

I am unique, I am extraordinary

I have been dreaming to be a lawyer since I was a little girl. Television programs imprinted the images of imposing lawyers dressed in black robes, speaking with force and deliberation, indelibly on my mind. It did not dawn on me that only a small portion of the legal profession was made up of barristers who cross swords on courts until I grew older.

Did I change after that? Yes, I did. What about my orientation? No, definitely not.

Coming from the grass roots, I realize that I can help redress the injustice in society as a barrister in NGOs, or by participating in the decision-making processes of the government. My family members are just men and women in the street. I have seen them exert themselves to work from dawn to dusk and fussily haggle over the price of a loaf of bread. They beam at seasonal sales. They make a drama out of family's minor ailments and shed bitter tears over the medical bills. Like most people, they are contented, assiduous and simple. I do not come from a privileged background but my low socio-economic status has endowed me with the sensitivity to empathize the underprivileged, whose troubles may be deemed mundane, but mean the world to these commoners. I believe that the well-being of every member of our community is worth our sincerest concern, however simple their lives seem, because every one of them is unique and are entitled to a quality life. That fervent belief in equity and humanism makes me unique as well.

On the other hand, I must concede that being a member of the lower class has its own difficulties. I was born in mainland China. While other children were attending preschools at an extremely young age, I had not seen the first English letter until I was six and moved to Hong Kong. To be honest, life has always been tough. Owing to the language barrier, I did not perform well at school at first. I was painfully aware of how inadequate word power and poor English proficiency had existed as a hurdle and had left me helpless and deprived. All I could fall back on was my diligence. I started reading an avalanche of newspaper as well as memorizing vocabulary and sentence patterns. Now I am proud to say that I came first in five subjects in my Form 6 mock exam, one of them being English Language. I am no longer trailing others despite my previous disadvantage. My family's lack of money for tutorial classes does not make me a mediocre student. On the contrary, my unspectacular upbringing has trained me how to brave daunting adversities and tolerate hardships. I could still remember those sleepless nights, those tears of disappointment, those notebooks with long lists of

words to be learnt. They are the memories of my eventful life after an uneventful start.

I know that not many people can have storming and resounding performances in court and I may not become one of them. However, although my feet are on the ground, who can dampen my desire and shatter my dream to be a lawyer? I may be an ordinary little girl but I am also unique because of my dreams and determination to excel and make my life a success. Hence, I am unique, I am extraordinary.

By Wong Chuk Yiu