

**SPEECH OF MR RODEN TONG**  
**PRESIDENT OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF HONG KONG**  
**AT THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF THE 18<sup>TH</sup> EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**OF THE UNDERGRADUATE LAW SOCIETY**  
**OF THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG**  
**13 MARCH 2026**

Today is a very special event, so I wanted to address you with my formal speech.

Dear Professor Xi Chao,

Mr Grenville Cross,

Distinguished Guests, Teachers, Students, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. It is a great honour and pleasure to stand before you this evening and to share a few thoughts with you. Tonight is special. It is not only a celebration of leadership and service, but also a gathering of young legal minds who will, in time, shape the future of Hong Kong's legal profession and contribute to the long term prosperity, stability and development of our society.
2. May I begin by offering my warmest congratulations to the members of "Invictus", the 18th Executive Committee of the Undergraduate Law Society of The Chinese University of Hong Kong. The name "Invictus", meaning unconquered, reflects resilience, courage and an unwavering spirit in the face of challenges. These qualities are not only admirable, but essential for anyone who chooses the path of law. I have every confidence that your leadership will inspire your peers and leave a lasting and positive mark on the student community.
3. As law students, you are at the beginning of a remarkable journey. The study and practice of law is far more than a profession. It is a public calling. It is a commitment to justice, fairness, integrity and the rule of law. This is why the Law Society of Hong Kong has, for over a century, remained steadfast in serving the community, upholding professional standards and promoting legal education.

4. I strongly encourage you to think big, think further and develop a vision that extends beyond personal success. Hong Kong's legal profession has always played an important role not only locally, but also regionally and internationally. I warmly invite you to join the Law Society as student members. Membership is free and offers access to legal updates, professional events, networking opportunities and programmes that will support your growth throughout your studies and beyond.
5. Before I came into this room, I had the chance to mingle with a number of students here and I understand that most of you have not yet become our student members. So please do join, it is free of charge. Most importantly, you can also download our new Law Society app, which was launched in December last year. Through the app, you will receive all our circulars, my President's letters, information on events such as this, as well as CPD (Continuing Professional Development) and RME (Risk Management Education) courses updates. So do join as a student member.
6. I am also pleased to share a piece of encouraging news. The Law Society will soon be moving into its new office premises at The Center in Central on 8 April this year. The reason we chose this date is that the Law Society was founded on 8 April 1907, which means we will be celebrating our 119th anniversary on that very day.
7. Founded in 1907, the Law Society now brings together nearly 14,000 solicitors across diverse areas of practice. Our new premises will provide a modern and efficient environment to support professional development and well being, while our existing premises will undergo renovation and be transformed into a multi-function centre to better serve the profession.
8. At the heart of legal practice lies public service. Professionalism, expressed through integrity, objectivity, diligence and respect, is what sustains public confidence in the administration of justice. The practice of law is not merely about commercial success. It is rooted in trust and in the belief that justice will prevail.

9. Allow me to share a few reflections with you as future members of the profession.
10. First, aim high, but stay grounded. I would be delighted to see some of you become leaders of the profession, partners in leading firms or even members of the judiciary. Yet every meaningful achievement is built upon consistent effort, strong fundamentals and a commitment to continuous learning.
11. Second, always uphold integrity. The legal profession is built on trust, and trust once lost is difficult to regain. No matter how challenging the circumstances, hold fast to your ethical principles. In the long run, integrity will define your professional reputation far more than any short-term success.
12. Third, understand and cherish Hong Kong's unique strengths under "One Country, Two Systems". President Xi has reassured time and again that the policy of "One Country, Two Systems" is here to stay. At the same time, President Xi has rightly observed that "One Country, Two Systems" has entered a new era.
13. Under this new era, the legal profession, which forms the backbone of society, must reflect on its role and contribute its fair share in making this unique policy shine even brighter than before. As the only common law jurisdiction in China, Hong Kong occupies a distinctive and irreplaceable position. Our legal system, professional standards and international outlook are strengths that must be preserved, explained and advanced.
14. This solemn responsibility will, in time, rest on your shoulders.
15. Throughout my own journey in legal education and youth engagement, I have had the privilege of working closely with young people from different backgrounds and aspirations. I have seen their passion, their sense of justice and their desire to make a meaningful difference. I have full faith in our young people. I firmly believe that you have both the ability and the commitment to carry forward the values of our profession and to serve society with dedication and wisdom.

16. Finally, be passionate about making a difference. The law is not only about cases and transactions. It is about shaping a fairer, more just and more compassionate society. Whether you choose to serve in private practice, public service or academia, remember that your work has the power to leave a lasting impact.
  
17. In closing, I encourage you to approach your legal education and future career with curiosity, courage and compassion. The road ahead will not always be easy, but it will be deeply meaningful. I look forward to welcoming many of you into the legal profession in the years to come.
  
18. Congratulations once again, and thank you.