

EALS Newsletter

The Newsletter of the East Asian Legal Studies Program at Harvard Law School

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Fall 2005

A Message from the Director

This newsletter is intended both to highlight the many happenings at EALS during the past academic year not previously reported and to preview the 2005–2006 academic year.

The first six months of 2005 was a very active period at EALS. Together with the Harvard University-wide Asia Center, EALS sponsored an exciting multi-disciplinary international conference on the professions and professionalism in China. This conference, which was the first of its kind held anywhere in the world, is discussed further on page eleven. EALS also organized, with the Law School's International Legal Studies program, the first public forum at Harvard on the Asian tsunami and its aftermath. Additionally, EALS sponsored an unusually broad and interesting range of speakers, many in collaboration with the talented students who comprise the US China Law Society. In April, EALS was thrilled to have former HLS Visiting Professor Chang Wejen, S.J.D. '88 and Research Fellow at the Institute of History and Philology of the Academia Sinica, give the Jules and Chen Ing Chang Distinguished Ritholz Lecture in Chinese Legal Studies. It was entitled "The Administration of Justice in Late Imperial China" and previewed his forthcoming book on the same subject. And EALS continued, in the spirit of public service, to receive delegations from East Asia interested in legal education reform.

2005–2006 is shaping up as a rich year. Professors Ramseyer and Alford have been joined in the teaching program by Visiting Professors Chang Hee Lee LL.M. '91, S.J.D. '94 of Seoul National University and Mark Sidel of the University of Iowa College of Law. Professor Lee, who is his nation's leading tax scholar, will teach two seminars, "Business and Tax Law in East Asia" and "Law and Development in Action: The

Korean Example" (both in the spring), in addition to being an EALS visiting scholar in the fall term. He has previously taught at the University of Tokyo and has interests beyond his specialty, including legal history, comparative law, legal thought and law and society. Professor Sidel is offering a seminar on Southeast Asia and a reading group on human trafficking in the fall and a course on international philanthropy in the spring. He has rich experience in the field, including years as the Ford Foundation's chief country representative for Vietnam and as Ford's first representative for issues of law and governance in China. His interests include philanthropy in an international setting, Vietnamese and Chinese law, law and development and national security in the aftermath of 9/11 (which culminated in his recent publication of *More Secure, Less Free?: Antiterrorism Policy and Civil Liberties After September 11* with the University of Michigan Press). See page two for further details on Professor Sidel's offerings this fall.

We also anticipate this year working with the US China Law Society, which will host a conference on November 5–6 on inequality in China; sponsoring a range of speakers and a Vietnam film festival; and hosting a large and diverse group of scholars from the region.

Finally, I would like to use this opportunity to thank the many alumni and friends of EALS who received me during my recent trip to East Asia. I was especially honored to be invited by the Rule

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Law School Offers Course on Human Trafficking

Visiting Professor Mark Sidel is bringing his legal expertise on Southeast Asia to HLS this fall. He is teaching a seminar on Law and Society in Southeast Asia that focuses on constitutionalism and public law issues in Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore and several other Southeast Asian countries. In conjunction with Professor Sidel's seminar, EALS will also welcome four noted specialists on law in Southeast Asia for lectures and discussions. They include Professor Andrew Harding (Victoria and the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies—SOAS), speaking on constitutionalism in Thailand and Thailand's human rights commission); Professor Daniel Lev (Washington, speaking on legal reform in Indonesia and on the World Bank's support for it); John Bentley, chief legal advisor for one of the most prominent law reform programs in Vietnam (Support for Trade Acceleration —STAR); and Professor Mark Cammack (Southwestern, speaking on the new

Indonesian constitutional court).

Professor Sidel is also leading an HLS first year law student reading group on human trafficking and involuntary servitude. Sidel served as the Justice Department's sole litigation consultant in the largest trafficking case in U.S. history (U.S. v. Kil Soo Lee et al., involving over 200 Vietnamese and Chinese female workers in American Samoa), and has recently served as consultant to the State Department on Vietnam's framework governing labor law, export labor and trafficking, in connection with the annual State Department Trafficking in Persons report. The reading group will discuss forms of trafficking, the role of contract in trafficking and involuntary servitude, the effectiveness of American legal responses, emerging issues such as civil remedies and state anti-trafficking law, and the self-defined U.S. role as arbiter of other nations' legal and political policies against trafficking.

Chinese Legal Issues Explored in New Website

Yu Xingzhong, S.J.D. '95, now Assistant Professor in the Department of Government and Public Administration of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, has launched a website to share resources with those doing legal research on an array of issues in today's China. The site, *Chinese Legal Studies*, is devoted to the study of Chinese law and culture from a comparative perspective, focusing especially on areas that have been neglected by most Chinese law-related websites, including disability, gender, ethnic minorities, rural China and animals and the law. Dr. Yu hopes that this will be a useful forum for

scholars interested in Chinese law in general and in these areas in particular to exchange ideas and to locate materials helpful in their research. Also represented are sections on the issues of legal professionalism and the institutional interface between Hong Kong and the Mainland.

The site is entirely in Chinese and can be reached at www.lexchina.com. Dr. Yu collaborated with Professor Xu Zhangrun of CUHK and Zhai Zhiyong, a law student at Tsinghua University, in creating and maintaining the site.

Nakazato and Ramseyer Co-Teach Business and Tax Planning Course

Near twenty years have passed since Professor Minoru Nakazato arrived at Harvard Law School for his first stint as a visiting scholar, at the International Tax Program. He and his wife Emi lived in Cambridge back then. After a year and a half, they moved to Los Angeles where Nakazato taught a tax seminar with Professor Mark Ramseyer '82 and Professor Eric Zolt. Eventually, Zolt would come to HLS to head the International Tax Program for several years, but at the time both he and Ramseyer were untenured at UCLA.

Professor Nakazato returned to HLS as a Mitsubishi Visiting Professor of Japanese Legal Studies for the fall 2004 semester. He and Professor Ramseyer teamed up to co-teach once again, this time a class on business and tax planning in Japan. Ramseyer was delighted with the course. "It was great having Minoru as a co-teacher. He brought to the subject enormous expertise. It's not just that he's the leading authority on Japanese tax law of his generation—though he's clearly that. It's also that he brought enormous sophistication in modern financial techniques and international capital markets. It was a terrific addition to the HLS curriculum."

He joined the faculty as a visitor on leave from his position as Professor of Law at the University of Tokyo.

As one might expect, Nakazato noted that much has changed since he and his wife were here in the 1980s. "The level of economic sophistication among the faculty is amazing. Two decades ago, it was enough to bring a basic economic intuition. That's clearly not the case now. The articles in law and economics are every bit as advanced as articles in economics itself."

Nakazato was also intrigued by the technology at HLS. "There are LANs everywhere, and students can get wireless access anywhere at the School. It's terrific." He observed that the technological interest among students extended to scholarship as well, noting that students "seem really interested in intellectual property."

Outside of school, all went well also. As Professor Nakazato said, "We lived in Belmont, and the schools were really friendly places. Our two daughters—they're in middle school now—loved school. I was worried they wouldn't be ready to go home when the time came."

The time for leaving did, indeed, arrive in March. We thank Professor Nakazato for sharing his expertise with HLS students and wish him and his family all the best.

(Director, continued from page 1)

of Law Center at Seoul National University to deliver an address (entitled "Three Challenges Confronting US Legal Education") at a special seminar of that faculty as it contemplates the establishment of a graduate professional law school in 2008. And we were pleased this

October to receive a delegation from SNU (led by the Dean) to continue those discussions.

As always, your ideas and suggestions are most welcome.

2005–2006 East Asian Legal Studies Affiliates

S.J.D. Candidates

Leia Castañeda-Anastacio, LL.M. '96

Hui-Wen Chen, LL.M. '01

Chi Chung, LL.M. '02

Youngjeen Cho, LL.M. '99

Takeshi Fujitani, LL.M. '02

Hiroyuki Kohyama, LL.M. '05

Yen-Tu Su, LL.M. '03

Gangqiao Wang, LL.M. '03

Research Fellows

Michiko Aoki, Associate Professor *Emerita*,
Clark University

Laura Cecere, LL.M. '98

Guo Luoji, Professor *Emeritus*,
Nanjing University and EALS
Senior Research Fellow, *Emeritus*

Lobsang Sangay, S.J.D. '04

Dr. Tai Van Ta, LL.M. '85

Karen Turner, Professor of Chinese History and
Brooks Professor in the Humanities at the
College of the Holy Cross

Margaret Woo, Professor of Law, Northeastern
University School of Law

Visiting Scholars



OLIVIER BEYDON

Luxembourg
Doctoral candidate in comparative law,
University of Paris, Sorbonne and
Doctoral candidate in law, National
Taiwan University.
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OLIVER OLDMAN, '53
 Learned Hand Professor of Law, *Emeritus*

EALS Faculty and Staff



WILLIAM P. ALFORD, '77
 Henry L. Stimson Professor of Law
 Vice Dean for the Graduate Program and
 International Legal Studies
 Director, East Asian Legal Studies



J. MARK RAMSEYER, '82
 Mitsubishi Professor of Japanese
 Legal Studies
 Director, Japanese Legal Studies



JULIET BOWLER
 Staff Assistant



MARK SIDEL
 Visiting Professor



MARIKO HONSHUKU
 Library Assistant for Japanese Materials



MELISSA SMITH
 Program Administrator



Dr. NONGJI ZHANG
 Bibliographer for East Asian Law

Former Visiting Scholar Dies in Japan at Age 59

by Bill Alford



We were saddened to learn recently of the sudden death this spring of Mitsukazu Shiboh, who was a Visiting Scholar in 1996 and 1997. He suffered a stroke and passed away shortly thereafter on March 3, 2005 in Numazu-city, Shizuoka prefecture, near Tokyo.

Mitsu, as he was known to his friends, first visited Massachusetts as a high school exchange student in Amherst and subsequently graduated from Amherst College in 1970. While at Amherst, Mitsu became deeply involved in the cause of racial justice. He traveled to the deep South to take part in civil rights work, at times in a way that involved some personal risk. That work, and his chronicling of it, spurred his interest in being a journalist, writing about the most difficult political and social issues of the day.

After graduation from Amherst and a stint at the Sorbonne, Mitsu became a writer of real distinction in Japan, publishing numerous books, articles, and other papers on a broad range of subjects, and winning wide recognition and awards for his work.

Two areas marked his work. One was the Middle East. Mitsu interviewed Yasser Arafat numerous

times and wrote widely on the Israeli-Palestinian situation. This interest led him in 1986 to found the Japan Palestine Medical Association—which organization he served as chairman for many years.

Mitsu's other great professional passion was US politics, leading him to produce a de Tocqueville-like study of the American nation and character that sold widely and was favorably reviewed in Japan. He also spent months in the hamlets of Iowa and New Hampshire, charting presidential primaries (and later elections).

In addition to his career as a freelance journalist in Japan, he taught at Tokai University. Among his many other activities, he served in the leadership of Japanese PEN (the writers' organization) and through it, championed journalistic freedom in China and elsewhere.

He was a devoted husband, of Luisa Helena Junqueira Franco, and father, of Maya Shiboh.

Mitsu was truly a man of the world, with a wonderful sense of humor and his own idiosyncratic approach to life. We will miss the air of adventure he brought with him whenever he returned for a visit to EALS.

Thanks to Mariko Honshuku and Michiko Aoki for their translations of materials from the Japanese press.

East Asian Legal Studies 2005–2006 Speakers

EALS talks take place in Pound Hall 419 at 12:30, unless otherwise indicated.

September 23, 2005 at 3:00

Introduction to East Asian Legal Studies

September 27

Andrew Harding

Professor of Asia-Pacific Legal Relations and
Faculty of Law, University of Victoria
“Irresistible Forces and Immovable Objects:
The Fate of Thailand’s Constitutional
Reforms”

September 29

Lobsang Sangay, S.J.D. ’04

Research Fellow, EALS
“Tibet/China: Efforts at Peaceful Resolution
Through Double-track Diplomacy”

October 7

Tay-sheng Wang

Professor, National Taiwan University Col-
lege of Law
Visiting Scholar, University of Washington
“Legal Historical Discoveries in Taiwan’s
Government Archives”

October 11

Dan Lev

Professor of Political Science, *Emeritus*
University of Washington
“Success and (Mainly) Failure in Foreign
Assisted Legal Reform: The Indonesian
Experience”

October 19

Chan Jin Kim

Attorney, CJ International Law Offices
“The Influence of the U.S. on South Korean
Legislation”

November 5–6

U.S. China Law Society Symposium
“China at a Crossroads: Searching for a
Balanced Approach to Development”
Pound Hall 107, Harvard Law School
www.uschinalawsociety.org/symposium

November 14

John Huizinga

Walter David “Bud” Fackler Distinguished
Service Professor of Economics, University
of Chicago Graduate School of Business
“Yao Ming: What It Takes to Support a
Global Sports Star”
2:30 in Pound Hall 419

November 15

Karen Turner

Professor of Chinese History and Brooks
Professor in the Humanities, College of the
Holy Cross
Screening of “Hidden Warriors: Women on
the Ho Chi Minh Trail”
4:00 in Pound Hall 419

December 6

Mark Cammack

Professor of Law
Southwestern University School of Law
“Constitutionalism and the New Constitu-
tional Court in Indonesia”

February 8, 2006

Martin Dimitrov

Assistant Professor of Government,
Dartmouth College
“Why Communism Didn’t Collapse: Explor-
ing Regime Resilience in China, Vietnam,
Laos, North Korea and Cuba”

(Other Spring talks to be announced)

Guide to Bilingual Legal Documents Published

Preston Torbert '74, a frequent speaker at EALS, has written a helpful guide to drafting bilingual contracts. Fudan University Press published the book under the title *Falu Yingyu: Zhong-ying-shuangyu falu wenshu zhizuo (Legal English: Guidelines for Drafting Chinese-English Bilingual Legal Documents)*.

Earlier this year, Dr. Torbert gave an excellent, well-received talk at EALS regarding the book, which highlights the ways in which both Chinese and American lawyers (and legal academics) can learn from the process of articulating legal concepts in the two languages.

Dr. Torbert has been practicing with Baker & McKenzie since his graduation from HLS. He is a founder of the firm's China practice, helping to establish the Taipei office in 1978, the Beijing office in 1981, and a presence in Shanghai in 1985. He is based in Chicago where, together with Jia Zhao '84, he heads up an eight-member China team that advises US clients about trade and investment in China. He holds a doctorate in Chinese history from the University of Chicago.

Art Museums Reclaim Japanese Suit of Armor

EALS bid farewell this July to the Edo-period suit of armor that has been a fixture of the East Asian Legal Studies conference room for decades. It was returned to the Harvard University Art Museums in April. The piece has been on loan from the Art Museums since 1970, and members of their curatorial staff determined that the armor was in need of conservation and would be better preserved in the controlled temperature, humidity and light conditions provided there. It is the only example of such Japanese armor in the Art Museums' collection and after painstaking conservation work has been completed museum staff hope that it will be put on exhibit in the future.



HLS to Host International Disability Conference

On December 2–3, the Law School's International Legal Studies Program, East Asian Legal Studies Program and Human Rights Program will host a global summit of National Human Rights Commissioners to discuss effective monitoring procedures for disability human rights. Scheduled speakers include Dr. Timothy Shriver,

CEO, Special Olympics; Hon. Luis Gallegos, Ambassador for Ecuador to the United States; Professor Gerard Quinn, National University Galway, Ireland; and Visiting Professor (and EALS Visiting Scholar 2004–05) Michael Stein '88. As we go to press, the meeting room is to be announced.

Librarian Nongji Zhang Investigates Top Jurists in Recent Chinese History

Dr. Nongji Zhang, Bibliographer for East Asian Law, enjoyed a very productive research trip to Beijing, where she worked to uncover materials on the most important Chinese jurists from the late nineteenth century to the present. Nongji was featured in the Spring 2004 *EALS Newsletter* as the recipient of a Bryant Fellowship—grants that are awarded to Harvard librarians for independent research projects. She plans to produce a bibliographic guide to the legal writings of these eminent legal scholars that will be supplemented with biographical material.

Prior to leaving for Beijing, she consulted with Professor Alford, Professor Long Weiqiu of the China University of Politics and Law and Dong-

sheng Zang S.J.D. '04, to prepare a compilation of selected legal scholars, which she used as a tool for interviewing a wide range of scholars in different fields of law at nine Chinese academic institutions. Among those whom Nongji interviewed were former EALS Visiting Scholars Liang Zhiping, Director of the Shanghai Institute of Law and Economics, and Fang Liufang of the China University of Politics and Law.

The fruit of her interviews, collected materials and discussions with scholars and librarians in Beijing will be a new bibliographic guide, to be published by EALS in its series of *Harvard Research Guides to the Legal Systems of East & Southeast Asia*.

Timothy Locher Joins EALS Staff

EALS warmly welcomed an addition to our staff this summer, new staff assistant Timothy Locher (pronounced *Lowsher*). Tim has been hard at work with our events promotion and staging; editing academic materials; and helping to keep us afloat in a variety of ways. No stranger to international education, Tim has a master's degree in International and Developmental Education from the University of Pittsburgh. At Pitt he was a Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellow in Brazilian Portuguese, and conducted his

thesis research on the work of non-profit organizations in Rio de Janeiro. Tim is a native of Springfield, Illinois (where Abraham Lincoln began his legal career, as he has reminded us) and is a graduate of the University of Montana, where he studied anthropology and linguistics. In his spare time, Tim teaches English as a second language to Latino immigrants, volunteers for a number of immigrant organizations, studies for the LSAT, enjoys his two cats, and plays soccer. Welcome Tim!

Yong K. Kim '95 Memorial Prize News

The 2005 Yong K. Kim '95 Memorial Prize went to Rachel Yan Kay Lam, LL.M. '05. Rachel is from Hong Kong and a 2003 graduate of Oxford. Her LL.M. paper was entitled "Intellectual Property and the Rule of Law in China: A Case Study of the Globalisation of 'Legal Norms.'"

The recipient of the 2001 Kim Prize, Virginia Harper Ho '01, has published a monograph that

grew out of her award-winning paper written while at HLS. Her book, "Labor Dispute Resolution in China: Implications for Labor Rights and Legal Reform" was published by the Center for Chinese Studies of the University of California, Berkeley as China Research Monograph number 59 in the Institute of East Asian Studies Publications Series. Virginia is an Associate at the Indianapolis office of Baker & Daniels.

US China Law Society Brings Speakers to HLS

by Yilu Zhao, 2L

As China's economy continued to grow at a fast clip, prominent scholars and a Chinese official spoke at EALS on the country's unequal development, its meager social safety net and its lack of press freedom. The events were organized by the US China Law Society and co-sponsored by EALS and drew large audiences from the Harvard community.

On October 31, 2004, Professor Qin Hui of Tsinghua University, Professor Chen Zhiwu of Yale University's School of Management and Professor James Wen of Trinity College's economics department engaged in a lively discussion of the future of property rights in rural China. Unlike many city residents who now own their apartments, Chinese farmers have been barred from owning land since the country underwent collectivization in the early 1950s. In lieu of ownership, farmers are granted fixed-period leases and the lack of farm ownership has spawned a host of problems, the scholars say. Recently, some local officials have sold whole villages to developers, removed farmers from their ancestral lands and denied them fair compensation, claiming that they had no ownership of their land anyway. In addition, entrepreneurial farmers cannot mortgage their land for capital to grow their farms or to start businesses. While Professor Wen proposed a total privatization of

farms, Professor Qin preferred strict legal protection of the farmers' leaseholds, since it is unlikely, he argued, that the Chinese government would be willing to unravel public ownership anytime soon.

In November 2004, Gao Xiqing, Vice Chairman of China's National Council for Social Security Fund, spoke on the realities of China's unemployment and retirement pensions. Later that month, Jiao Guobiao, professor of journalism at Beijing University, spoke about the famous article he published that questioned the purposes and tactics of the Chinese Department of Propaganda. His essay, which was widely circulated and discussed on the Internet since it was published in the spring of 2004, has led to Professor Jiao's suspension from the Beida faculty.

EALS collaborated with the Society once again in late March, bringing Margaret Ng, a member of Hong Kong's Legislative Council, to HLS to speak on recent political developments in Hong Kong.

The US China Law Society is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to advancing legal reform and the rule of law in China. See their website at www.uschinalawsociety.org for more information.

Corrections

We note two corrections to listings in the Fall 2004 *EALS Newsletter*:

- The home country of Visiting Scholar Kang Shi LL.M.'04 is the People's Republic of China.
- S.J.D. candidate Chi Chung graduated from the LL.M. program in 2002.

Conference Addresses Professions in China

Adapted from *HLS News and Events*, February 1, 2005.

Scholars from as far away as Hong Kong and as nearby as the Faculty of Arts and Sciences gathered on January 28–30 at Harvard Law School for a conference on professionalism in China. The event, *The Professions and Professionalism in China*, was the first of its kind. Sponsored by the East Asian Legal Studies Program and the Harvard University Asia Center, the conference addressed professions ranging from law, medicine, and religion to journalism, architecture, and business.

“The professions in China are forming at a time when we are asking hard questions about the meaning of professionalism in the US—in law and many other fields,” said Professor William Alford, vice dean for international legal studies and editor of the forthcoming book, *Raising the Bar: The Emerging Legal Profession in East Asia* (2005).

“The conference not only examined the meaning and significance of professionalism in China, but used the Chinese case to reflect on the changing state-society relationship in that nation and on broader theoretical questions regarding the professions anywhere,” Alford added. “We were fortunate in this effort to be able to gather scholars from six Harvard schools and other leading universities from this country and the Chinese world, representing a dozen disciplines. It truly was a splendid example of Harvard’s intellectual richness and extraordinary convening power.”

“This was a very stimulating conference on an issue of central importance: as China develops, how are the legal, medical, journalistic and business professions evolving?” added William Kirby, dean of the Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences and an organizer of the conference, along with Kenneth Winston of the Kennedy School and William Hsiao of the Harvard School of Public Health. “What autonomy do they have in the shadow of the Chinese Party-State, which itself is now led largely by engineers—arguably

the most powerful professional group in China? This was an ideal topic to bring together scholars from across Harvard’s faculties and across the Pacific Ocean.”

Other conference participants included the following professors:

- Suzanne Zhang-Gottschang of Smith College’s Department of Anthropology
- Hsiung Ping-chen of the Academia Sinica in Taiwan
- Jiang Zhaodong of the Chinese University of Hong Kong School of Accountancy
- Arthur Kleinman of the Harvard Medical School and the Department of Anthropology
- Benjamin Liebman ’98 of Columbia Law School
- Richard Madsen of the University of California at San Diego’s Department of Sociology
- Margaret Pearson of the University of Maryland’s Department of Government & Politics
- Judith Polunbaum of the University of Iowa’s School of Journalism and Mass Communication
- Dietrich Rueschemeyer of Brown University’s Watson Institute for International Studies
- Peter Rowe of the Harvard Graduate School of Design
- Bing Wang of the Harvard Graduate School of Design’s Department of Urban Planning and Design
- Robert Weller of Boston University’s Department of Anthropology
- Xu Xiaoqun of the Christopher Newport University’s Department of History
- Yu Xingzhong S.J.D. ’95 of the Chinese University of Hong Kong’s Department of Government & Public Administration

Conference organizers plan to produce a volume based on the papers. The event sparked such lively discussion that there is consideration of reconvening, perhaps next time in the Chinese world.

EALS Sponsors Forum on Deadly South Asian Tsunami

On January 7, EALS and the International Legal Studies program sponsored the first public forum at Harvard on the Indian Ocean tsunami and its aftermath. The meeting was held in the Ames Courtroom and brought together more than 125 members of the Harvard community to learn more about the most effective ways to provide assistance to the victims of the tragic events of December 26, 2004.

Members of the panel who led the discussion consisted of three HLS students from hard-hit

Sri Lanka: Andal Radhakrishnan, LL.M. '05, Amal Bass and Shihani DeSilva, both 2Ls.

Professor Mary Steedly of the Department of Anthropology, a distinguished scholar of Indonesian society who has done extensive fieldwork in Sumatra, contributed her expertise.

Professor Alford served as moderator for the audience question and answer session.

Yash Ghai Tapped for British Academy in July

A former visiting faculty member has been elected a Fellow of the British Academy. Yash Ghai, LL.M. '63, is a world-renowned authority on international and comparative law, particularly in the area of human rights, and holds the Sir Y. K. Pao Chair in Public Law at the University of Hong Kong Faculty of Law. In 1996, Professor Ghai and Professor Alford taught an international law seminar together on the reversion of Hong Kong to Chinese sovereignty.

At its July 2005 Annual General Meeting, the British Academy conferred this honor on Professor Ghai—the highest that the Academy can award for distinction in research, the first time a Hong Kong scholar has been awarded with this distinction by the Academy.

The British Academy, established by Royal Charter in 1902, is the United Kingdom's national academy for the humanities and the social sciences. It is an independent, self-governing fellowship of more than 800 scholars, who are elected for distinction and achievement in one or more branches of the academic disciplines that make up the humanities and social sciences.

In addition to his scholarship in the field of human rights, Professor Ghai has published extensively on ethnic conflicts, as well as on the law in many developing countries, especially in Africa and the Pacific. He has advised many governments and other bodies on constitutional developments.

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