

DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF LETTERS, *honoris causa*

The Honourable Elsie LEUNG Oi-sie, GBM, JP

Madam Chancellor,

The Honourable Elsie Leung Oi-sie is an icon. She is iconic in three distinct and yet inter-related contribution to Hong Kong. First, she serves our legal system with high distinction; second, she helps further the successful implementation of “One country Two systems”; and third, she enlightens our community on the letter and the spirit of the Basic Law.

While her distinguished public services make her an icon, Ms Leung’s amiability, authenticity, and her traditional Chinese refinement is her unique hallmark that gives her iconic status a warm personal touch.

When Elsie was a teenage young girl, she studied at St. Clare’s Girls School and Sacred Heart Canossian College and was later admitted to The University of Hong Kong (HKU) in 1960. Ms Leung passed her Law Society Qualifying Examinations in 1967 to become a solicitor and started her practice in 1968. She later obtained an LLM degree from HKU in 1988.

Ms Elsie Leung has embraced the cause of women lawyers with commitment and has paid particular attention to aiding the disadvantaged. She played a pivotal role in the establishment of the Hong Kong Federation of Women Lawyers and served as its Secretary General from 1975 to 1980. She believes that women lawyers can play an active role in the society in assisting the disadvantaged. Her conviction motivated her to embark on a long journey of social and public service.

Between 1968 and 1993, Ms Leung worked for the local law firm P. H. Sin & Co., and became its partner until the firm was amalgamated with the firm of Iu, Lai & Li Solicitors, where she continued to practice as its partner until 1997. During that time, she not only

established her outstanding legal career, but was also highly involved in governmental work. She was appointed as a delegate of the 8th National People's Congress in 1993 and a Hong Kong affairs advisor in 1994, advising the Chief Executive Designate of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) on legal matters related to the establishment of the HKSAR. She also served on various government boards and committees, including the Independent Police Complaints Council, Equal Opportunities Commission, Social Welfare Advisory Committee and Inland Revenue Board of Review.

With the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Ms Leung took up the historical role as the first Secretary for Justice of the HKSAR from 1997 to 2005. That was a tremendous challenge amid the changing social and political landscape as well as numerous controversies. With her great courage, integrity, and professionalism, and above all with her love of our Country and Hong Kong, Ms Leung gave her total devotion to serving the historical cause. History will record for posterity her contribution in ensuring the smooth transition of the handover, and the successful implementation of "One Country, Two Systems", and promote our understanding of the Basic Law. Of equal importance, Ms Elsie Leung robustly maintained the effectiveness and impartiality of the legal system of Hong Kong during her term of office as Secretary for Justice.

Her retirement from the position of Secretary for Justice in late 2005 did not signal the end of her devotion to serving the public and the legal profession. Instead, it marked a new beginning. In 2006, she was appointed as Deputy Director of the Basic Law Committee of the HKSAR of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of The People's Republic of China and she has remained in this role since then. Ms Leung resumed private practice in late 2006 and she is now a Consultant of Iu, Lai & Li Solicitors & Notaries, a Notary Public, a China-appointed Attesting Officer and a member of the Panel of Arbitrators of China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission. Ms Leung maintained her passion for public and community services by taking up the roles of legal adviser to and member of many non-governmental organizations, including the Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (since 2006), Hong Kong Mediation Centre (since 2007) and Honours and Non-official Justices of the Peace Selection Committee (since 2014). She is a former International President of the International Federation of Women Lawyers and is now an Honorary Member of the Hong Kong Federation of Women Lawyers.

Her dedication and exemplary record of governmental and community work has brought her much deserved recognition. Ms Leung was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1981, and

was awarded the Grand Bauhinia Medal for her distinguished public service in 2002. An honorary degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred on her by both the University of Politics and Law, Beijing and the University of Warwick in the United Kingdom in 2004 and 2005 respectively. She was also conferred an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws by two local universities, Shue Yan University in 2010 and The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology in 2011. Most recently, she received an honorary degree of Doctor of Social Sciences from HKU in 2016.

Madam Chancellor, in recognition of her contribution to our people and our Hong Kong, may I invite the President to present The Honourable Elsie Leung Oi-sie to you for the award of Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*.

Citation written and to be delivered by Dr Charles Kwong Che-leung

榮譽文學博士學位

梁愛詩女士

校監女士：

梁愛詩女士是香港典範。她在三個不同而又關連的領域裏，體現了服務港人的真諦。梁女士為香港法制服務，表現超卓；她在支持「一國兩制」的成功落實，建樹良多；她啟迪大眾認識《基本法》，成就彰顯。

在公共服務上，梁女士表現卓越；在待人處事上，她和藹可親、性情真摯，散發着中國傳統的典雅寬容，這些都是她獨特的標誌，為她顯赫的功績上增添了暖和的人格魅力。

梁女士年少時受業於聖嘉勒女書院及嘉諾撒聖心書院，1960年考入香港大學，1967年通過專業考試，取得律師資格，1968年開始執業；其後於1988年獲香港大學法律系碩士學位。

一直以來，梁女士盡心支持女律師專業，對弱勢社群更尤其關顧，既一力促成設立香港女律師協會，並於1975至1980年出任該會秘書長。她深信女律師可在扶傾濟弱方面擔當主動進取的角色，這個堅定的信念亦令她踏上社會服務與公職的悠長路途。

1968至1993年期間，梁女士任職於本地冼秉熹律師行，並成為該行股東，直至該行於1993年與姚黎李律師行合併，並繼續在姚黎李律師行以股東身份執業至1997年；梁女士積極參與政府工作；1993年出任第八屆全國人民代表大會代表，1994年獲委任為港事顧問，參與成立香港特別行政區的工作，就有關法律事宜，向候任行政長官出謀獻策。梁女士曾服務於多個政府委員會，包括獨立監察警方處理投訴委員會、平等機會委員會、社會福利諮詢委員會，以及稅務上訴委員會等等。

1997 至 2005 年，正藉香港特別行政區成立之初，本地歷經重大社會、政治演變，加上社會爭議頻生，梁女士於此時出任特區首位律政司司長，肩負歷史任務，可謂任重道遠，荊棘滿途。仗賴個人無比的勇氣、公正剛直的品格、專業的操守，以及其愛國愛港的情懷，梁女士傾力完成這項歷史使命。梁女士為確保主權順利過渡、成功落實「一國兩制」、增加各界對《基本法》的認識而悉力以赴，備受讚揚，歷史將記下她作出的種種貢獻；作為律政司司長，梁女士在其任內致力維護香港法制的效力和公正性，同樣建樹良多。

2005 年底從律政司司長崗位退休之後，梁女士仍不遺餘力，繼續服務市民大眾和法律專業界別，踏出人生另一個起點。2006 年她獲委任為中華人民共和國全國人民代表大會常務委員會香港特別行政區基本法委員會副主任後，一直留任至今。2006 年底重新執業，現時是姚黎李律師行顧問律師、國際公證人、中國委託公證人及中國國際經濟貿易仲裁委員會仲裁員小組成員。另一方面，梁女士對公共及社區服務亦熱忱未減，為多個非政府組織擔任法律顧問及成員，包括香港國際仲裁中心（2006 年起）、香港和解中心（2007 年起）和授勳及非官守太平紳士遴選委員會（2014 年起）。此外，她也是國際女律師協會前主席兼現任榮譽會員。

梁女士竭誠服務政府，奉獻社區工作，成就卓著，堪為典範；1981 年獲委任為太平紳士，並於 2002 年榮獲大紫荊勳章，憑藉其服務社會的傑出貢獻而深受讚賞。至於其律政專業，除先後榮獲國內、海外以及本地高等學府頒授榮譽法學博士學位，包括北京中國政法大學（2004 年）、英國華威大學（2005 年）、香港樹仁大學（2010 年）、香港科技大學（2011 年），亦於 2016 年榮獲香港大學頒授名譽社會科學博士學位。

校監女士，為表揚梁愛詩女士對本港的貢獻，本人在此謹恭請校長引介梁愛詩女士接受本大學的榮譽文學博士學位。

英文贊辭由鄭志良博士撰寫及宣讀