

Speech by Graduate Representative

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Dean, Honoured Guest, Professors, Fellow Graduates, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my great honour to speak to you on behalf of the Class of 2021 from the School of Law.

As we close this chapter in our life, I thought it best to look back and take stock of what we've achieved. The JD programme is a crucible of fire. And to many of us the journey to the end has been riddled with myriad hardships, made only more difficult by the trying circumstances that we find ourselves in. The social incidents. The pandemic. They have all taken a toll. We could not have dealt with such challenges on our own, which is why I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the faculty members, the administrative staff, and most importantly, our parents and our loved ones, for their unwavering support throughout our journey.

To my fellow graduates, congratulations for finally making it to the end. We've been through so much together – the late-night debates, the scramble for the library texts, and for some of us, the embarrassing mishaps on Zoom tutorials. There have been some tough times, but through adversity, we developed our character and identity, and we came out of it with better skills and stronger ties with one another. Armed with these experiences, I'm certain that our graduates would rise above whatever challenges coming their way.

Our time at CityU has also brought clarity to our convictions. The years past have reaffirmed my beliefs – that I have been extremely fortunate to be studying law, and that there are many others in straitened circumstances who would need my help. I know this only too well. I came from a grassroots family that went through a protracted divorce. Naturally I want to help families that face the same dire situations but lack the necessary information to access legal aid, or for some reason just fall through the cracks of the legal aid system. This is why my friends and I have applied to join the Community Law Seminars organized by Mrs Fung and Ms Ng-Quinn, who provide divorce law seminars to victims of domestic violence. There have been programmes that target other marginalised groups as well, and my only regret during my time at CityU is that I have been way too focused on my studies instead of devoting more of my time to help those in need. Winston Churchill puts it best: "We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give." My hope is that, even as we move on to the next chapter of our lives, we the graduates can live by those words. After all, someone has to do it.

Thank you, and congratulations to the Class of 2021.