

Speech by Graduate Representative

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Dean of Faculty Professor Tan, Faculty members, distinguished guests, friends of the Class of 2021, ladies and gentlemen, a very good afternoon.

It is an honour for me to stand here today and to meet many of you face-to-face for the first time since the Pandemic. In the past three semesters, we have become specialists in virtual backgrounds, mute buttons, and private chats. It feels great to be back in the auditorium again.

As LLB students, we embarked upon our journey in law exactly four years ago. Life was simpler back then, when the only Latin phrases we knew were spells in *Harry Potter* movies, and we thought that the word ‘trust’ means no more than a firm belief in others. Since then, we have read through a ton of cases: We learned the stories of the poor snail in Donoghue’s ginger beer, the arsonist Miller who fell asleep while smoking, not to mention those joint tenants in Land Law problem questions who always got killed faster than the characters in the *Game of Thrones*. More than that, we have mastered a new language, a new way of thinking, and the ability to express our thoughts in a logical and structured manner. Thanks to the School of Law, we were given the opportunity to practice our knowledge and skills in various settings, either as research assistants, members in the mooted competitions, editors for the CityU Law Review, or even better, as the sharp-witted Chief Executive of Newgarth in Lon Fuller’s hypothetical *Case of the Speluncean Explorers*. Together, we shared laughter and tears, and supported each other through the hardest times.

Today, we gather here to celebrate our success and survival of the four-year journey. We could not have achieved this on our own.

Our utmost gratitude first goes to our family members, who have supported our cause all along and provided an enabling environment for us to study. They have sacrificed a great deal just so that we can be here today.

Thank you, our dearest professors, for your wisdom, passion, and your impeccable French pronunciation. You have motivated us to think beyond the black-letter law and to question how the law can be changed for the better. You have taught us the importance of common sense in legal reasoning, that the law is always connected with the society. We know that the life of distance learning has been particularly harsh for our faculty members, who often need to talk to the voidness of the computer screen for six hours straight. Thank you for lighting us the way, and hope that we can resume on-campus teaching soon. Special thanks also go to our fantastic

administrative staff for tolerating our stupid questions and for arranging our class schedules in light of all the ongoing uncertainties.

From tomorrow, we will set off for the next chapter of our lives. There could be dark and winding roads ahead, and the outside world will surely welcome us with its own hurdles. But fear not, if Equity & Trusts cannot defeat us, nothing will.

At the same time, let us remember that law is not an end in itself: it is simply a means to achieve the public good. One of the benefits of having a common law system is knowing that behind the development of each legal rule, there were the stories of real individuals: *Donoghue*, *Miller*, *Morgan*, *Stack*, *Ng Ka-ling*, *Chong Fung Yuen*, *Vallejos* ... These names keep reminding us that what we do as legal professionals will have an impact on the society and the lives of many. The law is never neutral. It constantly evolves and grows, and it is for us, as lawyers, academicians, and judges to guide it towards the better for our community.

Finally, let us keep in touch, and hope that our paths will cross again in the future. Congratulations to the Class of 2021! Live Long and Prosper.