

# CJ's address at Ceremony for the Admission of the New Senior Counsel

The following is issued on behalf of the Judiciary:

The following is the full text of an address by the Chief Justice of the Court of Final Appeal, Mr Geoffrey Ma Tao-li, at the Ceremony for the Admission of the New Senior Counsel today (June 9):

Secretary for Justice, Chairman of the Bar, President of the Law Society, fellow judges, ladies and gentlemen,

I extend a warm welcome to you on the occasion of the admission to the rank of Senior Counsel of Ms Maggie Wong, Mr Edwin Choy, Mr Jin Pao and Mr Derek Chan. Today is a day of personal triumph for them and the happiness of the occasion is made all the more so by the presence of family and friends. I extend to them in particular a warm welcome and congratulations as well. You know more than most the dedication, industry, sacrifice and sometimes even disappointment and heartache that have been experienced by the four newest members of the Inner Bar to get to this important day in their lives.

However, it is the new chapter in their professional lives that we also celebrate on this occasion of their taking silk. My own silk gown, which I wear today, was first worn almost exactly 25 years ago when I, together with four others, including the Head of Chambers where Ms Wong and Mr Chan practise, took silk. The practice of law has perhaps changed little. Neither has the tradition of public service and devotion to the public interest.

The context of Hong Kong and the public perception of the role of the law, and the greater awareness of issues relating to the rule of law, have however dramatically changed. There can be little doubt that particularly since 1997, there has been a considerably much deeper understanding of how the law affects everyone's daily lives and, more important, everyone's future. As members of the community increasingly grasp the concept of fundamental rights – the constant, almost daily, references to the Basic Law and the Bill of Rights demonstrate this – there must inevitably be clashes of rights and opinions. I have often spoken of the phenomenon of apparently reasonable points of view – in legal terms, the engagement of different rights or even facets of the same right – pulling in diametrically opposite directions. The important word here is "reasonable". It is the task of the courts to adjudicate on these different points of view and they do so in accordance with the law, legal principle and the spirit of the law. This responsibility of the courts, to decide legal disputes before them in accordance with the law, is simple enough to state, and to all of you in this Court, it may seem obvious. However, particularly in recent years, it would appear that some members of the community lose sight of this. This often happens when cases come before the courts having their origins in

controversial political, economic or social events. These are the types of situation where most people will have strong views and the way they view the law will be synonymous with the result of the particular matter before the court. Their perception and even confidence in the legal system become largely, if not wholly, dependent on the result. One will then in these circumstances quite easily lose sight of the fundamental point that courts deal only with the law. One completely forgets also that only two qualities are stated in the Basic Law for the appointment of judges: judicial and professional qualities. Their views, political or otherwise, or any other aspect, do not enter into it.

I have just returned from a speaking tour of Australia, where one of the topics of the talks I gave was the criticism of judges. Within this theme was the necessity of properly informing the public of how the law operates. It is critical to the viability of any legal system that it truly enjoys the confidence of the community. Without this confidence, the system – however good it is and however lauded it is by others – will have failed.

It is in the above context that the role of the leaders of the legal profession comes into play. By leaders I include leaders of both barristers and solicitors. Leading Counsel all play a critical part in promoting the system of law in Hong Kong; this is also a recognition of the responsibility to understand and promote the rule of law itself. The Inner Bar now number over 100, not including the Senior Counsel in the Department of Justice. They are leaders of the Bar not just in the cases that they take up for their clients, but also in providing leadership to enable the community to understand the operation of the law. I cannot emphasise enough the importance of this latter aspect. In a talk I gave in London two years ago at the 2016 Presidential Address of the Bentham Association I referred to the Bar as an "Old, Honourable and Distinguished Friend". It is precisely that.

I return to the main event of this morning. We are here primarily to congratulate the success of Ms Wong, Mr Choy, Mr Pao and Mr Chan. Maggie Wong, Edwin Choy and Derek Chan are all criminal practitioners of the very highest standing, reputation and ability. Jin Pao is a civil practitioner, with an emphasis in recent years on public law. He too, like the others, enjoys a formidable reputation. You will hear more about them presently, but I make a brief mention of Ms Wong. Not only is she the product of Sacred Heart Canossian College, she also numbers 100 on the list of Senior Counsel in Hong Kong.

Once again, I congratulate the four new Senior Counsel and their family and friends, and wish you every success and happiness in all your future endeavours.

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# UK secondary school students win places at university summer schools in Hong Kong (with photos)

Five gifted sixth-form secondary school students in the United Kingdom have each won a chance to study at a Hong Kong university this summer, through a competition organised by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, London (London ETO).

Hong Kong has a successful and diverse higher education system, with a number of outstanding universities that rank prominently in world league tables. Through the "Hong Kong: the best destination for start-up entrepreneurs!" competition, UK students are encouraged to pursue tertiary education in Hong Kong. Each of the five winners of the competition will be sponsored to study at one of the summer courses at a Hong Kong university to experience a taste of the city's world-class university life, as well as Hong Kong's cosmopolitan lifestyle and unique culture. The winners can also explore their areas of interest and develop their strengths and potential before starting at university. Sponsored by Cathay Pacific Airways and supported by the British Council, the Hong Kong Society and Invest Hong Kong, the competition has the participation of three key universities in Hong Kong.

To enter, students were invited to compare Hong Kong and a UK city in terms of their situation, development, respective policies and measures to support start-ups. They were also asked to give suggestions on how to further promote and develop Hong Kong as the best destination for start-ups.

Entries received were in many different forms including presentations, essays, websites, blog entries and YouTube videos, and were judged based on content, creativity and presentation. The panel of judges were the Director-General of the London ETO, Ms Priscilla To; the Marketing & Digital Sales Manager of Cathay Pacific, Mr Paul Cruttenden; Project Manager, International Education Programme, British Council, Mr Siôn James; the Chairman of the Hong Kong Society, Mr Nigel Johnson-Hill; and the Deputy Head of Investment Promotion, London ETO, Ms Jessica Kam.

The five winning entrants are:

Bertram Lyhne-Gold

North Bridge House School, Canonbury, London

His entry was an essay (available on the London ETO website at

[www.hketolondon.gov.hk/student\\_competition/winners2018/Bertram\\_Lyhne\\_Gold.doc](http://www.hketolondon.gov.hk/student_competition/winners2018/Bertram_Lyhne_Gold.doc)

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He will study at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

Thibau Grumett

Invicta Grammar School, Maidstone

His entry was a presentation (available on the London ETO website at

[www.hketolondon.gov.hk/student\\_competition/winners2018/Thibau\\_Grumett\\_1.pdf](http://www.hketolondon.gov.hk/student_competition/winners2018/Thibau_Grumett_1.pdf)  
[www.hketolondon.gov.hk/student\\_competition/winners2018/Thibau\\_Grumett\\_2.pdf](http://www.hketolondon.gov.hk/student_competition/winners2018/Thibau_Grumett_2.pdf)

He will study at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Tomas Utting

King's College School, Wimbledon

His entry was a blog (available at [www.hongkongforstartups.wordpress.com](http://www.hongkongforstartups.wordpress.com))

He will study at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Trinity Hooper

Benenden School, Kent

Her entry was an essay (available on the London ETO website at

[www.hketolondon.gov.hk/student\\_competition/winners2018/Trinity\\_Hooper.docx](http://www.hketolondon.gov.hk/student_competition/winners2018/Trinity_Hooper.docx))

She will study at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Uma Baron

St Paul's Girls' School, Hammersmith

Her entry was an essay (available on the London ETO website at

[www.hketolondon.gov.hk/student\\_competition/winners2018/Uma\\_Baron.docx](http://www.hketolondon.gov.hk/student_competition/winners2018/Uma_Baron.docx))

She will study at the University of Hong Kong.

At a prize presentation ceremony at the London ETO on June 6 (London time), Ms To said the London ETO launched the competition in 2012 to encourage more students from the UK to go to Hong Kong to further their university education. She said, "I would like to congratulate all the winners. All the entries were of very high quality, which made it quite a challenge for the judges, having to decide between them all, based on content, creativity and presentation.

"I am sure that this summer you will have a great and genuine taste of campus life in the best universities in Hong Kong. When you come back to the UK, I hope that you will be proud ambassadors for Hong Kong as a great place to study and share your experiences with your friends and fellow students.

"The reason we chose this theme of start-up entrepreneurs is simply this: the start-up scene in Hong Kong is flourishing. It is among the world's five fastest-growing start-up centres and one of the world's top 25 start-up hubs. Substantial resources have been allocated in the past few years to support the development of innovation and technology or I&T, with a focus on four critical areas of healthcare technology, artificial intelligence and robotics, smart city and Fintech."

Mr Cruttenden said, "Congratulations to all the winners and indeed all those who submitted entries. The effort and hard work invested was exceptional. Connecting people is at the core of what Cathay Pacific do – connecting ambitious, inquisitive and enthusiastic students to new educational, social and cultural experiences is why we are delighted to continue supporting this very worthwhile competition."

Mr James said, "I'd like to extend my congratulations to the competition's winners the number of high quality applications received made the judging process extremely challenging. Your time in Hong Kong will

provide you with a rich variety of new experiences in a different culture, and having seen the amount of creativity, skill and commitment demonstrated in the applications, it's well deserved."

Mr Johnson-Hill, said, "I was really impressed by the quality and presentation of the winners' essays. And I'm particularly grateful to the London ETO for arranging such an inspiring competition."

Ms Kam said, "I am impressed by both the quantity and quality of the entries for this year's competition. The number of entries we received clearly reflects UK secondary school students' keen interest in Hong Kong. The students' works are of exceptionally high standard which made it very difficult for the judging panel to make the decision. Their level of understanding about the start-up scene and business environment in Hong Kong also impressed me. I wish all the winners a memorable experience and a pleasant journey in Hong Kong."



## **Special traffic arrangements for race meeting in Sha Tin tomorrow**

Police advise motorists that special traffic arrangements will be implemented in Sha Tin to facilitate the race meeting tomorrow (June 10).

The arrangements will come into effect two hours before the start of the first race and will last until the crowds have dispersed after the race meeting.

Appropriate traffic signs will be put up and police will be on hand to guide motorists.

The Police also appeal to people going to Sha Tin Racecourse for the race meeting and to Happy Valley Racecourse for cross betting to make maximum use of public transport.

Parking spaces at the two racecourses are available only to holders of appropriate permits issued by Hong Kong Jockey Club and any vehicles illegally parked will be towed away.

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## **Chai Wan Public Fill Barging Point to reopen**

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible:

The Civil Engineering and Development Department today (June 9) announced that the Chai Wan Public Fill Barging Point will be reopened at 10am.

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## **Mui Wo Temporary Public Fill Reception**

# Facility to reopen

Attention TV/radio announcers:

Please broadcast the following as soon as possible:

The Civil Engineering and Development Department today (June 9) announced that the Mui Wo Temporary Public Fill Reception Facility will be reopened at 8.30am.