

**Speech by Mr Roden Tong**  
**President of The Law Society of Hong Kong**  
**2025 Inauguration Ceremony of the Government and Laws Committee,**  
**HKU**  
**6 June 2025**

Justice Suffiad,

Professor Veitch,

Professor Wan,

President Pang,

President Sit,

Distinguished Guests, Teachers, Students, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. It is a great pleasure to join you this evening to celebrate the inauguration of the new Governing Council of the Government and Laws Committee of The University of Hong Kong.
2. The Government and Laws Double Degree Programme is more than just an academic pursuit. It is a transformative journey. It equips you with the tools to understand the world through both legal and political lenses, empowering you to shape society with insight, integrity, and impact.
3. The legal profession is as diverse as it is dynamic. It is not confined to courtrooms or legal chambers. For instance, about one-third of solicitors in Hong Kong, myself included, serve as in-house counsel embedded in corporations, institutions, and government bodies. We advise on strategy, manage risk, and help organisations navigate complex legal landscapes.

4. Beyond the corporate world, many legal professionals contribute meaningfully to public service. Among them are twelve Legislative Council members, four non-official Executive Council members, and leaders such as the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data, the CEO of the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited, and the Chair of the Agency for Volunteer Service — all of whom began their journeys in law.
5. These examples show that law is not an island. It is a bridge connecting disciplines, sectors, and people. It shapes how we live, how we govern, and how we grow. It protects rights, promotes justice, and provides the structure for a fair and functioning society.
6. Let me give you a more unexpected example — sports. Whether you are playing with friends or watching the Olympics, sports bring people together. But behind the scenes, it is the law that ensures fairness, safety, and integrity. From anti-doping regulations to athlete contracts and dispute resolution, legal frameworks are the backbone of the global sports industry.
7. Recognising this, The Law Society of Hong Kong hosted the inaugural Sports Law Mega Event earlier this year. It brought together legal professionals from Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macao for a tri-regional lawyers' sports meet, alongside a sports law conference and gala dinner. It was a celebration of how law and sports intersect and how lawyers can contribute to the healthy development of the sports ecosystem.

8. As a token of appreciation, we presented a special edition Sports Law Panda doll to the athletes who participated in the sports meet. In fact, I have brought a few with me today, and I would like to present them to members of the Government and Laws Committee on this meaningful occasion to symbolise the spirit of unity and legal excellence.
9. If you attended the event or saw the media coverage, I hope it inspired you. If not, I encourage you to stay connected with the Law Society especially by joining as a student member. It is a great way to stay informed, get involved, and explore the many paths your legal education can lead you to.
10. As students of government and law, you are uniquely positioned to make a difference. You have the knowledge, the perspective, and the potential to lead change whether in public policy, legal reform, business, or community service.
11. I encourage you to embrace the full spectrum of what law can do. Look beyond textbooks and court judgments. Ask how law can solve real-world problems. Be curious, be collaborative, and be courageous in your pursuit of justice and progress.
12. Your journey is just beginning, but already it holds great promise. I have every confidence that the new Governing Council will lead with purpose and inspire its members to grow, serve, and succeed.
13. Congratulations once again, and thank you for the opportunity to share this moment with you.