

Honorary Professor of Law

A Citation

Dr The Honourable Sir T L Yang

GBM; Order of Chivalry, SPMB of Negara Brunei Darussalam; LLB (Lond.);
Hon LLD (CUHK); Hon DLitt (HK); Hon LLD (HK Polytech.); Called to the Bar at Gray's Inn; FCI Arb; JP;
Honorary Fellow of University College London; Honorary Bencher of Gray's Inn


Dr The Honourable Sir T L Yang was Chief Justice of Hong Kong from 1988 until 1996. In his long and illustrious legal career, there have been many landmark achievements at both a personal and public level.

At a personal level, Sir T L is well-known for his translations of three Chinese classical works into the English language. These are the well-read works of Qian Cai's novel *General Yu Fei* published in 1995, Gu Sifan's novel *Peach Blossom Fan* published in 1999 and Li Boyuan's novel *Officialdom Unmasked* published in 2001. His active interest and scholarship in Chinese literature together with his commitment to the rule of law emphasize the bilingual and bicultural heritage that shapes our community and, in turn, the vision of The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

At the public level, the Hong Kong community owes to Sir T L the hard work and the erudition he brought to bear in the three Commissions of Inquiry of great public interest from the early 70s to the early 80s, in which he acted as Commissioner. As a judge he was an example and a role model for at least two generations of lawyers.

As Chief Justice, Sir T L played a pivotal role in laying the foundations for Hong Kong's new post-1997 legal landscape and the relationship of the Basic Law to the PRC Constitution. He actively promoted bilingualism, and as early as 1985 he established important academic and judicial links between the two legal systems of Hong Kong and Mainland China with a particular focus on the importance of the separation of powers and judicial independence as a firm foundation for the rule of law in post-1997 Hong Kong. The results of these labours have become an enduring legacy to our legal system.

Sir T L did not restrict his zeal for the public welfare to his judicial duties alone. He served as Chairman of the University Grants Committee from 1981 to 1984, Chairman of the Council of Hong Kong University from 1987 to 2001 and its Pro-Chancellor from 1994 to 2001. In the post-1997 era, Sir T L served as a Member of the first Executive Council of the HKSAR Government, and continues to serve in many charities and public activities, most notably as Chairman of the Hong Kong Red Cross. It is therefore



only fitting that he was knighted by Her Britannic Majesty and also decorated with the highest honour that the HKSAR can bestow, the Grand Bauhinia Medal. But perhaps the accolade that is least known to the Hong Kong public, and one no doubt he cherishes, is the accolade bestowed only upon the most distinguished alumni of University College London, the Presidency of the Bentham Club.

The Chinese University of Hong Kong is accordingly honoured to appoint Sir T L Yang as Honorary Professor of Law, and thanks Sir T L for his acceptance.
