



Citation for Mr Justice Joseph Paul Fok

Honorary Fellow

13 September 2022, 5.30pm

I have pleasure in presenting Mr Justice Joseph Paul Fok for conferment of an Honorary Fellowship of UCL.

Joseph Fok went to school in the UK and then took a Bachelor of Laws degree at UCL in 1984. At the Inns of Court School of Law he took the Bar examination and was called to the Bar at Middle Temple in England in 1985 and in Hong Kong in 1986. He has gone on to a most successful career in the law in Hong Kong and is currently a Permanent Judge of the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal.

Justice Fok had a successful private practice at the Bar in Hong Kong in commercial and public law. He was admitted as an Advocate and Solicitor of the Supreme Court Singapore in 1991 and practised on a part-time basis in that jurisdiction between 2002 and 2006. From 2003 to 2009 he was Recorder of the Court of First Instance in Hong Kong. He was appointed Senior Counsel in 1999 and then appointed a full-time member of Hong Kong judiciary in 2010. He rapidly rose through the judicial ranks and only three years later was appointed a Permanent Judge of the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal at a remarkably young age. He is recognised as an especially thoughtful jurist.

In addition to his professional legal practice he has been a Member or Chair of a raft of boards, committees and sub-committees dealing with, among many things, the supply of goods, the inland revenue, retirement schemes, witness protection, information technology, and corruption.

Among many distinctions he is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and a Justice of the Peace.

He has been editor of a number of significant works of law.

Since his time at UCL Joseph Fok has been a loyal alumnus, and over the past decade has been extraordinarily willing to give his time to support UCL alumni events both in Hong Kong and London. He has regularly been guest of honour at alumni gatherings in Hong Kong, has hosted tours of the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal for students and generously hosted dinners for UCL alumni and staff visiting Hong Kong. He has made philanthropic donations to support scholarships and the transformation

of Bentham House, the Laws Faculty building. He has regularly arranged his affairs in order to attend UCL Laws graduation ceremonies in London.

Joseph Fok is a wonderful advocate and ambassador for UCL who has always been generous in promoting both the institution and the Faculty of Laws. UCL Laws is proud to count Mr Justice Fok among its alumni, and in recognition of his achievements in the law and his contribution to UCL Laws and the wider University over many years, I present Mr Justice Joseph Paul Fok for conferment of Honorary Fellowship of UCL.