

# **Honorary Fellow Ms Maggie Chan Man-ki**

*Citation written and delivered by Professor Linda Wong Lai Yeuk-lin*

Pro-Chancellor, Chairman of the Council and President:

Ms Maggie Chan Man-ki, Senior Partner of CMK Lawyers, is an active member of the Hong Kong community. Through her legal practice, her elected office as a District Councilor and her other involvements in public affairs, she has worked effectively for the betterment of all strata in Hong Kong society and for closer ties between Hong Kong and the mainland.

Ms Chan received her Bachelor of Laws and Postgraduate Certificate in Laws from the University of Hong Kong in 1991 and 1992, respectively. In addition to being a solicitor in Hong Kong, she is also a China-appointed Attesting Officer, an Accredited Mediator and an Arbitrator of the Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration.

In her legal work, she specialises in insurance-related laws. At the same time, she readily puts her extensive legal knowledge to the service of the community, acting as the honorary legal advisor in many non-profit-making organisations, for which she was conferred the Medal of Honour and the Individual Award for Provision of Pro Bono Legal Service by the Home Affairs Bureau last year. Recognising the limitation of resolving conflicts by law alone, she has been offering free mediation service in the community since 2011.

Already, many Hong Kong lawyers are working in the mainland, but find themselves hampered by the lack of support there. Ms Chan strongly advocates putting in place pilot legal collaborative programmes in selected places in mainland China so that lawyers from Hong Kong can extend into areas such as trademark laws, maritime laws and international arbitration.

Ms Chan was elected to the District Council of Wong Tai Sin in 2004, an office she continues to occupy today. In this capacity, she supports

measures that seek to improve the livelihood of a large population, most notably working-class families. These include increasing various kinds of government subsidies, streamlining the process of loans to students and small businesses, lowering the cost of public transportation, and raising pre-tax allotments for the low-income group. She also set up the Chan Man-ki scholarship for kindergarten and primary students in Wong Tai Sin in 2010.

She has a long and distinguished record of public service. In addition to being a district councilor, she is the Founding President of The Small and Medium Law Firms Association of Hong Kong, a member of the Hong Kong Chief Executive Election Committee, the Deputy Chairman of the Appeal Board Panel under the Urban Renewal Authority Ordinance, a member of the Elderly Commission and the Appeal Panel (Housing). She was a member of the Town Planning Board and the Equal Opportunities Commission, Insurance Advisory Committee, and a number of appeal committees and boards. A keen supporter of CityU, she served on the University Council and its committees from 2007–2012, notably as the Chair of the Committee on Statutes, and is currently an advisor and a sponsor to the Bridge to Success programme and a member of the CityU Court. To date, the Wong Tai Sin office and CMK Lawyers have employed around 20 interns from CityU.

Regarding her public service in the mainland, Ms Chan is a Hong Kong member of the All-China Women's Federation, a member of Hunan Provincial Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and an Executive Committee Member of Guangdong's Association for Promotion of Cooperation between Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau.

With her industriousness and strength of character, which Ms Chan attributes to the influence of her parents, Ms Chan has long been a strong and distinct voice in the community. For example, she speaks in defense of the religious rights of different ethnic groups. She is in favour of developing the western New Territories without losing sight of the environmental cost that unregulated development may bring. She urges the preservation of

the Lung Tsun Stone Bridge as the government makes plans to renew East Kowloon. She has also suggested ways to improve the current public library system in order to bring about a thriving reading culture in Hong Kong, just as she supports the conversion of old industrial buildings as venues for cultural and art activities. Eager to foster order and harmony in Hong Kong, she advocates the teaching of Chinese culture and the revival of Confucianism.

Mr Pro-Chancellor, Mr Chairman of the Council, and Mr President, Ms Maggie Chan is highly respected for her contributions to the legal profession and the Hong Kong community. She works hard to promote the welfare of Hong Kong people and strengthen the ties between Hong Kong and the mainland. I request the University to award her the title of Honorary Fellow.