

**SPEECH OF MR RODEN TONG**  
**PRESIDENT OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF HONG KONG**  
**AT THE THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF “EUNOMIA”**  
**THE 37<sup>TH</sup> EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**OF THE LAW STUDENTS’ SOCIETY**  
**OF CITY UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG STUDENTS’ UNION**  
**19 MARCH 2026**

Professor Alexander Loke,

Professor Hon Priscilla Leung,

Mr Kay Chan,

Distinguished Guests, Teachers, Students, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Good evening. It is a great honour and a real pleasure to join you tonight at the Inauguration Ceremony of “*Eunomia*”, the 37th Executive Committee of the Law Students’ Society of City University of Hong Kong. This occasion marks not only the beginning of a new term of service, but also the emergence of a new generation of leaders who will help shape the future of our profession.
  
2. Let me begin by offering my warmest congratulations to the incoming Executive Committee. By choosing the name “*Eunomia*”, the Greek goddess of good order and lawful conduct, you have embraced a powerful and meaningful symbol. In classical thought, *Eunomia* stood alongside *Dike* and *Eirene*, representing justice and peace. The message was clear.

Good order, justice and peace are inseparable. One cannot endure without the others.

3. This idea resonates deeply with the concept of professionalism that I highlighted at the Ceremonial Opening of the Legal Year earlier this year. Professionalism is not an abstract ideal. It is expressed through integrity, objectivity, diligence and respect. It is the foundation upon which public confidence in the administration of justice is built. Good order does not arise by chance. It depends on the commitment of individuals who are prepared to uphold standards, to take responsibility, and to put things right when they go wrong. This is the enduring duty of the legal profession.
4. The foundation of all this is the rule of law. Under the principle of “One Country, Two Systems”, Hong Kong remains the only common law jurisdiction in China, and the world’s only truly bilingual common law jurisdiction operating in both English and Chinese. This is not simply a matter of history or tradition. It defines Hong Kong’s unique role in connecting different legal systems and underpins our strengths in litigation, arbitration and mediation on both regional and international stages.
5. President Xi has repeatedly affirmed that “One Country, Two Systems” will continue. Hong Kong’s strategic role in this new era is therefore clear. It is to consolidate our status as an international financial, shipping and trade centre, and to develop into a high-end international hub for legal and professional talent.
6. This year marks the opening year of the national 15th Five-Year Plan. The plan places strong emphasis on advancing the rule of law, particularly within the Greater Bay Area. It supports initiatives that facilitate Hong Kong solicitors practising across the boundary, strengthen cross border dispute resolution platforms, and enhance Hong Kong’s role as an international legal and dispute resolution centre. These developments are firmly anchored in the rule of law as a fundamental cornerstone of sustainable growth.

7. For the students gathered here this evening, these are not distant policy statements. They represent real opportunities for your generation. Hong Kong is called upon to serve as a “super connector” and a “super value adder”, and the legal profession sits at the heart of that mission. The Law Society of Hong Kong now brings together nearly 14,000 solicitors across a wide range of practice areas. We are actively aligning our work with these national and regional developments, while continuing to strengthen mediation, arbitration and emerging areas such as sports dispute resolution.
  
8. With opportunity comes responsibility. The courts have long emphasised that lawyers must discharge their duties with integrity, probity and complete trustworthiness. Trust is the lifeblood of our profession. Once lost, it is exceedingly difficult to regain. These are not lessons to be learned only after admission to practice. They are habits of mind that should be cultivated from the very beginning of your legal journey. No matter how challenging the circumstances, hold fast to your principles. In the long run, your integrity will define your professional reputation far more than any single success.
  
9. We are also living in a time of rapid technological transformation. Artificial intelligence, digital platforms and social media are reshaping the way legal services are delivered and how information is created and shared. Embracing technology is no longer optional. However, innovation must always be guided by ethical judgment and respect for fundamental rights. In the digital age, access to information is not only about speed or convenience. It is about fairness, impartiality and justice. Freedom of expression is indispensable, but it must be exercised responsibly and in accordance with the rule of law.
  
10. As future members of the profession, I encourage you to think boldly and to look beyond immediate personal success. Have the ambition to lead, to innovate and to contribute to Hong Kong’s legal profession on the global stage. Over more than two decades of service to the Law Society, I have

devoted a considerable amount of time to nurturing young people. I have seen first-hand their passion, their sense of justice and their genuine desire to serve the community. These qualities give me great confidence in the future of our profession.

11. The Law Society itself is also entering a new chapter. On 8 April this year, we will move into our new office premises at The Center in Central, marking both our relocation and the anniversary of our founding in 1907. This move is more than a change of address. Our new premises will provide a modern and efficient environment to support professional development and well-being. At the same time, our existing premises at Wing On House will be renovated and transformed into a multi-function centre to better serve the profession.
12. If you share our vision, I warmly encourage you to join the Law Society as student members. Student membership is free and offers access to legal updates, professional events, networking opportunities and programmes that can support you throughout your studies and into your early career. I also invite you to make use of the Law Society App, through which you can receive circulars, President's letters and information about activities and initiatives designed to enrich your professional journey.
13. Let me conclude with a final word of encouragement. The ancient Greeks did not place Eunomia among the gods merely as a symbol. They honoured her because they believed that good order must be protected, upheld and, when necessary, defended. So stay curious. Stay courageous. Never lose sight of the broader purpose behind the law. Look beyond textbooks and statutes to understand the human stories they serve. Law is not merely a career. It is a calling.
14. Thank you for allowing me to share this important moment with you. I wish you every success in your studies and in the work of the Law Students' Society, and I look forward to welcoming you at future Law Society events. Once again, my sincere congratulations to you all.