

Speeches by Graduate Representatives

HE Shumin

Juris Doctor, School of Law

Dean of Faculty, Faculty members, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, and last but by no means least, members of the JD graduating class of 2023, good afternoon.

This is really such a remarkable day, obviously for you, and also for me. After spending three years in CityU Law School, we are standing here to accept a law degree. I am thrilled and deeply honoured by the opportunity to share the excitement of this wonderful day with you, in this very special place.

Let me begin by congratulating each of you on receiving your JD degree today. I know how hard you have all worked and what pressures you, your families, and friends have endured, because I am one of all of 'you'. So, I want to thank you for the many hours of study and dedication you have paid so that you are standing here today to celebrate our graduation together. This marks a significant milestone in your lives. Standing in this place reminds me of three years ago when we gathered in our first class together, we were asked a classic question 'Why do you study law?'. Do you remember how you responded to this question? Say that again in your mind and always keep that with you. As JD graduates, we embarked upon our journey in Law School knowing exactly why we are here and what we want. In this journey, we started from scratch to build our sophistication and prepared skillsets that would help us in work in the future.

Please also allow me to extend our deepest gratitude to our families for their support. Without their support, we couldn't have made it today. Also, I want to thank our dear professors, friends, and colleagues we met here. They've taught us and inspired us, and I am sure we don't plan on letting go of what we've shared in here.

I hope your time in Law School will become one of your most valuable assets. The greatest thing about the legal profession we have chosen is that it gives us the opportunity to reflect on the impact we can make in the world. In our families, we are sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, and husbands and wives. In our communities, we are neighbours, friends, and colleagues. Being lawyers, as most of us will be, we carry with us a great responsibility to serve not only our clients but also the greater good.

As you well know, our journey does not end here. The world is constantly changing, and the legal profession is no exception. The skills and knowledge we have gained are valuable, but they alone will not guarantee our success. We must also possess the courage, resilience, and adaptability to navigate the ever-changing landscape of the legal profession.

In closing, I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations again to each and every one of you. You have worked hard, and you have earned this achievement. Congratulations, and best of luck on your journey ahead!

LO Chun Wing (Wayne)
Bachelor of Laws, School of Law

Good afternoon, Dean of School of Law, professors, academics, guests, fellow graduates, ladies and gentlemen:

It is my great honour to say a few words on behalf of the LLB graduating class of 2023 from the School. We have been through an exceptional time both online and offline, but we improvise, adapt and overcome—congratulation to all of us. As part of the graduation three-limbs analysis, this is a time for recognition, reflection, and preparation.

Recognise those who have accompanied us on this journey.

Thank you to our family and loved ones, for believing in and supporting us. They are the reasons we are here today. They sacrificed unconditionally and supported our decisions. Thank you to the School of Law, for preparing this journey for us. We are vetted with opportunities in various positions and inspiration materials and teaching. Our professors and tutors honed our studies and thinking with passion. Our administrative staff handled our technical problems with patience. Thank you to our classmates and friends, for taking the battles with us. We worked night after night on assignments and participated in discussions and research. Our friends understand the demand for our studies and hardships. We inspire each other with our unique perspectives and characters.

Reflect upon the lessons learnt from this journey.

Law is a subject most akin to our life. By their nature, there are no static formulas, and it is subject to interpretations. We also learnt to think out of the box. The law is not an end but just one of many means to an outcome. There is a lot more outside of just the law itself. Use the toolbox we harnessed to reach for the outcome. The law should be advocated for the better. Further, we may have lost our enthusiasm, and things may have failed our expectations beyond our control. But be reminded of how lucky we are to enjoy all that we have and experience.

Prepare ahead for the upcoming journeys.

We may or may not choose to venture a similar path. But the journey of the past four years will always be resourceful to our future, regardless of the path taken. Have confidence in yourself. It is alright to try and fail; to feel lost and despair; to slow down and recover. Reach out, and people are more than happy to help. Life is not determined by the height of success. Most importantly, don't lose touch with your kind-hearted self. With more opportunities to come, we grow and evolve for the better. We will find the right balance to live and let live, without compromising who we are.

Finally, Celebrate our success. Law School was a challenge, and we made it through. There will be more success to come, and we will attain what we deserve. Hope that our paths will cross again.

Thank you all very much, as it has been an honour. Congratulations to the class of 2023.

GUO Jiayi
Master of Law, School of Law

Distinguished guests, faculties, families, and fellow classmates, my name is Guo Jiayi, a student from the LLM's International Economic Law stream. I'm honored to represent the LLM graduates on this meaningful occasion.

After two years of the Covid pandemic, we can finally attend the commencement in person. After the release of the mask mandate, I'm so grateful that we got to see each other's faces this semester. Thanks to all the hard work of the faculty members at CityU law school, we are able to conquer the difficulties and continue our courses both online and offline this year.

Standing here today as an LLM graduate, I know that none of us can achieve what we have today with our work alone. First of all, I want to thank CityU who has given us an opportunity to stand on the shoulders of giants and experience a highly-diversified academic environment. Here, we have learned to analyze and think, to endure and exercise, and to compete and cooperate. I'm also thankful to our dearest professors, from whom I have learnt legal knowledge and the enterprising spirit.

Moreover, I made like-minded friends who share my ambitions at CityU. I will always remember our long hours spent together at the library; the laughter we had when climbing mountains, and the fear we fought against together during the pandemic. Last but not least, I would like to thank my parents who encourage and support me to pursue my dreams.

I cherish my life in Hong Kong. With the support and help of all of you, my life and study here are full of grace.

Hong Kong is a magical place. I have travelled a lot and experienced the beauty of this city. After the pandemic, I value what I have now more than ever. In this day and age, we are lucky to have chances to choose who we want to be. However, we often forget to listen to our own voice and rush to become someone else. The truth is as long as we truly accept ourselves, we will never forget where we started.

After today, we will begin new chapters in our life. Some of us will continue their studies and most of us will practice law and take our responsibility to serve our community and our profession. I dare not say that the future will be smooth because life is not supposed to be smooth, but let me send my best wishes to all of you: may we all have the courage to land when we are at the top, and have the determination to start again when we are at the bottom.

Wish you all a bright future and congratulations class 2023! Thank you!

WONG Chun Sang
Postgraduate Certificate in Laws, School of Law

Dean, members of the Faculty, distinguished guests, Fellow Graduates, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my great honour to stand here today and to meet you all face-to-face, masks off. Congratulations to my fellow graduates, you have successfully made it through the “PC Hell Hell”! I am sure every graduate can attest to the toughness of the programme, but it is imperative to acknowledge the transformative nature of this experience which has set us on a path towards a bright and prosperous future.

More than 8 months have passed since the end of our PCLL, but as I reflect upon the year-long journey, the memories remain vibrant. Not the gruelling long hours of studies or the spectre of failure that haunted our thoughts, but the friendships forged along the way. Shout out to my teams! I will always remember the joy and tears we shared in the small group rooms, where we raced against deadlines and debated which of the tons of inherited notes are the best to use. These friendships have been a source of support, encouragement, and inspiration.

Of course, there are many people who have supported us throughout this journey. To our parents and families, we are deeply grateful for your sacrifices and understanding. Rest assured, your sons and daughters were well-taken care of during their time here, whether they were locked in a room attending Zoom classes or tirelessly working on assignments.

Our esteemed professors and tutors, we thank you for your dedication and commitment to our education. You have challenged us to think critically, to question our assumptions, to approach problems with creativity, and importantly, you have constantly reminded us how easy it is to fail your courses, which frankly, was the main reason for my sleepless nights.

As many of us transitioned into the workforce, we may feel at times that some of the textbook knowledge begin to fade, and the glamour of a legal career dissipated as we deal with midnight "please fix" messages from bosses and clients and endless bundling tasks. Lately, we may even have started worrying that AI will replace our jobs soon. To find some comfort, I asked ChatGPT why it wouldn't replace lawyers. It humbly responded that lawyers possess superior legal ethics than AI. Ironically, if lawyers are ethical creatures, professional conduct wouldn't have been such a headache.

Yet we have all made it through! The skills we have acquired during our PCLL journey will continue to develop as we advance in our careers. There will be days when we face challenges and have doubts about our abilities, but we must know that we have what it takes to achieve our goals and dreams. With determination and a strong belief in ourselves, we can reach our full potential.

Anyways, let us also not forget the timeless wisdom of the Latin Phrase, *carpe diem*, which reminds us to seize the day and make the most of our time on this earth. Tomorrow may bring another mundane day at work, but today, we gather to celebrate our resilience and success. Lastly, remember to “Eat well, sleep well and rest well”! We shall meet each other again. Congratulations!