dispute for his clients. In general, Dr Ip embodies how Lingnan's liberal arts education envisages its graduates—as upstanding members of the community who are willing to serve, as professionals who are able to use specialised skills and knowledge in a wide range of situations, as critical thinkers who scrutinise facts and evidence with logic and reason, as good listeners and persuasive motivators and as principled citizens who uphold high standards of ethical conduct and social behaviour.

Mr Chairman, in recognition of his distinguished service in the legal sector, his leadership in higher education institutions, his diverse contributions to public service and his legacy of transformative philanthropy through impactful community projects, may I present Dr Simon Ip Sik-on to you for conferment of the degree of Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*.

Citation written and delivered by Professor Annie Chan Hau-nung

葉錫安博士

榮譽法學博士

贊辭

葉錫安博士在香港出生及接受教育，後在英國倫敦完成其法律訓練。葉博士於1972年回港，加入著名的孖士打律師行(Johnson Stokes & Master)，開展其事業生涯，及後於1996年至2004年間擔任孖士打的主席及首席合伙人。除了在法律界的成就(特別是在訴訟領域)，葉博士在公共事務上的貢獻也獲得廣泛肯定。他曾擔任香港律師會會長、基本法諮詢委員會成員、立法會議員、香港教育學院(現為香港教育大學)創校校董會主席、香港科技大學創校校董會成員、香港賽馬會董事局成員及香港賽馬會主席。

每次獲邀出任公職時，他都會問自己：「為何是我？」他既沒有主動爭取這些職位，亦會質疑自己是否真的適合接受這些挑戰。可幸的是，這個疑問從沒窒礙他接受種種重大的挑戰。事實是，他的成就正取決於他懂得把其專業技能套用在其他事務及項目中。那究竟是甚麼專業技能呢？成功的訴訟律師，必須具備下列的條件：能敏捷地抓住問題的核心；懂得整合所有相關事實及資料；懂得分析對立方的優勢及弱點；擁有策略性思維及執行能力。世上很少有相同的訴訟，因此，出色的訴訟專家定能敏捷地於變化萬千的環境中作反應。

在八十年代後期，擔任香港律師會會長及基本法諮詢委員會委員的葉博士，建立了一個讓不同專業人士就基本法起草交換意見的平台。平台建立後，業內人士常交流意見，葉博士亦因此帶領不少專業團體到訪北京。1991年，有志協助香港順利過渡1997的葉博士，獲提名參加立法會法律界功能組別的選舉，並成功贏得議席。除了在立法會內的其他職責，葉博士亦被選為立法會法案委員會主席，仔細審視終審法院的成立法案。

縱使自己從未入讀大學，且深知自己並沒有讀書天分，葉博士曾為香港教育學院及香港科技大學的成立擔當領導的角色。

葉博士熱愛馬術及賽馬運動，在1999年至2018年間，他將自己的專業經驗及目標為本的辦事手法運用到馬會董事局及信託基金委員會中。在他擔任馬會主席期間，賽馬會完成了兩個標誌性的項目：由前中環警署改建而成、剛獲聯合國教科文組織亞太區文化遺產保護獎卓越獎項的大館，以及位於廣州支援香港賽馬及慈善活動的香港賽馬會從化馬場。無疑，葉博士在香港發展的多個里程碑中均擔當重要角色。

葉博士謙虛地以「因緣際會」來形容自己的成就。出身於書香世家的他，形容自己是家中的一頭野馬，帶點反叛，喜歡戶外活動，不愛困在課室裡。他的人生轉捩點，始

於對法律產生興趣及決定以此成為終生事業之時刻。即使他謙稱讀書的成績不怎麼樣，但他的決心讓他一躍成為出色的訴訟律師。觀乎其公職服務，他的成功之道已溢於言表。作為真正的專業人士，他對每項公職均熱衷投入，正如他認真為服務對象解決困難一樣。嶺大博雅教育對畢業生的期盼，也可從葉博士身上體現出來——為人正直，且熱心服務社會；懂得在不同處境中也能運用專業技能及知識；慎思明辨、以邏輯理性分析事物；能耐心聆聽他人意見，擁有感染力及崇高道德標準及操守的人。

主席先生，為表彰葉博士對法律界的貢獻、在公共事務上的無私奉獻及在慈善事務上作的努力，本人謹恭請閣下頒授榮譽法學博士學位予葉錫安博士。

贊辭由陳效能教授撰寫及宣讀