



ST PHOTO: © HUIW SENG KIM

Mr Leslie Wong, seen here with wife Joanna and daughter Audrey, obtained a bachelor's degree in law from the University of London via distance learning.

## Cop, playwright and now a law grad at 68

At 68, most people would find it daunting to embark on a new career.

Not Mr Leslie Wong. He has been a policeman, businessman and playwright – and is ready for his next career move in the legal sector.

Yesterday, he was conferred the Bachelor of Law with Honours degree by the University of London at a ceremony.

He completed the distance learning programme at private school Stansfield College, which

gave its oldest graduand an award for his tenacity.

“The official call has been for older people to continue working, and I see myself doing just that,” Mr Wong said.

He spent 10 years in the police force, rising through the ranks to become acting assistant commissioner before moving on to the private sector.

He retired after 20 years and became chairman of the Chinese Theatre Circle, a local opera troupe.

He and his wife Joanna Wong are well known in the Chinese opera world. He has penned full-length Chinese operas, including the first in the world to be sung in English.

In March 2005, he decided to pursue his passion for law. He obtained a diploma in legal studies in 2006, followed by the degree with Stansfield College.

The degree is not just for “self-actualisation”, but will boost his employability as he grows older, he said.

His degree does not allow him to take the local Bar exam – which would enable him to be a full-fledged lawyer and do litigation work – but he is undeterred.

Instead, he plans to do legal work for European companies looking to expand into China, and vice versa.

“I’m bilingual and I studied European Union and Chinese laws. So if a big company wants to expand into either territory, I can act as a legal consultant,” he said.

**Aaron Low**