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University of Macau, Faculty of Law  
Department of Global Legal Studies

# Legal Education in Times of a Global Pandemic

by Prof. Rostam J. Neuwirth

*Professor, Head of Department of Global Legal Studies*



Rostam J. Neuwirth

Since the semester break for the Chinese New Year of the Rat, there has not been a day that passed without news reports on the COVID-19 or Coronavirus, which was formally declared to constitute a global pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) on March 11, 2020.

The WHO's declaration of the disease as a global pandemic instantly reminded me of a sentence I wrote in the Preface to the book entitled "*LAW IN THE TIME OF OXYMORA: A SYNAESTHESIA OF LANGUAGE, LOGIC AND LAW*", which was published in 2018. The sentence that came to my mind reads as follows: "In this world, the complexity and the accelerated pace of change equally threaten – like a *new pandemic global disease* – to undermine law, especially the rule of law as an instrument providing legal certainty and predictability".<sup>1</sup> Supporting the underlying idea of the book, the title was inspired by the novel "*LOVE*

*IN THE TIME OF CHOLERA*", written by the Colombian Nobel prize winning author Gabriel García Márquez and first published in Spanish in 1985. Back then, I had taken the storyline as an inspiration for law to prove that law too can flourish even in a time of a pandemic disease.

However, for law to live up to the expectations associated with its function of providing legal certainty and predictability, it may be helpful to understand law itself as a "social medicine" as the legal scholar Pierre Lepaulle had written in an article on the function of comparative law back in 1922.<sup>2</sup> It is also from medicine that law can learn that the cure for an ill may often be derived from the illness itself. This seems like a paradox but it is widely agreed upon that research for a vaccine usually begins with the cause of the disease itself, which to some degree also contains the antidote. This is also captured by the so-called "poison paradox", which goes back to the medieval doctor Paracelsus and states that "all substances are poisons, and it is the right dose that differentiates a poison from a remedy."<sup>3</sup>

Back to the realm of law in a global context, it was in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century that scholars of global governance speculated about the major challenges that the new millennium would bring to global affairs. It was in 1995 that Charles Handy qualified the coming era to be an "Age of Paradox". In the book with the same title, he wrote that "[W]e have to find ways to make sense of the paradoxes, to use them to shape a better destiny".<sup>4</sup> Around the same time, another scholar dared to predict that "the prospects for global governance in the decades ahead is to discern *powerful tensions, profound contradictions, and perplexing paradoxes*."<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Rostam J. Neuwirth, *Law in the Time of Oxymora: A Synaesthesia of Language, Logic and Law* (London: Routledge, 2018) at xiii [*Italics added*].

<sup>2</sup> Pierre Lepaulle, "The Function of Comparative Law with a Critique of Sociological Jurisprudence" (1922) 35(7) *Harvard Law Review* 838 at 838.

<sup>3</sup> John A. Timbrell, *The Poison Paradox: Chemicals as Friends and Foes* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005) at 209 and 250.

<sup>4</sup> Charles Handy, *The Age of Paradox* (Boston: Harvard Business School Press, 1995) at xi.

<sup>5</sup> James N. Rosenau, "Governance in the 21st Century", (1995) 1 *Global Governance* 1-13 at

Around twenty-five years later, this prediction can be said to have been accurate. It is visible *inter alia* from language, which has seen a major rise in the so-called “oxymora”, i.e. a single word in which contradictory terms appear in conjunction, like both “global” and “local” in the oxymoronic neologism “glocalisation”. Technology too has caused many contradictions, particularly through the convergence of industries or products, which were hitherto separate. A simple example are so-called “nutriceuticals”, which is a blend word from “nutrition” and “pharmaceuticals”. In the first case of “glocalisation”, we see the local and the global level of governance combined, which seems contradictory also when we look at the legal structures in place today. For instance, the WHO has declared the COVID 2019 a *global* pandemic disease but the relevant response to the outbreak is handled at the *local* level, by either nation states and/or their respective subunits. In the second case of “nutriceuticals”, which are also known as functional food, they combine aspects of food with those of medicine, which, however, from a regulatory perspective, fall into different legal categories with different standards for their marketing.

Both examples thus show that the exclusive logic applied in law, according to which opposite things mutually exclude each other, no longer seems to meet the present levels of complexity. In other words, legal reasoning relying solely on a dualistic division of the legal world in an act being valid or void, legal or illegal, or best addressed globally or locally no longer seems to meet the challenges derived from current levels of complexity. For this reason, legal education today and lawyers in the future also need to pay greater attention to the rapidly changing contexts in which they operate. This was recognized in the term the “T-shaped lawyer” who still has deep legal knowledge and skills (represented by the vertical bar) but must also have the “ability to collaborate across many disciplines, such as technology, business, analytics and data security”<sup>6</sup> (represented by the horizontal bar).

As a more recent addition to future legal skills, I would place the cognitive ability to think in paradoxical or oxymoronic terms, meaning that lawyers can shift between a binary and a more fuzzy logic depending on the problem. A more flexible logic can help to enhance our cognitive ability to see not only a random number of parts of any phenomenon but also the new shape based on all of these individual parts, like several notes are not just notes but also a melody. Furthermore, it means to also adopt more creative abilities, to connect the dots and be able to see a more complete picture of reality. This ability should also enable us to better assist providing greater certainty and predictability, which translates into the possibility to prevent an ill to materialize in the first place, which then does not require us to think of a cure afterwards.

As it was found, paradoxes are not mere riddles made of contradictions impossible to reconcile. Instead, they do “offer powerful opportunities to test models and conceptual frameworks, and to enable true ‘paradigm shifts’ in certain areas of scientific inquiry”.<sup>7</sup> There is no reason why that cannot happen in legal science as well.

1 [*Italics added*].

<sup>6</sup> R. Amani Smathers, “The 21st Century T-Shaped Lawyer” (2014) 40(4) *Law Practice* 32 at 33.

<sup>7</sup> Narinder Kapur et al., “The Paradoxical Nature of Nature” in Narinder Kapur (ed), *The Paradoxical Brain* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011) 1 at 1.



# The Post-COVID Healthcare: Where Will We Be?

by Prof. Vera Lucia Raposo

*Associate Professor, Department of Global Legal Studies*

The COVID-19 pandemic will change the way we live. The healthcare delivery and the practice of medicine are among the domains where changes will be more noticeable. I will specifically focus on two issues: off-label prescription and telemedicine.

The off-label prescription occurs when a drug is prescribed in different terms than the ones established in the document that approves the use of that drug (Marketing Authorization or MA). The MA describes the possible uses of the drug: the type of patients to whom it will be prescribed, the medical conditions targeted by the drug, the method of administration and the respective dosage. The off-label prescription does not necessarily equate to medical malpractice nor is it per se illegal. However, it does require a proper legal framework to regulate its requirements and consequences.

During a health crisis the number of off-label prescriptions tends to increase since we deal with the new viruses for which we have no approved treatment at the moment of the outbreak. It happened during the SARS epidemic (2002-2004), when antibiotics approved for other medical conditions were prescribed to infected patients above the regular approved dosage. The same is happening now with the new coronavirus and several drugs originally approved for other uses are being prescribed to COVID-19 patients. The off-label prescription is a very frequent practice, even in non-pandemic scenarios, but the current COVID-19 outbreak reinforces its use. Eventually, the increasing relevance of the off-label prescription will encourage the lawmakers to create a proper legal framework for this practice, which is currently missing in many jurisdictions. This regulation will also affect other related domains such as consumer protection, product liability, patents, drug approval procedures, drug marketing, and medical liability.



*Vera Lucia Raposo*

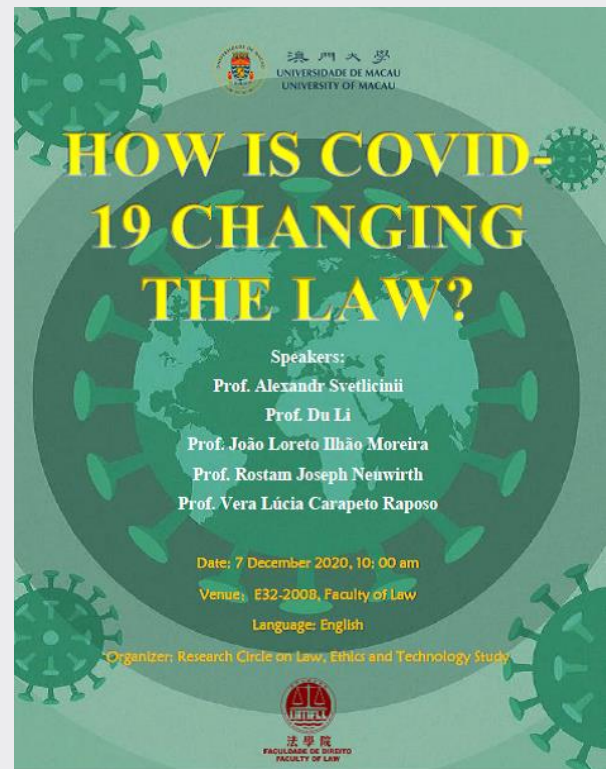


Telemedicine refers to the provision of healthcare at distance, by making use of different technologies: telephone calls, emails, video conferences, apps, and other more or less complex tools of modern communication. Patients can interact with a health professional, either in real time (such as during a phone conversation, a videoconference, or by using messenger apps) or with a time lapse (by email). During the pandemic, physical visits to hospitals are discouraged.

Since hospitals are often crowded with infected (or potentially infected) patients, a visit to the hospital is like playing a Russian roulette with the infection. However, the sickness is not in lay-off. People continue to have cancer, HIV, headaches, and many other medical conditions that cannot wait until the hospital is ready to receive them. As a result, it is not surprising that the use of telemedicine has increased. Teleconsultation, a replica of the face-to-face consultations, is the mechanism in place to 'see' patients, mostly in order to follow up or to refill medical prescriptions. Telemonitoring is also being widely used to help, at

distance, people suffering from chronic diseases or even COVID-19 patients, whose situation does not require hospitalization. This increased use of telemedicine will also encourage innovative ways of training medical staff, dictate the creation of new medical protocols, promote the development of new software for the use of telemedicine, foster cooperation between medical institutions located in different parts of the world. Above all, the boost in telemedicine will allow the provision of healthcare to more people, especially the ones living in secluded areas of the globe.

These two topics are among the many issues related to medicine, science and technology that are studied by the Research Circle on Law, Ethics and Technology at the Faculty of Law. The members of this research circle have published books and articles on this domain, supervised Master and PhD dissertations related, organized conferences and workshops.



# Mooting: Bridging the Gap Between the Classroom and the Court

by Prof. João Ilhão Moreira

*Assistant Professor, Department of Macao Legal Studies*

The excitement and responsibility of one day being a lawyer or a judge attracts many to take a law degree. Law faculty is, indeed, the first step to achieve that dream. However, classes are (and have to be) very different from the experience of presenting and deciding a real case. Classes are designed to give the student the theoretical preparation and knowledge to understand how the law operates. Practice will allow the young lawyer to learn the skills that will allow him/her to achieve success.



*Dr. Moreira at the 2018 CIETAC Arbitration Pre-Moot*

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The most ambitious and eager students sometimes find opportunities to jump ahead. For those, two words should catch their attention: moot court. A moot court is a competition that simulates a court hearing in which participants analyse a problem, research the relevant law, prepare written submissions, and present oral argument. The idea behind this competition is to make it as 'real' as possible. The 'judges' enter, the mooters are then called on in turn to present their submissions, the 'judges' asks questions of the mooters, the court adjourns, and then the 'judges' return to deliver a brief judgment and some feedback.

Nowadays, the ambitious student will be able to find moot court competitions in many areas of law. Perhaps, none are more popular than the ones taking place regarding arbitration law. As arbitration grew in popularity, also the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot became a mandatory stop not only for some of the best students from some of the best universities in the world but also some of the world's most elite arbitrators.

Those who participated in moot courts, and in the Vis Moot in particular, often mention how much hard work and how many sleepless nights participating involves. On the other hand, the benefits are invaluable. Participating in a moot court not only enhances legal knowledge, but it also enhances social skills such as effective teamwork and the ability to argue convincingly both in writing and orally. The participants gain language skills (proficiency in legal and business English) and are able to make contact and impress elite practitioners. This is often the first step ahead towards a career in the legal profession.



# How to Conduct Effective Legal Research: A Practical Guide

by Prof. Jorge Godinho

*Visiting Professor*

## 1. Reading and critical thinking

### 1.1 Reading, thinking and selecting

After finding an adequate amount of information, it is time to start studying carefully the many texts found. When reading, always think critically. One cannot simply take what is written for granted and it is necessary to be prudent or even a bit suspicious, as there may be various types of problems. Ask yourself all kinds of questions about what you are reading. What is this author trying to say? What does this mean? What is the main message? What premises are being used to support this argument? Pay attention to questions such as the following.



*Jorge Godinho*

a) Is this text correct? What you are reading may be factually wrong: there may be mistakes or misunderstandings. If not sure, always check the relevant primary sources. In general, constantly try to check information on more than one source, if possible. One way to is to verify whether other authors say the same.

b) Is this text relevant and important? The process of research always involves filtering or selecting information. It is indispensable to determine what are the best materials or sources, the most important, relevant or significant. The key materials must be used; as for others, it will depend although in general the research should be as extensive as possible. Good research shows the ability to identify the most important writings and base the discussion on them, not on less important or even irrelevant materials. A preliminary reading should determine whether a text is important or relevant for the research or just secondary or outside the topic. Even if it is secondary, there may be linkages or connections with what you are trying to say. If it is not important or relevant, the question remains as to what are the important texts that you should read and use.

c) When was this written and where (in which country, in which university or city)? Is it up to date? All texts are written in a certain time and place. Indeed, time and place matter a lot, as it sometimes explains things that were left unsaid. Always keep in mind when and where each text was written. Always pay considerable attention to the relevant dates (of publication, of various editions or reprints, of actual writing), because obviously things may have changed. If the material is no longer up to date it may be important to document the evolution or history of the topic or the state of the debates up to a certain moment.

d) Who is exactly this author? It is sometimes important to know about the author more personally, so it may be necessary to find what kind of academic s/he is or was. This is particularly the case in legal philosophy. Try to develop an understanding on his or her academic career and major concerns and for this purpose you may wish to read a summary biography. A simple way to start is to search the name or visit the university webpage of the author, where his or her full list of publications should be available.



e) Is this original? When question whether you are reading a new argument. Academics often repeat what others have already said, and if so, it is necessary to understand, find and quote the primary source (the author who first said it).

f) Is the argument logic? Does it make good sense? Are the premises correct? Does the conclusion flow from the premises? Is there any flaw or confusion in the argument? Very often there are problems of this kind, and logic is required. Watch out for arguments with multiple layers, which are very frequent in legal reasoning: A implies B, which requires C, therefore D, etc ( $A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C \rightarrow D \rightarrow E$ ). Some of these connections or steps in a chain of arguments may not be sustainable and there may be points where the reasoning falls apart.

g) Should this material be used and cited? In the end, an overall assessment of all materials is necessary. What have I learned from this material? Should it be quoted and, if yes, why? Do not try to quote everything and anything that you find and read just to produce 'fat' or 'nice looking' footnotes. A good researcher identifies the most important studies, authors, theories and arguments and bases the discussion around them. A good researcher selects the most relevant materials and discards the others.

## 1.2 Destruction and (re)construction

An intellectual debate is in some respects a war of ideas. For this reason, there is invariably some sort of "destruction" and "(re)construction" going on.


As there are usually conflicting arguments on just about any topic, there is always a "destructive" part, a critique that concludes with a rejection of (some) current or old scholarship, theory, approach, interpretation, court decision, regulation, and so on. There is almost always a need to take a stand and demonstrate that some theories or views are wrong, incomplete or inadequate and explain why they should be set aside.

Having rejected a current state of affairs, the author must then offer a "(re)construction" thesis. This needs to be done; a purely negative argument that does not offer new solutions and alternative views is not satisfactory. The advance may be precisely to demonstrate that traditional thinking is wrong and a new way to think about a specific legal problem is more appropriate, more comprehensive, produces better results, etc. Examples are: a new fundamental right (eg, privacy); a new distinction in contract law; a justification for a new crime. In order to appreciate the advances that were made by previous authors, read as many PhD theses as possible.

## 1.3 Discussing ideas; academic networking

Discussing ideas is extremely important: while any research is by nature a lonely process, it is important to not isolate yourself. Discuss your ideas, doubts and hesitations with as many colleagues as possible: this helps to relieve the stress and anxiety that inevitably is created. Writing a thesis can create a lot of psychological pressure and therefore it is highly recommended to not stay lonely. Networking with colleagues, friends and academics is important, for many reasons. Sometimes good ideas arise out of informal conversations and exchanges.

Make sure that all your professors and colleagues know what you are writing about, so that when they find materials that may interest you then they will send it to you.

 Online networks may be helpful, such as [www.academia.edu](http://www.academia.edu) or [www.researchgate.net](http://www.researchgate.net). These are useful to find active researchers studying similar topics and to see their publications.



# Student Story: Nothing Can Put Out the Fire of Learning

by Lam Ka Pek



*Attending the course Commercial Contracts*

The first months of 2020 were tough for everyone: emptied streets, closed doors, and worried minds. COVID-19 paused the wheels of the society so that even casinos, the main economic industry of Macao which had never been closed, stopped working. This novel coronavirus has suddenly knocked down everything. Companies looked for ways to keep afloat, and universities promptly switched to distance learning.

My first online course was the Advanced Issues of International Trade Law. Personally, I had been looking forward to taking it after finishing one on WTO and Regional Trade Law in the previous semester. That course widened my horizons not only

in trade law but also in international relations and the methods of thinking. The news of online learning first disappointed me. Although being quite reserved in class, I usually enjoy the way professors express themselves in front of the live audience. Nevertheless, in the time of the pandemic distance learning methods such as online class meetings via Zoom offer a solution. Moreover, the additional chatroom function engages students who may otherwise be too shy to ask their questions or to comment. It also benefits part-time students like me who usually have to rush to university straight after work. Guests invited from other countries can easily participate too. For example, a Russian lawyer was invited to speak in the Advanced Issues of International Trade Law course. Finally, one of the most fascinating points of this course is that it includes an introduction of laws of the BRICS countries. I believe that the future development of this special group of countries is worth being further explored and discussed.

However, online courses have certain problems as well. For instance, the inability to access high speed Internet creates difficulty in following or understanding the professors as the sound may be delayed or broken. Another difficulty is concentration during the class. To conclude my experience in taking the Advanced Issues of International Trade Law course, I would like to express my appreciation to the professors Rostam Neuwirth and Alexandr Svetlicinii who prepared everything in advance in order to be able to offer this course online, including video recordings, the presentations and the instructions for setting up all these. As a result, the course continued without any disruptions due to the pandemic.

## Student Story:

# Learning about Commercial Contracts Online

by Yin Yanni

As a student who majors in the European Union Law, I chose the Commercial Contracts course offered by the IBL program as an elective. Nowadays, commercial contracts play an important role in the global business transactions and the fundamental knowledge in this field will be expected from a business law practitioner.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the classes have moved online using applications such as Moodle and Zoom. There are still some challenges with online learning. For example, the Internet connection issue constrains the flow of the teacher's speech and takes away the atmosphere of face-to-face communication. However, it is a convenient way for professors and students to use an online platform for sharing the reading materials and hosting presentations.



*Distance Study of the Course Commercial Contracts*

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The Commercial Contracts course taught by Professor Alexandr Svetlicinii focused on one of the most widely used contracts – the contract of sale as governed by the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG). Professor provided a good amount of reading materials to help us understand the essence of the discussed issues. He used simple and clear terms of the CISG to explain the meaning of various contract law concepts. Together with my classmates we tested our understanding by answering tricky questions designed by the professor. For example, why the obligation of the buyer to examining the goods was placed in the chapter containing obligations of the seller? Questions like that helped me to think about the motives and logic behind the contract rules. In addition, lots of case studies and presentations also helped in understanding the meaning of rules in practical way.

Although the course of Commercial Contracts course was conducted online and we could see each other only via the camera, the participation and enjoyment of the course were not diminished. This online course left a deep impression on me and encouraged me to acquire further knowledge of business law.



## Letters from Alumni: Stone Guo Bochuan

You may have a plan, while destiny may have another. The year of 2020 began with COVID-19, with the lockdowns offering us an extra time to have a pause and reflect on our past experiences and future plans. After graduating from the IBL program in 2017, I have been working for three years at the Yingke Law Firm (Shanghai), specializing in foreign investment and dispute resolution.



*Stone Guo Bochuan*

Based on my own study experience in the IBL program I would like to share three simple tips for a successful graduation: (1) find and follow a great mentor; (2) choose one interesting topic and concentrate on it; (3) finish the preceding two tasks as best as you can. The mentor can have a profound impact on your perception and mode of thinking and can offer you a useful methodology for your studies and professional development. The mentorship will be a dynamic process. After graduation you will be able to locate mentors on your career path: it may be your boss for professional guidance; it may be your client for business ideas; it may be your counterparty for strengthening your argumentation. In the UM, you will have multiple opportunities to meet the professionals from China, the EU, Portuguese-speaking countries and the BRICS. I have attended numerous seminars and workshop organized by the UM, Faculty of Law, UM Library, etc. This diversity will allow you to learn about various legal fields to choose from in your professional career: litigation and due diligence, internal or external counsel, global or local business, etc.

As to the third tip, the excellence in performance should become a rule when you will work as a lawyer. It is very important not to leave the tasks unfinished or poorly executed. While it may be overwhelming to complete all the required readings, prepare for exams, consult with the professors and work on your project report or a thesis. We should be mindful of the fact that all this experience may be useful in the future when start drafting legal memos, case briefs, and other legal documents. When working on the format and layout of your writing pieces, try to develop a uniform and professional appearance and the citation style.





## Letters from Alumni: Monroe Meng Lu



*Monroe Meng Lu*

As an IBL program student, I have been studying at the University of Macau during 2014-2017 and now working in Shanghai as a lawyer for almost three years. I am grateful to have this chance to share my working experience with current and future IBL students. After my graduation, I have started my career as a legal assistant in a law firm.

From the outset I faced an uneasy question of

what kind of legal sector should I specialize in.

Considering my study experience in the IBL program, I thought that I should concentrate on the legal advice related to the business of foreign enterprises in China. I performed a variety of assignments including drafting legal opinions, reviewing contracts, advising on intellectual property and corporate governance issues, analyzing labor and human resources problems, and engaging in civil litigation cases. After demonstrating good performance in the law firm, I was granted an opportunity to provide legal support to a Fortune Global 500 company. This work involved identification of legal issues, analysis of legal risks and implementation of solutions structured to achieve business objectives efficiently and with minimum legal and practical risks.

Looking back at my short working experience, in my opinion, a good lawyer should possess both a good Legal Sense and good Service Sense. For the Legal Sense aspect, you should be prepared to deal with various legal issues some of which you may have never handled before. Without my studies in the IBL program, I would not have confidence to face novel legal issues in my work. For the Service Sense aspect, you should be prepared to serve your clients with attention to their needs and showing initiative from your part. I would like to wish you all an enjoyable and productive time at the IBL program!



## Letters from Alumni: Jessie Lin Sijie

Whenever I recall my studies in the International Business Law (IBL) program at the University of Macau (UM), I feel that I made a wise decision to apply and lucky to get accepted. The academic activities organized by the Faculty of Law (FLL) allowed me to explore various legal fields and better prepare for the career in legal profession. Guided by a knowledgeable coach Prof. Sten Verhoeven, I took part in the International Criminal Court Moot Court Competition in the Hague where the UM team was awarded the best Prosecution Memorial prize among 57 participants. The European Union Academic Program allowed me to undertake an internship at the Macao Economic & Trade Office to the European Union (EU) in Brussels.



Prof. Rostam J. Neuwirth, Prof. Alexandr Svetlicinii,  
Jessie Lin Sijie, Prof. Sten Verhoeven

Encouraged by my supervisor Prof. Rostam Neuwirth, this experience contributed to my Master thesis where I compared various aspects of merger control in China and the EU. I also attended the FLL's annual conference supported by Rui Cunha Foundation, where legal scholars, government officials, and legal practitioners communicate with students on various law matters. At the conference, I met Dr. Rui Cunha, one of the most renowned lawyers in Macao and the founding partner of the C&C Lawyers.

One of the great things about the IBL program is that it is not limited to one specific jurisdiction. We learned about general principles and frontier legal topics from an international perspective. It me to practice another way of thinking when it comes to transnational issues. It was of great use later when I joined C&C Lawyers and worked with clients from the United States, Japan, Spain and Portuguese-speaking countries in connection to their business in the Mainland China and Macao. I am grateful that I could learn from the wise in the IBL program and pursue my professional career in Macao and abroad.



## Letters from Alumni: Crystal Park Hyunju

After my graduation from the IBL program in 2019, I continued my studies as a Global Professional Master of Laws (GPLLM) candidate at the University of Toronto, Faculty of Law (UofT) on track to obtaining my license to practice law in Ontario, Canada.

Many of the most enriching experiences of my law school education, I experienced during my time at UM. This included participating in the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition (Jessup) in Washington D.C. for two consecutive years and placing within the Top 100 Oralists. Furthermore, working to serve the community has always been an integral part of my law school experience. At the UM, I was the founding President of the UM Students' Union International Law Society. Now I serve as the President of the UofT Graduate Law Students' Association. I have always worked hard to create platforms that would allow law students to share knowledge, debate and elevate their level of learning. A lot of research that I conducted for class projects, moot courts, participation in conferences, and my Master thesis during my time at UM has manifested into the areas that I strive to specialize in: international investment law, environmental law and policymaking, infrastructure projects, and dispute resolution.



*Master thesis defense of Crystal Park Hyunju*

At UofT, I decided to jump into many volunteering roles in order to apply what I have learned during my years of study at UM. I volunteered for the Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA) and conducted litigation-focused research for upcoming or on-going cases, worked as a volunteer for the Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario and volunteered for the Korean Legal Clinic, a pilot project where lawyers provide summary legal advice to Canadians using the Korean language. For my work with the CCLA, I was awarded the 2020 Chief Justice Richard Wagner Award for Outstanding Leadership by Pro Bono Student Canada.

The IBL program allowed me to partake in both academic and practical opportunities, which have allowed me grow exponentially. The extracurricular activities available to students that I took part in made my educational experience at UM exceptionally valuable. But what I will remember most is the excellent quality of the Faculty members, including Prof. Sten Verhoeven (my thesis supervisor and Jessup coach), Prof. Alexandr Svetlicinii, Prof. Rostam Neuwirth, Prof. Paulo Castro, Prof. Fernando Simoes (now at CUHK) and others, who not only were remarkable role models, they were always open to discuss my work and ideas, provide support, guidance and sincere constructive criticism. My experience at UM continues to inspire me today to never stop satisfying my academic curiosities and strive for excellence in the legal profession.



## Letters from Alumni: Jack Liao Jieke

Hello everyone, this is Jack, a 2017 graduate from the International Business Law (IBL) program. I am currently working in the Linklaters Hong Kong office, one of the Magic Circle law firms, as a legal assistant with a focus on the debt capital markets. Times fly fast - it has been three years since I left Macao.

Nowadays, young law graduates are facing more and more intensive competition when looking for their first job. That is why by writing this letter I would like to express my encouragement to future IBL graduates and share my views on how the studying experience in the IBL program changed my life after graduation.



*Jack Liao Jieke*

First, a two-year program is better than one-year as you will have more time to sharpen your skills. For example, after completing all coursework in the first year you could attend one of the overseas exchange programs or find an internship in the second year. That is why it is important to plan the study schedule well and to make use of every day in the program. I went to the University of Montreal in winter 2016 for one semester, which offered me a different studying and life experience and diversified my knowledge.

Second, UM is very generous and supportive of students' activities. Besides the exchange programs, our faculty was also engaging the students in the international moot court competitions such as Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition and the International Criminal Court Moot Court Competition. Together with my teammates we took part in the 2015 Jessup moot court held in the United States. Professors Ramaswamy and Verhoeven have dedicated their precious time helping us writing our memos and practicing our oral presentations.

Last but not least, the growing UM alumni network makes the UM Master degrees increasingly recognized by the employers. Many IBL graduates are currently working in the reputable law firms and multinational companies.



