

## Ms Katherine Louise LYNCH

Department of Law 法律學系

I appreciate and respect HKU law students for their knowledge, desire to learn and the drive and determination they apply to their legal studies. My students inspire me to strive for excellence and innovation in teaching and curriculum development. I aim to help students become creative responsible global citizens who are committed to high standards of professionalism, the pursuit of life-long learning, engagement in the broader community and collaborative capacity building. My goal is to equip students with the necessary knowledge, theory and skills about law and dispute resolution to become future community leaders in Hong Kong promoting civil discourse in society and access to justice and the rule of law.

I focus my energy and enthusiasm on active student-centred, problem-based, interdisciplinary, experiential and collaborative learning to help law students:

- take personal responsibility for their intellectual pursuits and academic success and achieve excellence in their legal studies and future professional careers
- understand that their individual views and perspectives do matter and are important both inside and outside of the classroom within the broader community
- engage in collaborative multidisciplinary research and study with fellow students
- acquire a broad base of substantive legal knowledge with an appreciation of the inherent multidisciplinary aspects, policy considerations and comparative international perspectives
- develop critical legal analytical skills, as well as excellent advocacy, communication and representation skills
- understand dispute resolution theoretical perspectives and experience and develop a broad range of both adversarial and collaborative dispute resolution skills (e.g. expand their professional dispute management skills – including negotiation, mediation, arbitration and litigation)
- pursue intellectual curiosity and life-long learning to help develop and refine their personal and professional dispute resolution skills
- realise their capacity as law students and future lawyers to improve access to justice in Hong Kong and to expand the public's capacity to collaboratively resolve conflicts



## STUDENTS' WORDS OF APPRECIATION

I took 'Negotiation: Settlement and Advocacy' which was taught by Ms Katherine Lynch. That is my favourite course in the entire postgraduate programme. In my eyes, Ms Lynch is an elegant and wonderful lady with high passion to her teaching. In her class, students are encouraged to participate actively. When we were doing negotiation practice, she would come and sit in with us group by group, taking notes. After the practice section, she would give us useful feedback over our performance. Ms Lynch is also a great listener; during her class, we were encouraged to share our ideas and thoughts and raise our questions all the time. Such incorporative interactive learning benefits all of us. We all love her class.

Apart from the course I take, she is really patient and responsible as well. When I asked her for some comments over my paper, she not only took a close and thorough look but also gave me a lot of tips on academic writing time after time. I cannot imagine how much I have learned from such kind of discussions. To me, Ms Lynch is not just a teacher, she is a friend; she is someone you feel easy to get along with. I greatly appreciate all those help she gave to me!

**Kevin HUANG Liang**  
*MCL, current student*

I came to know Ms Katherine Lynch in the 'Introduction to ADR' course which has sparked my genuine interest in the field of dispute resolution. Since then, Katherine has been a most supportive teacher, academic supervisor, mentor and friend of mine, who has witnessed my progress over the years and guided me through the most difficult times. As a teacher, she has always been actively listening and open to discussions, through which we have learned from her demonstration the natural qualities of a facilitator, negotiator and dispute resolver.

As a solicitor by training, I found my learning experience in the LLM in Arbitration and Dispute Resolution programme practical and transformative. For the very first time in law school I was made to learn in a carefully-selected class with multidisciplinary and multicultural backgrounds with considerable experience in other industries such as in the banking, construction, engineering, mining, medicine, education and the public sectors. Apart from building some lifelong friendships with overseas classmates from Mexico, Canada, Panama, India, Ireland etc, I have acquired so many valuable insights and interesting perspectives at the LLM(ARB&DR) which were valued at my present in-house legal position at a leading construction contractor in the Asia-Pacific. I have been so fortunate to have met Katherine at the HKU Law Faculty, who has shaped me – along with many others – into who we are today. My heartfelt congratulations to Katherine on obtaining the Outstanding Teaching Award. Her credits are well-deserved and I wish her continued success in leading the LLM(Arb&DR) programme at HKU.

**Michael WONG Chun Hin**  
*BBA(Law) 2007, LLB 2009, PCLL 2011, LLM(ARB&DR) 2015, FCIArb  
Committee Member, HKU LLM in Arb & DR Alumni Association*

## OUTSTANDING TEACHING AWARD

Ms Katherine Lynch has immense passion and commitment in her teaching. She nurtures her students as independent thinkers and finds ways to continually inspire and challenge students. I was fortunate to have attended Ms Lynch's 'Alternative Dispute Resolution' class last year. She encouraged us to express our own opinions and critically analyse various issues by conducting a conversational-type class. She expanded our insight beyond textbooks and the law and encouraged us to draw upon personal conflict resolution experiences. Soon, our readings and understanding of the subject became woven into our journey of self-enrichment as aspiring lawyers and conflict resolvers.

In our class participation exercises, she listened and took what each of us had to say very seriously. She instilled confidence to develop our own insights and helped us explore our own conflict resolution styles in both legal and non-legal contexts. I was also very privileged to have my research paper supervised personally by Ms Lynch. As a mentor, she was patient, supportive, open-minded, gave me the space and room I needed to be creative. She also constantly pushed me to expand the boundaries of my capabilities towards excellence. I am so very grateful for your teaching, Ms Lynch!

**Minos LAU Chin Hin**

*LLB 2015, PCLL, current student*

With the recent growth of ADR as a cost-effective alternative to litigation, I became better equipped for professional practice after the study of dispute resolution courses offered by Ms Katherine Lynch. I remember that as a fresh law graduate, I had no idea about how to manage conflicts outside of the courts. The law school curriculum is based mainly on lawyers working for clients in court room litigation which focusses on the parties' rights and obligations. The alternatives to litigation are rarely discussed in traditional law school classes. Katherine's development of the alternative dispute resolution courses in the Law Faculty has changed that.

I am fortunate to be a graduate of the Masters of Law in Arbitration and Dispute Resolution programme that was first developed by Katherine at HKU in 2007. I learned how to integrate a range of practical dispute resolution strategies for facilitating conflict resolution. Thereafter, Katherine became my principal supervisor and helped me complete my doctorate studies in dispute resolution. Katherine deserves recognition for her excellence in teaching, her ability to inspire and motivate her students and for her extensive efforts in legal education reform.

**Dr Ida MAK Kwan Lun**

*LLB 2010, LLM 2011, SJD 2015*