

## CityU School of Law Professor Alexander Loke Receives Teaching Excellence Awards for 2020/21

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Warmest congratulations to **Prof. Alexander Loke**, Professor in the CityU School of Law, for being one of two recipients of the University's Teaching Excellence Awards (TEA) this year.

Prof. Loke aims to inculcate in students a love for deep learning. He teaches students that the key to building a sophisticated understanding of the law is to start with the simple, to progressively build in the complexities, and to relish the process of revising their analytical frameworks to accommodate each new layer of complexity.

Prof. Loke places students at the centre of the knowledge building process by making them take ownership of their learning. In tutorials, each student is given the opportunity of leading the class through her conception of a thorough discussion of the question assigned. Her fellow students then have the task of critiquing or adding to her answer. Whether the comments relate to structure, narrative or substance, each class member is instructed to contribute with a view to building an even more sophisticated answer. Mistakes and errors are seen not as causes for

embarrassment, but learning opportunities. And good answers are rendered even more sophisticated, whether by fellow students or by Prof. Loke. A student should leave each class feeling that she has learnt something more – and enjoying the process.

Prof. Loke encourages holistic learning through the use of linkages to connect the different topics and subject areas. Even as mindmaps are highly encouraged to help with understanding new topics, he frequently reiterates the importance of the links between topics and seeing the law as a whole. At the same time, he emphasizes to students that the good lawyer is valued for her ability to dive into the details and nuances and critically, her ability to work with the ‘complexities’. The student’s learning experience involves stepping into details, as well as stepping back to appreciate the bigger picture. “This ability to descend into the micro, and to move with equal ease into the macro cultivates mental acuity and the ability anticipate likely developments,” he said.

The Teaching Excellence Award affirms Prof. Loke’s dedication to teaching. The award will be formally presented at the Commencement scheduled for May this year, and Prof. Loke’ name will be added to the permanently displayed register of CityU TEA recipients. Prof. Loke will receive a cash prize of HK\$15,000 for professional development and a teaching grant of HK\$ 150,000.