

Chong Weng Kong
(5th July 1951–8th July 2012)



The eldest son amongst six siblings, Mr. Chong Weng Kong was born in a small town called *Kerling*, near *Tanjung Malim, Perak* but his childhood took roots at a small coastal town in *Selangor* that is famed for its agriculture, called *Sekinchan*. A town with only one Chinese school then, *Sekinchan* provided Mr. Chong Weng Kong the base where friendship is valued and where learning and growing up was always supported by childhood friends.

Mr. Chong Weng Kong's education began at *Yoke Kuan* National type (Chinese) school, an environment which helped him to become fluent and proficient in Mandarin and the Chinese culture. After his primary education, Mr. Chong Weng Kong moved to Klang High School to pursue his secondary education. He then joined the Royal Malaysian Police force in 1976 as a Probationary Inspector. After his training at the Police Depot in Kuala Lumpur, he was posted to the northern capital of *Alor Setar* and in 1979 he was confirmed in his post, after having passed all the requisite Law examinations. Mr. Chong Weng Kong served as a Police Inspector for many years while attached to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of Kedah/Perlis. In the midst of his constant raids of illegal gambling and '4-Digit' gaming cases, Mr. Chong was also sent to be trained as a gaming expert in the Common Gaming of Malaysia.

A prominent figure in *Alor Setar* while serving as a Police Officer who was attached to the Kedah Royal Malaysian Police, Mr. Chong Weng Kong often appeared in court for cases involving major crimes such as narcotics, gaming, secret society offences, injuries to persons and public disorder offences. In his capacity as a Police Officer, Mr. Chong Weng Kong also served as the prosecuting officer of the court. It was this exposure which planted the seed for his interest in law and Mr. Chong Weng Kong expanded this interest by applying to various colleges to pursue further education in 'A' level and 'Pre Law' courses. In August 1985, a wife and a baby later, Mr. Chong Weng Kong set off for England, after having applied to the then *Ealing College* of Higher Education (now Thames Valley University), West London, to read law for three years. It was his exposure to British education, British law, British custom, British tradition and British etiquette that made Mr. Chong Weng Kong a great admirer of British practices. In 1988, Mr. Chong Weng Kong graduated with a Bachelor of Law but he chose to remain in London for an additional year in order to support his wife's postgraduate

studies at the same university. Thus, instead of returning home, he opted to work in a restaurant called *Green Peasantin* Covent Garden, London and the retail chain, *Marks and Spencers* in central London. In 1990, Mr. Chong returned to Malaysia and he subsequently registered for his CLP or ‘*SijilGuaman* Malaysia’ in the University of Malaya. Upon passing the CLP, he identified a legal firm and then served his apprenticeship with *Tetuan Lee and Wong* in Kuala Lumpur, whose legal practices and business management he had great appreciation for. In his admiration for retired Court of Appeal Judge, *Datuk Low Hop Bing* who was then a practicing lawyer, Mr. Chong applied for and managed to serve a short stint as an apprentice in *Datuk Low’s* legal firm in *Subang Jaya*. Mr. Chong had great pride serving great ‘masters’ as he claimed, for he believed in learning well from good teachers.

Subsequently, after being called to the Bar, Mr. Chong joined the firm, *Cheong and Chong* in 1991 which was located in *PandanJaya* before opening up his own firm *W.K. Chong and Associates* in 1992 premised at *JalanImbi*, Kuala Lumpur. In 1992, after acquiring his own office premise, he relocated *W.K. Chong and Associates* to the address of *19 D, Tingkat 3, Jalan PJS 1/48, Batu 7, Jalan Kelang Lama, PetalingUtama, 46150, Petaling Jaya, Selangor*. The Law Office of *W.K. Chong and Associates* continued to serve as his base of practice until his passing away on 8 July, 2012. Although Mr. Chong was not destined to choose his birth place nor his place of departure, fate had his demise taking place within the premises of the High Court of *AlorSetar*. It can thus be seen that even during the last moments of his life Mr. Chong Weng Kong was performing his duty as an advocate and solicitor for his clients.

As a dream that had never vanished from his heart and mind from his early youth, Mr. Chong Weng Kong made it a reality to become first a police officer serving the country before qualifying as an advocate and solicitor. Mr. Chong was very proud to be a part of the Malaysian Royal Police. He enjoyed his work and was a diligent police officer who never ceased to learn even from his alleged suspects or ‘*orang kenatuduh*’ (OKT). It was from these *OKTs* that he learnt further of their tricks and ways in committing crime and he would use this information to forewarn friends and relatives in the hope of minimizing such crimes such as kidnapping, house breaking, robberies, and assaults. A fervent believer of providing a safe place for work, Mr. Chong also subscribed to the duty of care at the work place and entitlements for staff.

Mr. Chong Weng Kong always felt that one should move forward and never backward. This was evidenced in his own life where he himself sought to increase his own knowledge in the Chinese language which he was already fluent and proficient in. He

constantly perused and acquired such knowledge from literary works and historical movies where the transfer of such knowledge and practices would occur in his own life as well as those of his own family.

Mr. Chong Weng Kong was also passionate about history, a subject that was close to his heart. He believed in harnessing knowledge from knowing the lifestyles of great historical figures such as Alexander the Great, Mao Tze Tung, Sun Yat Sun, Jesus Christ, Prophet Mohammad and many more. Through reading their biographical stories, he learnt even more about history, culture and how diligence and success can be tied together.

In the days when he was still alive and active, Mr. Chong Weng Kong was known for his sharpness and alertness. Never one to forget where he left his things, he had the mind of a hawk and the kindness of Mother Theresa. In the former, he never forgot where his files were or where he last left the book which he was making reference to. He also never forgot how much money he paid to whom and where and how much was collected from whom and for what purposes because he would always jot the facts down in his diary somewhere. In the latter, he was always kind to those beyond their means and especially the elderly and has been known for paying helpless old men who had fallen from their bicycles or motor bikes, handy men who did some work at his office or home, taxi drivers, office runners, even temporary staff who helped him, more than what they had asked for. Mr. Chong Weng Kong's generosity endeared him to many. This was evidenced at his funeral where all his school friends from primary to secondary and university days paid him their last respects. Many who attended his funeral also cried because they realised that they would miss him as he had brought them great cheers and happiness in his own ways. A witty and gregarious man, Mr. Chong Weng Kong just had his personal ways in dealing with people and for that, his family, his circle of friends, his colleagues, and those who knew him will miss him dearly and always. He had been an embodiment of cheerfulness, helpfulness, calmness and wisdom. These were also virtues much admired by his own family, especially his three sons.

The life of Mr. Chong Weng Kong also ought to be highlighted for his linguistic skills. As one of the participants of a Beijing Conference organised by the Bar Council of Malaysia and Bar of China in 1993, Mr. Chong also served as the unofficial interpreter between the Bar council members of Malaysia represented by *PuanHendonMohammad* and the China representatives. He was given a letter of appreciation by the China counterpart for this gesture of contribution. Big at heart, Mr. Chong Weng Kong also provided

unofficial assistance to the court where he was attending cases as an interpreter to Chinese illegal immigrants who were unable to communicate with Malaysian court staff. Many appreciated this gesture of his.

An ardent believer of diligence, kindness and gratitude, Mr. Chong Weng Kong held no bars whenever he was approached by new practitioners for advice during court cases, sharing freely whatever knowledge he might have. In addition, Mr. Chong highly valued the works of the court staff like the registrars, interpreters and police officers who all contributed to making court cases more efficient. As a result, he often ‘*tapao*’ food like *nasilemak* and *keropok* for the court staff in small places such as *Sungei Besar* and *Kuala Selangor*. Wherever and whenever he travelled overseas, he would also bring along gifts to the staff he so appreciated. This is a trait of Mr. Chong very much appreciated by court staff.

Besides being an advocate and solicitor who believed in doing justice and providing care and attention to one’s commitment on being employed as a client’s legal representative, Mr. Chong Weng Kong was also a great believer of education. For that purpose he never ceased trying to inspire young people to study, especially law. He would especially take great pains to talk to them and help them draft timetables for time management as well as spending time to go through their legal assignments with them to the extent of buying them the necessary books. He had no qualms in making the opportunity of learning accessible to the less privileged. Mr. Chong Weng Kong was himself helped by good teachers and so he applied what he had learnt on those who wanted to learn.

In conclusion, it can only be said that the legal fraternity has lost a practising lawyer who had not only contributed prominently and successfully to the adjudication of this country but also a man who could have made the legal fraternity better had Mr. Chong Weng Kong not left so early in his life at the age of 61.

We pray that the legal fraternity, his colleagues, friends and family members will share the pride of Mr. Chong Weng Kong and appreciate his contributions to the legal industry and thus the country. We thank the audience for their presence and we would also like to extend our belated condolences to his family, Mrs. Chong Weng Kong nee Dr. Kuang Ching Hei and their three sons.

(Written by Mrs. Chong Weng Kong nee Dr. Kuang Ching Hei of the University of Malaya)