

notabene

MAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND LAW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



The 2023 Macrossan Lecture



UQ Law Alumni, Pro Bono and CLCs



Alumni Profile - Judge Pauline David



UQ Law School News

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1 Editorial | 17 New UQLA Scholarships | 24 Law School Staff and PhD Candidates |
| 3 Honorary Doctorates | 20 UQLA Scholarship Recipients | 27 Featured Courses |
| 12 UQLA Events | 22 Alumni Studying Overseas | 29 Society Presidents |
| 14 UQLA Breakfast: Joanna Jenkins | 23 Law School Headlines | 31 Judicial Announcements |

Editorial

It is our great pleasure to present the 2023 edition of *Nota Bene* – the magazine of the University of Queensland Law Alumni Association.

As with previous issues, the aim of *Nota Bene* is to celebrate and document the accomplishments of UQ's law alumni community, as well as showcase the activities of the UQLA and the Law School during the course of the year.

This year's edition includes a number of different feature articles.

It commences with an article by UQ law alumnus Eugene H White, reflecting upon his 50 years as a UQ law graduate and on the involvement of UQ law alumni in the community and pro bono legal sector. We also have the privilege of featuring an interview with another alumna, Her Honour Judge Pauline David of the New South Wales District Court, on her Honour's time at UQ and her career in the law as a specialist in transnational crime, anti-money laundering, counter-terrorism financing and human trafficking. We are grateful to Catherine Morgan for interviewing Judge David for *Nota Bene*.

Near the end of the last year, the UQLA was pleased to learn that our President, John McKenna KC, and the Hon Anthe Philippides SC had been awarded honorary doctorates by UQ. John's address at the conferral of his LLD is included in this year's issue of *Nota Bene*. On the topic of speeches, our guest speaker at this year's Annual UQLA Breakfast was lawyer and novelist Joanna Jenkins. Joanna's entertaining and thoughtful reflections on her time as a law student at UQ are also reproduced in this issue.



About the UQLA

The UQLA is a registered charity, which is operated by the alumni of UQ's TC Beirne School of Law. The UQLA seeks to support the highest standards of legal education at UQ through a series of programmes in which all alumni can participate. These programmes have been developed, in close consultation with the Law School, to seek to provide students with the best possible preparation for legal practice and to build closer links between the academic staff of the Law School, the judiciary and the legal profession.

To find out more about the UQLA, visit our website,
<http://www.uqla.org.au>



The UQLA has also been pleased to continue growing its scholarship programme over the course of 2023. As a result of the generosity of UQ law alumni scholarship, eight new scholarships have been able to be established and offered in 2023, named in honour of the following distinguished alumni of the Law School whose biographies appear in this edition: the Hon Ian Callinan AC KC, the Honourable Sir Walter Campbell AC QC, Professor Megan Davis, the Honourable David JS Jackson, the Honourable Paul de Jersey AC CVO KC, the Honourable Bill Pincus, the Honourable Walter Sofronoff KC and in honour of the Macrossan-Fraser family (the Hon Justices Hugh Macrossan, Neal Macrossan, John Macrossan and Hugh Fraser). A further two scholarships – named in honour of the Honourable Susan Kiefel AC KC and the Honourable Kevin Ryan CBE RFD – have also been able to be established through the generosity of alumni. Profiles of these alumni will feature in next year’s *Nota Bene*. The UQLA is delighted that this further support for current students that are in financial need has been able to be established.

Once again, we would like to thank Professor Rick Bigwood, Mr Dony Rodriguez and other staff of the Law School for their assistance with this year’s edition. We also thank the UQLA’s President, John McKenna KC, for his continued support of, and contributions to, *Nota Bene*. We also thank the other directors of the UQLA and members of our alumni community who have contributed articles to this year’s edition. *Nota Bene* would not exist without you.

The next issue of *Nota Bene* will be published in late 2024 – if you have a suggestion for a story or news that we should include, please email notabene@uqla.com.au

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Alumni, Pro Bono and the UQ Community Legal Centre, reflections over fifty years (almost) of a UQ Law graduate

Eugene H White
2 October 2023

This article had its genesis in my vague reflections over the decades since gradation and admission as a lawyer, and was triggered by discussions at the 2022 Annual General Meeting of the University of Queensland Law Alumni Association. The final product is far from what I had initially envisaged.

The University

UQ is a member of the “Group of 8” leading Australian universities, though its law school was belated: the first law graduate was Una Prentice (then Bick) in 1938. This state historically deserved its reputation for anti-intellectualism. By the time I attended St Johns College (one of UQ’s associated residential colleges), it was long a bastion of conservatism – as was then the broader legal profession. But generalisations are inherently flawed. Law students who had also attended St Johns included my 1974 contemporary, long time recent Queensland ALP Premier Peter Beattie; and the 1940s Queensland MLA Fred Paterson, a Rhodes Scholar and the only Communist ever elected to an Australian Parliament.

UQ was long the centre of liberalism in this state, most notably during the 1960s-1980s “Bjelke-Petersen Era”. For most of that time UQ was the only university conferring law degrees in Queensland. The authoritarian Country, later National, Party Premier Joh Bjelke-Petersen was responsible for the radicalisation of generations of Queensland lawyers. The Queensland Council for Civil Liberties was formed in 1966 and for much of its early years was occupied with addressing governmental excesses – and always, many of its members have been UQ law graduates.

Justice

It has been long recognised that “No man is an island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main” (John Donne 1624). However, the Covid pandemic (plus global climate change) has highlighted the codependence of humanity: “The whole world is bound together as never before” (Theodore Roosevelt 1910) and the recognition in nations that “What unites us is greater than what divides us” (John F Kennedy 1961; UK MP Jo Cox 2015).

Top: Supplied by Eugene White

Page 6: Noel Nunan and Eugene White at the Caxton Street office in 1994.

FEATURE

Notwithstanding these realities, there have been increasing worldwide assaults on liberal democracy, the rule of law, freedom of the press and human rights. This has been intertwined with political, economic and social challenges; health and environmental crises; the loss of trust in, and respect for, institutions; injustice, inequality, starvation, fear, greed, hatreds and wars; plus cheapness of life and personal despair. They require leadership in the Merkel/Ardern mould but instead there have been obnoxious male public figures unfit for high office, parading nationalistic, racist, xenophobic and confected social divisions – all marked by vitriol in public discourse; surging disinformation; disrespect for decisionmakers; with expertise dismissed as elitism and mere baseless opinion wrongly equated with demonstrable facts. This is not a new trend: “Falsehood flies, and the Truth comes limping after it” (Jonathan Swift). But technology has increased public cynicism and exacerbated negative impacts in undermining faith in democracy and diminishing respect for the judicial process.

The US 6 January 2021 Insurrection reminded one that “The price of freedom is eternal vigilance” (Thomas Jefferson). “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it” (George Santayana). Of the Holocaust, all said “Never Again. Nie Wieder. Plus Jemais.” But “It happened, therefore it can happen again” (Primo Levi) and so it has and continues across the planet, from Cambodia, Rwanda and Bosnia to recent mass killings at religious establishments: in 2018 at the Pittsburgh Synagogue and the 2019 attacks on Christchurch Mosques and Sri Lankan churches.

There is worldwide oppression of diverse targets as clerics, human rights activists; scurrilous vilification of government ministers, judicial and media figures; while lawyers and journalists, especially female, are often persecuted, jailed and murdered. The accompanying censorship recalls ominously the admonition: “Where they burn books, they will ultimately also burn people” (Heinrich Heine 1821).

A role for lawyers

Ultimately, one cannot be a bystander: “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere” (Martin Luther King Jr) and though the more recent warning is well known: “The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing”, Plato earlier expressed a similar sentiment: “The price good men pay for indifference to public affairs is to be ruled by evil men”.

Lawyers have always been at the forefront of the defence of democracy and human rights. Some have provided fine leadership for the long-term betterment of their nations, indeed humanity, such as Abraham Lincoln, Mohandas Gandhi, Nelson Mandela and Gough Whitlam. Some, like Gandhi and Mandela, were imprisoned for principle; others like Lincoln paid with their lives.



Not all lawyers will aspire to high public office. Fortunately, in the depths of despair there is the positive realisation that individuals can make a difference; standing up to the rich and powerful and making a difference for justice: “What is done cannot be undone, but one can prevent it happening again” (Anne Frank); “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world.” (Margaret Mead); “One person .. can make a difference..” (Elie Wiesel); “When the whole world is silent, even one voice becomes powerful” (Malala Yousafzai); “.. Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance” (Robert F Kennedy, 1966).

FEATURE

I need no citations to declare that the rule of law is an empty ideal if there is no access to justice. On a micro level, “The law, in its majestic equality, forbids the rich as well as the poor to sleep under bridges, to beg in the streets, and to steal bread” (Anatole France, 1894). On the macro level, true equality before the law is intrinsic to a functioning democracy and requires properly funded legal services (“Taxes are what we pay for civilized society” *Compania General de Tabacos de Filipinas v Collector of Internal Revenue* 275 US 87 (1927), 100 per Holmes J).

Alumni

Then there are also the grassroots contributions of individuals, and I am proud to know three UQ law graduates who have made a real impact there. Noel Nunan was a central figure in establishing in 1976 what became known as the Caxton Legal Centre, the first community legal centre in Queensland, and was instrumental in establishing others. He was eventually appointed a magistrate.

From its inception, Caxton had to fend off hurdles and challenges from Queensland legal institutions and it did so successfully. It saw itself, beyond its vital role in assisting individuals (where it also led with utilising the skills of social workers), in the bigger picture, as a “catalyst for change”. It also appreciated the importance of education and published a Legal Resources Handbook (Queensland), coedited by Nunan.

Elizabeth Shearer had worked many years with the Queensland Legal Aid Office and in private practice (including setting up “Affording Justice”). She has applied her grassroots lived experience in peak bodies; including as President of the Queensland Law Society, Executive Director of the Law Council of Australia; and as a member of peak bodies’ Access to Justice/Pro Bono Law Committees.

Monica Taylor was a long-time director of the UQ Pro Bono Centre, which gives opportunities to students to appreciate social need, to assist others in accessing justice and to forge connections in the law and beyond. From there, via a stint with Queensland Council of Social Services, she is now professionally focused on the challenge of climate change.

All three have utilised their legal, intellectual and emotional intelligence skills to better serve their community and broader society. Many other fellow UQ law graduates have made diverse contributions to the greater good – with the thread to minimise future human problems through holistically focused education, prevention and early intervention programs.



Right: Monica Taylor and Eugene White

FEATURE

Giving back

The fictional Star Wars Jedi Master Yoda rightly warned: “fear leads to anger, anger leads to hate, hate leads to suffering” and Mandela declared: “No one is born hating another person ... People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love”. As UQ law alumni, we appreciate education. However, that goes beyond vocation aimed at a good income and status.

Lawyers have a special role in national institutions, society and the community. Loftily, Lincoln said education is “the most important subject which we as a people may be engaged in”; while Mandela considered “education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” At a grassroots level, Victor Hugo noted: “He who opens a school door, closes a prison”. The work my three UQLA colleagues have undertaken attests to the importance of education as part of lawyers’ contributions to society.

For this reason, always unimpressed with the Priestley 11 concept of the strict compulsory core subjects focused on legal admission, I urge continuous ethics infusion in all subjects and making compulsory some study in family and poverty law; ancillary classes in technology, human rights, personal reliance; Australian Indigenous and multicultural issues; and legal history, to provide a fuller picture of the world in which law is practised – and the human impact.

Over time, I have become ever more conscious of gratitude and the moral obligation to “give back”. I am especially pleased to have been engaged in community legal education, particularly with school and university students; plus more direct mentoring. In often recalling what I learned from Geoffrey Fynes-Clinton as an articled clerk (or as my long deceased master preferred, his “sorcerer’s apprentice”), I am also conscious of mortality: “Blessed is he who plants trees under whose shade he will never sit” (attributed diversely including by Cicero to Roman poet Caecilius Statius).

Long after previously volunteering at Caxton, for the last 15 years I found my niche employed with the Brisbane North Community Legal Service, Nundah. That role has been morally satisfying, intellectually stimulating, politically engaging and socially pleasant; on occasions professionally challenging – leaving me with a heightened appreciation of ongoing injustices. Two decades on, the essence of my September 2000 Lawyer’s Weekly essay remains the same: “Beyond issues of the profession, politics, business and solicitors’ self-interest there is the exceedingly important responsibility of solicitors in maintaining the rule of law. Law reform and removing injustices should be positive contributions by solicitors personally and the Law Society communally... I have no regrets about becoming a solicitor knowing that I have helped many individuals, ... and contributed my legal skills to the community at large.”



Left: Elizabeth Shearer



Alumni Profile

Judge Pauline David

Bachelor of Arts (1985)
Bachelor of Laws (Hons) (1988)

Judge of the District Court of New South Wales

Judge David is an esteemed graduate of the University of Queensland Law School, having graduated her Arts degree in 1985 and a Bachelor of Laws in 1988.

Her Honour was interviewed by UQ law alumna Catherine Morgan.

Her Honour Judge Pauline David, District Court of New South Wales, graduated in law from UQ in 1988, after having obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree (majoring in politics and journalism) from UQ in 1985.

Since that time, she has had an interesting, varied and challenging career in the law, which has taken her around the world and has continued in a new direction with her appointment to the District Court of NSW on 1 August 2022.

Judge David was first admitted to practice in Queensland in 1989. She first practised as a solicitor in private practice on the Gold Coast, specialising in criminal law, until 1994 when she was appointed as a Principal Legal Officer with the then Criminal Justice Commission in Brisbane. In 1997 she moved to Sydney as a solicitor with the National Crime Authority. From 2000 to 2005 she was a solicitor and advocate with the NSW Legal Aid Commission.

In 2005 she received a Master of Laws (Criminal & International Law) from the University of Sydney.

Judge David was called to the Bar in Sydney 2007, and until her appointment, specialised in criminal law, appearing as counsel in a wide range of criminal cases of varying complexity and seriousness and in many high-profile cases including, more recently, *R v Dawson* [2022] NSWSC 1131. As counsel, Ms David (as her Honour then was) developed specialist expertise in medical defence. She appeared as lead defence counsel in the defence of a medical specialist in the significant, lengthy and complex trial of *R v Coleman* NSWDC 2017-18, a case where the jury was empanelled for over a year.

She also had an interest in, and expertise in, mental health law, and from 2016 to 2019 was a part-time member of the Mental Health Review Tribunal.

She also tutored and lectured in Australian Political Institutions, Evidence and Anti-Money Laundering and Proceeds of Crime; Australian and International Laws at UQ, QUT, and UTS.

In addition, from 2001 onwards she was regularly engaged as a consultant legal advisor by the Australian, British, and French Governments, the Asian Development Bank, World Bank and Council of Europe to advise and support international law and justice development initiatives in Asia, Africa and elsewhere. She specialised in the area of transnational crime and in particular anti-money laundering, counter-terrorism financing and human trafficking. She has worked extensively in other countries for over 22 years including in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Georgia, Ghana, Indonesia, Laos, Liberia, Malaysia, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Thailand, The Gambia, Uganda and all ASEAN and ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) countries. Aspects of this work included international co-operation (mutual assistance, extradition, and asset recovery) and involved close engagement with judges, lawyers, police and other officials in key departments, including Financial Intelligence Units, Justice Departments, National Security and Counter Terrorism Agencies, Central Banks, police services, prosecution services, regulators and other enforcement agencies.

Images: Supplied by her Honour and Catherine Morgan.

To paraphrase the statement of the NSW Attorney General announcing her appointment, Judge David is a highly skilled practitioner who has dedicated her career to the service of the law and the pursuit of just outcomes and will continue to draw on the considerable skill, experience and knowledge she has gained as a lawyer for the benefit of the court and the community.

By way of disclosure, Judge David and I have remained friends since our days at UQ, and I asked her to reflect on her time at UQ (including the late nights we spent poring over our handwritten notes and past exam questions to prepare for those 3-hour marathon exams the next morning).

What is your most vivid memory of your years as a law student at UQ?

The criminal law lecturer telling us in the first lecture that in our system of criminal justice, "it is better 100 guilty Persons should escape [conviction] than that one innocent Person should suffer", based upon the maxim originally expressed by English jurist William Blackstone (*Commentaries on the Laws of England*, published in the 1760s).

I have never lost sight of the horror of an innocent person being wrongfully convicted, and the importance of the presumption of innocence.

I have always felt passionate about criminal justice and have been fortunate to have had the opportunity to work closely with committed lawyers, judges and others in Australia and in many other regions and countries.

When you see jacaranda trees blooming, do you experience something akin to PTSD?

Yes! I think of those 3-hour law exams which comprised 100% of the subject mark! I remember well how we worked through every subject in the lead up to the exams – it was a great way to study – exam time was so intense especially when there were back-to-back marathon exams!



What influenced you to embark upon the study of law in the first place?

I travelled and moved a lot growing up as my father was in the Royal Australian Navy. I lived in several Australian states, in England and also Papua New Guinea, including many years on Manus Island, a place I loved but unfortunately a place which has a very different image today. I met people from all walks of life. Justice, equality and the dignity of every human being became important to me.

I also observed inspirational nuns, priests and others, committed to social justice and the service of others, working tirelessly to ensure equality of education and opportunity for all. These were powerful messages.

What aspect of your time at university had the most impact upon your life and career in the law?

UQ changed the course of my life. I valued greatly the opportunity to study at university. I previously qualified as a nurse, after leaving school early, not wanting to move schools yet again. Then, with a 4-month-old baby, I embarked upon further study to become a lawyer! It has been quite a journey, and a challenging one at times. However, I have never failed to appreciate what a privilege it is to practice law.

I was inspired by several very good UQ law, government and journalism lecturers. I am glad I attended a university which adhered to high standards and a rigorous assessment process, notwithstanding the terror of the marathon 100% exam!

I remember well the first conversation I had with you Catherine, in the UQ refectory all those years ago. I am so grateful for my time at UQ, and the enduring friendships I made there.

Left: Judge David

Below: Judge David, Catherine Morgan and Joanna Nelson



FEATURE

Honorary Doctorates

On 15 December 2022, two distinguished UQ Law School alumni were honoured with honorary doctorates.

The Hon Anthe Philippides SC had conferred on her a DUniv honoris causa, in recognition of her longstanding achievements, contributions and commitments to the Australian judicial system and advocacy for arts and education, especially for First Nations students.

The UQLA's President, John McKenna KC, had conferred on him a LLD honoris causa, in recognition of his longstanding achievements, contributions and commitments to the legal profession.

On behalf of our alumni community, we congratulate both of these distinguished alumni on this richly deserved honour. In this edition of Nota Bene, we are pleased to be able to feature the address delivered by John McKenna KC on this occasion.

Chancellor, Members of the University Senate, Vice-Chancellor, Valedictorian, Distinguished Guests and most importantly Graduates, I am so pleased to be here with you tonight to celebrate your graduation.

It was during Orientation Week, in your first year, that I had the pleasure of meeting a great many of you for the first time. And since then, I have joined most of our alumni community in thinking of you, each June and November, as you faced the stress and challenges of each examination period.

To outsiders, it may seem a little surprising that the alumni of our Law School – old and new, across Australia and across the world – would all find themselves thinking of their Law School and its students every year, with the approach of winter and again as jacarandas come into bloom.

Psychologists might see this as a symptom of some kind of mass trauma. But I would prefer to think of it as a sign of how important our Law School experience was to all of us. Whether we were students in the 1940s, the 1980s, or the 2020s, the first really significant decision any of us made was to choose to study law – and the choice we all made was to undertake these studies within the traditions of this wonderful, beautiful and quite demanding place.



Traditions

In the broader scheme of things, the traditions of our Law School are relatively recent in origin. After all, the very first graduation ceremony for the Law School only took place just before the Second World War – on 29 April 1938.

On that day, there was a graduating class of only three students – including the Law School's very first graduate, Miss Una Bick. And for the next 30 years, the Law School remained quite small – with each graduating class rarely numbering more than 30.

For those of us who commenced our studies in the late 1970s, we had the privilege of meeting and getting to know some of these early graduates. In my case, the early graduate I knew best was Mr Justice Sheahan, who graduated in a class of five students in 1941. In the Judge's case, there was a small complication with his graduation – as he failed the very last subject required for his law degree. So instead of enjoying his final days before leaving for war service, he was obliged to study for a supplementary examination in private international law.

His story had a particular poignancy for me and my contemporaries, as we discovered that the lecturer who failed the young Charles Sheahan in 1941 was Professor Edward Sykes – who was still teaching us in the 1980s – and who had in no way mellowed with the passage of time.

FEATURE

From my perspective, these first 30 years of the Law School are of some significance, as they seem to have established the culture and tradition which continues to this day. I see this culture as being based upon five key elements.

Gratitude

The first element I would describe as a sense of gratitude.

There is no doubt how grateful the earliest law students were to have the opportunity for a university education – and how determined they were to make the most of their opportunity.

At the time, there was only one university in Queensland – and its admission numbers were quite limited.

And for most students of the 1940s, they were just grateful to have survived six years of war – much less to have the luxury of time to read, to think and to study a discipline of their choice.

In the modern era, of course, our expectations are very different and a university education is not the luxury it once was.

But my sense is that UQ law students – drawn, as you are, from all parts of the State and from a wide variety of backgrounds – are not taking any of their opportunities for granted.

In fact, we can see from your collective achievements – both academically and in the many co-curricular activities of the Law School – that you are bringing the same level of enthusiasm and commitment to your studies as any previous generation.

Collegiality

The second element of the Law School's culture is its collegiality.

In the early days of the Law School, it was easy to build strong friendships within a class of only five or 35. But even when the class size grew to over 200, as it did in the 1980s, this spirit of collegiality continued to flourish.

Law students chose to study and socialise together on campus because of their mutual interests, the mutual support available to each other in difficult times, and the strong personal friendships which quickly arose.

This culture was promoted by the physical layout of the Law School, centred as it is upon a wonderful law library – with staff and lecture rooms all nearby.

Sadly, in many universities, a similar spirit of collegiality has not survived recent events. With lectures and course materials now being readily available online – and with the experience of enforced isolation due to COVID – it has been all too easy for staff and students to permanently abandon life on campus.

Happily, that has not been our experience. The culture of collegiality, which is so fundamental to the ethos of the Law School and the quality of the education it provides, has survived – with a Law Library which continues to be filled with familiar faces.

Excellence

The third element I would mention is a desire for excellence.

When we look back at the early graduating classes of this Law School, it is something of a surprise to see how few first-class degrees were awarded. They were awarded to Sir Harry Gibbs, Sir Walter Campbell, Justices Bill Pincus and Glen Williams – and very few others.

Even in the 1980s, when constitutional law was taught by Professors Lumb and Ryan, there were many years when no student's paper was considered worthy of a High Distinction.

This rather tough approach reflected the long-standing object of this Law School – which was to produce graduates of the highest standard, who were properly equipped to deal with matters of the most challenging kind.

Whilst the strictness of this approach may have moderated, this standard of excellence – in the work of both the academic staff and students – remains one of the defining characteristics of this Law School. For those sitting exams, these standards may be daunting. But as graduates of this Law School, you now hold a degree which is justly recognised, across the common law world, as being of international standing.

Relationship With Legal Community

The fourth element of the Law School's culture concerns its relationship with the wider legal community.

FEATURE

During its first 30 years, the Law School only had between one and six full time academic staff. This was only possible because the Law School did not see itself as an institution which was isolated from legal practice, but rather as one which was intimately connected into the work of the courts and the profession.

As a result, the teaching load was spread over a large cohort of supplementary staff of Judges and practising lawyers, who conducted classes in their chambers or offices.

This staff was of the highest calibre, included four future Chief Justices of Queensland. Through this approach, a close relationship was founded from the outset between the Law School, the Judges and the profession.

And despite occasional setbacks, this relationship has continued to flourish – to the benefit of the legal system as a whole.

It has resulted in leading members of the Law School's academic staff being appointed to judicial office – including Justices Bruce McPherson, Paul Finn, Kevin Ryan, Margaret White and more recently Sarah Derrington.

It has also resulted in key members of the profession contributing to the Law School's academic programme – through formal teaching and writing, as well as through the mooting and other co-curricular programmes.

Connection with Alumni

Which leads me to the final element of Law School's culture, which is the enduring connection which exists with its alumni community.

No doubt there are some of our graduates who regard their relationship with the University as simply transactional – and so a relationship which simply comes to an end at the point of their graduation.

But in my experience, that has never been the norm. For most graduates, their relationship with the Law School is one of enduring importance.

In part, it is built upon the personal relationships which exist between each graduate and their circle of friends and mentors from Law School.

It is also an expanding relationship, as we continue to come across others from the alumni community with whom we find a sense of rapport.

But more fundamentally it is a feeling of gratitude and respect for the Law School as an institution – and our wish, as graduates, to help it maintain its standards, values, culture and traditions into the future.

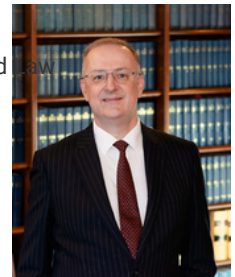
Conclusion

Your group has all already played an important part in maintaining these standards and traditions by your efforts and achievements to date.

I thank you all for this important contribution and wish you well for your future.

John McKenna KC

President | University of Queensland
Alumni Association



UQLA Events

In 2023 the UQLA was pleased to be able to once again invite its members to several networking and social events.

Fifth and Sixth Annual UQLA Breakfasts - 2022 and 2023

Under the leadership of UQLA director Georgina Morgan, the UQLA hosted its Fifth and Sixth Annual UQLA Breakfasts in 2022 and 2023.

The UQLA was delighted to have the CEO of Tritium, Jane Hunter, as our guest speaker for 2022 breakfast. Over a delicious breakfast at the Brisbane Club, UQLA Members heard of Ms Hunter's memories of attending university and of UQ Law, and enjoyed hearing her stories from working at the High Court of Australia. Our members had the rare opportunity to hear of the exciting details of Ms Hunter's work at Tritium, including meeting the President of the United States.

For the 2023 breakfast, the UQLA had the privilege of having novelist and lawyer Joanna Jenkins as guest speaker. Joanna provided an engaging and entertaining address reflecting on her time at UQ and her transition from commercial law to professional writing. Joanna's address is featured later in this edition of Nota Bene.

Sixth Annual Pat Donovan Dinner – August 2023

For several years now, the UQLA has organised a dinner to farewell UQ law alumni who are preparing to embark upon postgraduate study overseas – and to offer those alumni some advice from those who have previously undertaken such a course of study in previous years. The dinner is named in honour of Francis Patrick (Pat) Donovan (1922-2012), the first UQ law graduate to take this path. He graduated from the University of Queensland in 1946 with a Bachelor of Laws and became the Law School's first Rhodes Scholar (Oxford).

In 2023, our the UQ law alumni leaving for overseas study who were able to attend were: Susanna Connolly (Cambridge), Edward Watson (Cambridge), Jessica Downing-Ide (Cambridge), Angus Fraser (Cambridge), Dale Buckley (Cambridge), Milana Masters (UCL) and Priam Rangiah (Oxford).





The Macrossan Lecture 2023

On 30 March 2023, the Macrossan Lectures were relaunched with a lecture by the Hon Hugh Fraser KC in the Banco Court of the Supreme Court in Brisbane.

The lecture series was named in honour of John Murtagh Macrossan (1833-91), a Queensland Parliamentarian who died whilst representing Queensland, with Sir Samuel Griffith, at the 1891 federation convention in Sydney. Four of his children became practising lawyers, including two Chief Justices of Queensland. One of these sons (Neal Macrossan), with his father-in-law TC Beirne, became instrumental in the establishment of the Law School at the University of Queensland.

In 1925, the Macrossan family founded this lecture series with a substantial donation to the University of Queensland. This foundation supported a series of annual lectures from 1928 to 1993, with many lectures being given by notable legal figures (including Latham CJ, Evatt J and Windeyer J of the High Court of Australia).

Hugh Fraser KC is not only a distinguished former member of the Queensland Court of Appeal and UQ Law Alumnus, but is also a grandson of Chief Justice Neal Macrossan. He was thus the obvious choice of speaker to relaunch this lecture series. The evening was also an occasion for the wider Macrossan and Fraser family to attend, in numbers, to show their support.

The lecture was intriguingly entitled “How to Interpret a Generally Expressed Constitutional Guarantee: The example of the Tasmanian Lobster Case”. The focus of the lecture was upon the chequered history of attempts to construe the generally-expressed language of section 92 of the Constitution (freedom of interstate trade and commerce), culminating in the decision in *Cole v Whitfield* (1988) 165 CLR 360.

At a time when public interest was again turning to the Australian Constitution, in advance of the referendum on a proposed indigenous Voice to Parliament, the lecture provided an informative case-study of the challenges presented by any task of constitutional drafting and interpretation.

The lecture may be viewed at <https://law.uq.edu.au/events/macrossan-lecture-series>.

In early 2024, the next Macrossan Lecture will be given by the Hon Geoffrey Davies AO – another distinguished former member of the Queensland Court of Appeal and UQ Law Alumnus.

All members of the UQLA are cordially invited to attend, with details to be provided in the new year.

Macrossan Lecture 2023

The Macrossan Lecture with guest speaker Hon Hugh Fraser KC at the Banco Court on 30 March 2023





Address by Joanna Jenkins at the Sixth Annual UQLA Breakfast

I arrived at UQ in 1982 fresh from Nambour High School. I wanted to be a writer, but enrolled in a Law Degree with a double major in English Literature. Just in case.

UQ was paradise.

It was beautiful. The river curving around the expanse of green; the hushed sandstone of Great Court; the jacarandas.

And it was awash with books. The Duhig library was filled with the literary canon and, armed with only a student card, I was free to demolish it, one book at a time.

I lived on campus, at The Women's College. The only people in our bend of the river who weren't aged between seventeen and twenty were academics and mature age students.

It was very easy to avoid them. If, for example, one hadn't done the required reading for a tutorial, one could just not go.

I regret to inform you I led a dual life, very little of it devoted to the study of law. Without tutorials, I had eight to ten contact hours a week.

I worked my way through the Duhig library by day, and by night – well – there was always some festering to be done, which usually involved at least six people and some truly terrible coffee (International Roast) or even worse wine, which came out of a cardboard box.

So how did that turn out? Not so well.

I got every mark it was possible to get without failing: which is to say I got every mark from a seven to a three (not sure what it is now but then it was a conceded pass). (I should point out in my defence, it wasn't all bad. There were quite a few sevens, and only one three. The marks rose with the effluxion of time.)

Above: Joanna Jenkins (Credit: Helen from Rhubarb Photograph, commissioned and styled by The Women's College for their alumnae magazine Freda).

These days, with that blight on my academic record, my prospects would have been bleak. But I was lucky. Queensland's economy was booming and there weren't many law graduates.

I had a job interview at Chambers McNab Tully and Wilson, now called Corrs. One of the partners asked me the question I feared most, "why did you get a three for contract?"

How was I to answer that? Invent a tale of woe? Another firm had already offered me a job so I wasn't as nervous as I should have been. And I was a solid country girl who had been brought up to tell the truth so I said, "Because I drank too much in first year."

I got a job offer the next day.

I knew nothing about law firms. I accepted Corrs because they had Friday night drinks, and the other firm made you pay for twenty cents for a teabag.

In retrospect, I appreciate that was sound reasoning. What kind of firm makes you pay for a teabag?

It was after I started articles that the law fell into place. I realized that when a client comes to you, they don't say, "There was a rotting snail in my ginger beer which made me sick. From what date was it certain I had a cause of action?" (Answer: 1932. 26 May.)

Clients come to us with an intractable problem which comes with its own story and difficult characters. They ask, can you solve it? And you have to use the guns in the arsenal to try to fix it for them.

It turned out that the law had this beautiful scaffolding that you could use to solve new problems. That was a revelation. (Okay, Professor Bigwood, I accept that could have learned that earlier if I had gone to tutorials.)

I ended up specializing in contract law, firstly with Brian Ernst, the man who had interviewed me.

It was a game of logic and strategy. And psychology.

The people were fun, some of them anyway. And those that weren't, well, you could write a book about them. I was still going to be a writer when I grew up. It just wasn't clear when that would happen.

Some people are able to have a day job and write novels at night.

I didn't have the head space for that. I found being a partner in a law firm both stressful and completely absorbing.

Also we had three kids. While our parenting style might be termed "benign neglect", we ate with them every night, and afterwards I usually had some work to do.

So what changed? How did I morph from lawyer to writer?

The Tuesday after Easter in 2015, I was riding my bike along a country road at seven in the morning, when a chap known to the locals as Freckle, who was driving an ancient bottle green land cruiser, T-boned me. My hand print was on the bonnet of the land cruiser because I tried to stop it, and I still have the imprint of the nut holding his number plate in my leg.

My arm was broken for a year, until I had a bone graft.

I kept working during that year, but I couldn't cut up my duck at partner's lunches and nobody offered to do it for me.

That made me realize that a job where people called your partners don't see how vulnerable you are – probably because they are so stressed themselves – is no way to spend fourteen hours a day. I needed to get out. So I did.

It was only then that I started writing the book that became *How to Kill a Client*. That was six years ago. It was published in February 2023. I thought it would be easy to get a book published. All you had to do was write it. It isn't.

First you have to think of something to write. I wanted to write about the culture that I worked in: the hubris, the delusion, the misogyny, the greed. But also the good times, and the camaraderie.

I pictured people like you as the readership. I know you're busy, and have to read a lot of dry stuff, so I thought, "I know. I'll kill one of the [Ed: *you can't use that word. The readership are graduates of the University of Queensland Law School. They have sensibilities, particularly about words which start with F. Isn't there a less offensive term you could use?*] less pleasant people. That'll keep them turning the pages."

You have to convince your pals to read it, and give you honest feedback. You have to rewrite it. Again and again.

You have to find an agent and a publisher, and weather the rejections. I had a lot of rejections. Mostly I think it was because I was an oldish privileged woman who was writing crime fiction which wasn't rural noir.

Because the book doesn't just have to be well written. It has to hit the zeitgeist.

I'd given up on this book and was writing something else when a friend of mine who is a journalist introduced me to a third person.

"This is Jo," he said. "She's written a book."

"Is it any good?" the person asked him, while I was standing there.

My friend said, "Any book which starts with the line 'Gavin was a prick' [Ed: do you have to use that word?]

JJ: yes, it's important for the story and my artistic integrity. Also it's true. The manuscript at the time started with that sentence, and those were the words the antagonist used. Ed: Oh alright, but I'll direct the emails to you.

JJ: Please do. I'm always on the lookout for new characters.] deserves to be published in my view".

He had a point. So I pulled it out, tweaked it, sent it off and this time an agent accepted it. After four years of rewriting.

Do I regret that I left being a writer so long? No. I loved being a lawyer – mostly - and all of it, good and bad, gave me something to write about.

And being a writer is a precarious financial existence. The average income for a published writer is \$18,200 a year. Best to have a means to pay for your meals before you launch yourself into that.

Like every episode of the *Brady Bunch*, I'll finish with the morals. There are two.

First, it's never too late to change course. Just don't wait until a Freckle comes along before you do it. Because as my orthopedic surgeon said to me when I was having a moment during that year, "You're lucky you're not dead." And second, as I probably don't need to tell you lot, go to tutorials. You might learn something.



UQLA Scholarships 2023

As outlined in the past two editions of *Nota Bene*, a significant aspect of the UQLA's work over the past few years has been the further development of the UQLA Scholarship Programme.

Since 2020, the generous contributions of UQ alumni has enabled new scholarships for UQ law students to be established, named after a number of distinguished UQ law alumni.

21 UQLA scholarships were offered in 2023. Thanks to the continued generosity of alumni, the UQLA has been able to endow a further ten scholarships over the course of 2023, as compared to 2022.

The new scholarships have, once again, been named after distinguished UQ law alumni.

In this issue, we are delighted to be able to include biographies of a number of these distinguished alumni prepared by friends, colleagues and mentees to celebrate their significant contributions to the community. The remaining profiles will appear in next year's edition.

Brennan Scholarship - Mr Macloud McGhee

Holmes Scholarship - Miss Alice McDonnell

Derrington Scholarship - Miss Bridie Shooter

McMurdo Scholarship - Miss Yvette Kelson

Prentice Scholarship - Miss Jasmine Ou

Gibbs Scholarship - Mr Jamie Mohr

Keane Scholarship - Miss Hannah Gillespie

Story Scholarship - Mr Felipe Florit

Bryce Scholarship - Miss Yasmin Sparks

Williams Scholarship - Miss Kate Moulds

De Jersey Scholarship - Miss Eliza Kingston

Pincus Scholarship - Mr Jacob Madden

Holmes Scholarship - Miss Alice McDonnell

Campbell Scholarship - Mr Callum Smith

Davis Scholarship - Miss Emma Newell

Ryan Scholarship - Miss Ava Ryan

Sofronoff Scholarship - Miss Daisy Thompson

Macrossan/Fraser Scholarship - Miss Joanne Vivian

Callinan Scholarship - Mr Banjo Waring

2023 Scholarship Recipients

White Scholarship - Miss Yuvini Perera

Muir Scholarship - Miss Anthea Drowley



The Callinan Scholarship

The Honourable Ian Callinan AC KC

This biography has been prepared by UQLA Director Christian Jennings KC.

The Honourable Ian D. F. Callinan A.C. is a legend of the national bar, former High Court judge, former commissioner, novelist, playwright, patron of the arts, and keen sportsman. Softly spoken, at the Bar he was known to have a mastery of his brief, as one of the nation's best cross-examiners, and as being seductive in persuasive argument. As a judge, he was known for his intellectual rigour and work ethic, his mammoth dissenting judgments, and his views on the proper respective roles of parliament and the High Court.

Callinan was raised in the Eastern Suburbs of Brisbane, not far from the Gabba Stadium where he spent much time enjoying either playing or watching the cricket. After his secondary education, he worked as a clerk in the Immigration Department before obtaining articles of clerkship with a Brisbane law firm. He studied part-time at the University of Queensland for five years and was conferred a Bachelor of Laws in 1960. He was then the first in his family to complete tertiary education.

Callinan would have read for an Arts degree before taking his Law degree but circumstances required that he become self-supporting. Fortunately, his Law degree required that he study English, Political Science, a foreign language, and (as his Arts subject elective) Philosophy. These non-law subjects opened his eyes to the immensity of what he did not know and, as he has since demonstrated, a thirst to pursue a variety of interests.



Images: The Hon Ian Callinan AC KC in chambers

In 1960, Callinan qualified as a solicitor and later, in 1965, was called to the Bar. He took silk in 1978. Whilst his practice was principally in civil litigation – for which he was in constant demand to appear in cases throughout Australia concerning, inter alia, defamation, trade practices, insurance, constitutional matters, and stamp duty – he was briefed in some of Australia's most high-profile criminal cases, including by the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions in its case against Lionel Murphy, then a Justice of the High Court of Australia, and in extradition proceedings against Christopher Skase. In an article published in the Australian Financial Review in 2007, he was described as "one of the last true giants of the bar nationally".

At the Bar, Callinan held many offices within the profession, including that of President of the Bar Association of Queensland and President of the Australian Bar Association. He is now an Honorary Life Member of each of those Associations and of the New South Wales Bar Association.

Callinan served as Chairman of the Queensland Art Gallery, Queensland TAB, Brisbane Community Arts Centre, Brisbane Civic Art Gallery, Australian Defence Force Academy, and the Griffith University Innocence Project. He was a director of Queensland Coal Resources Ltd from 1989 to 1997, Santos Ltd from 1996 to 1997, and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation from 1996 to 1997. He also lectured in legal ethics at the University of Queensland.

In a ceremony to mark the Centenary of the Bar Association of Queensland, Callinan observed that a barrister appointed to the Bench brings with him or her an ability – brought about through their training, application, specialisation, and forensic experience – to recognise intuitively that a point is a good one or a bad one, that a piece of evidence is admissible or is inadmissible, and that an argument may be much more concisely presented.

And so it was when Callinan was appointed to the High Court of Australia in February 1998. He was then the first appointment from the private Bar since 1976. His judgments, and thereby the Court, were enriched by his wide interests, experience as preeminent silk, and mastery of the English language. He retired from the Court in August 2007.

Thereafter, Callinan has remained active and in high demand. He has been appointed an ad hoc Judge of the International Court of Justice, to conduct numerous inquiries and reviews, and continues to offer his services as an expert, mediator and arbitrator.

In 1997, he was appointed to conduct a Commission of Inquiry into the outbreak of Equine Influenza in Australia and, in 2012, was appointed to conduct a review of the Crime and Misconduct Act 2001 (Qld). In 2013, he was appointed to review the Victorian Parole System and, in 2015, was appointed by the New Zealand government to review claims by David Bain for compensation for wrongful conviction and imprisonment. In 2016, he was appointed to review liquor laws of New South Wales and, in 2018, was appointed to review the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.



Image: Opening Solemn Declaration being delivered by Ian Callinan, Judge ad hoc, on 20 January 2014 ICJ in *Timor-Leste v. Australia*.

Photo credit: UN Photo-ICJ

On legal education, Callinan has expressed his regret that it is no longer necessary to study non-law subjects, particularly a subject on the English language, to qualify for a law degree. He has argued that in the following three respects the study of English is indispensable to those practising law: first, reading the best writers painlessly educates in the best ways to write; secondly, wide reading, including of fiction, informs the reader of facts that could not otherwise be known; and thirdly, the best authors give the reader insight into human behaviour, affairs and frailties, to develop emotional intelligence. Delivering the Archbishop Sir James Duhig Memorial Lecture in 2014, Callinan remarked that “Literature is not just an assemblage of words and stories. It is a gateway to the world of ideas and other places”.

He is the author of many plays and novels, of which some more notable are *The Lawyer* and *the Libertine* (1996) and *The Coroner’s Conscience* (1999).

In 2003, Callinan was appointed a Companion of the Order of Australia for his services to the judiciary and the practice of law, to the arts, and to the community. In 2010, in recognition of his service to the law and the arts, the University of Queensland awarded him a Doctor of Laws (honoris causa).

Christian Jennings KC

Director | University of Queensland Law Alumni Association





The WB Campbell Scholarship

The Honourable Sir Walter Campbell AC QC

This biography has been prepared by UQLA Director Emily McClelland.

Sir Walter Campbell was a distinguished jurist and dedicated public servant, serving as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Queensland, Chancellor of the University of Queensland, and Governor of Queensland.

Sir Walter was born on 4 March 1921 in Burringbar, northern New South Wales and attended high school at Downlands College in Toowoomba, where he was dux and school captain.

Sir Walter started studying Arts and Law at the University of Queensland in 1940 and in 1941 was elected as editor of *Semper Floreat*, the UQ Union student magazine. Sir Campbell then joined the Royal Australian Air Force and served as a pilot from 1941-1946, initially as a flying instructor and later as a flight commander in a Liberator Squadron.

In 1942, Sir Walter married Georgina Pearce, a teacher, and together had three children, Peter, Wallace, and Deborah.

Sir Walter graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (1944), after completing his degree through external study. After the war, he graduated with a Master of Arts in Philosophy (1947) and Bachelor of Laws with first class honours (1948). During his law degree, Sir Walter served as president of the University of Queensland Law Society and participated in the UQ debating team. As UQ Law Society president, he arranged for Sir Owen Dixon to address his fellow students. He also won the Virgil Power Prize for the student showing greatest proficiency in the final two years of the Law degree.



After graduating, Sir Walter maintained a close connection with the University of Queensland, including as special lecturer in law at the University of Queensland (1948-1965), a member of the Board of the Law Faculty until 1976, and as a member of the senate of The University of Queensland (1963-1985). Sir Walter then served as chancellor of the University of Queensland (1977-1985).

CAMPBELL

Sir Walter was also awarded a Doctor of Laws honoris causa in 1980.

On 16 March 1948, Sir Walter was admitted as a barrister of the Supreme Court of Queensland. He practised as a barrister for 19 years in Brisbane, taking silk on 27 October 1960. Sir Walter was a very successful barrister and appeared several times in front of the Privy Council. Sir Walter served as president of the Queensland Bar Association (1965-67), president of the Australian Bar Association (1966-67), and member of the Supreme Court Library Committee (1961-67).

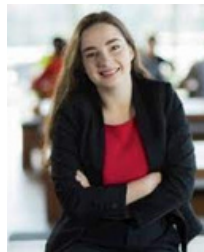
Sir Walter also published articles on legal issues in the Australian Law Journal and the University of Queensland Law Journal.

On 13 July 1967, Sir Walter was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland. He was knighted in 1979 and appointed the fourteenth Chief Justice of Queensland on 18 February 1982. During his tenure on the court, he also served as chairman of the Queensland Law Reform Commission (1969-1973) and deputy chair of the Queensland Theatre Company (1969-1978). He resigned from the court on 7 July 1985 to become Governor of Queensland. During Sir Walter's tenure as Governor, he effectively handled the 1987 constitutional crisis when Premier Joh Bjelke-Petersen refused to resign after losing the support of his party.

He was appointed a Knight of the Order of St John of Jerusalem (1986) and a Companion of the Order of Australia (1989). Sir Walter retired from the office of governor on 28 July 1992 and continued to attend various speaking engagements. Sir Walter Campbell died on 4 September 2004.

Emily McClelland

Director | University of Queensland Law Alumni Association



Above: His Excellency the Governor of Queensland the Honourable Sir Walter Campbell QC pictured at the QEII Jubilee Hospital on 6 January 1991.



The Megan Davis Scholarship

Professor Megan Davis

This biography has been prepared by Professor Anthony Cassamatis AM.

Professor Megan Davis is a proud Cobble Cobble woman of the Barrungam Nation. She grew up in the Aboriginal community in Eagleby, Logan City on Yugumbeh land, where all of her family still reside.

Professor Davis studied at the University of Queensland in the 1990s and was a member of Duchesne College. She graduated from UQ with a Bachelor of Arts in 1997. In her Arts Degree, Professor Davis studied a diverse range of courses that included the history of music, the history of Queensland, Roman history, Latin and French. Professor Davis was awarded her Bachelor of Laws for her studies at the TC Beirne School of Law in 1999. Her law electives at UQ included Public International Law. Following her graduation, Professor Davis travelled to Geneva on a fellowship awarded by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. On her return to Australia, Professor Davis undertook a Masters Degree in Law at ANU, specialising in International Law. Professor Davis then completed her PhD in Law at ANU, supervised by Judge Hilary Charlesworth of the International Court of Justice, when Judge Charlesworth was a Professor at the ANU College of Law and then at REGNET at ANU.

Professor Davis currently holds the Balnaves Chair for Constitutional Law at the University of NSW, and is Pro Vice Chancellor (Indigenous) at UNSW. She is also an Acting Commissioner of the NSW Land and Environment Court and a member of the NSW Sentencing Council.



Professor Davis has extensive experience as an international lawyer at the UN. She has served as an expert member of the UN Human Rights Council's Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, based in Geneva, and served for six years (2011-2016) as an expert and chair of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. As an expert member of the UN Permanent Forum, Professor Davis was the focal point for UN Women and UN AIDS. During this period of UN service, Professor Davis was the Rapporteur of the UN Expert Group Meeting on an Optional Protocol to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2015, the Rapporteur of the UN Expert Group Meeting on Combating violence against Indigenous Women and Girls in 2011, and the UN Rapporteur for the International Expert Group Meeting on Indigenous Youth in 2012. Of particular relevance to her role in relation to the Voice, Professor Davis participated in the drafting of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples from 1999-2004.

DAVIS

Professor Davis is also a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law and a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Social Sciences. She was Director of the Indigenous Law Centre, UNSW Law, from 2006-2016.

Professor Davis' research focuses on constitutional design, democratic theory, and Indigenous Peoples. She has been the leading constitutional lawyer working on Indigenous constitutional reform since 2011. In 2011, Professor Davis was appointed to the Prime Minister's Expert Panel on the Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in the Constitution. In 2015, she was appointed by the Prime Minister to the Referendum Council. As the leading constitutional lawyer for the Uluru Statement, Professor Davis designed the deliberative constitutional dialogue process, which involved 13 regional dialogues and a national convention. This process was a significant response to the exclusion of Indigenous Peoples from the original process that led to the drafting of the Australian Constitution. The process involved engagement through dialogue with over 1200 delegates, who were appointed on behalf of their First Nations, and was the most proportionally significant consultation with Indigenous Peoples ever undertaken (involving broader proportional consultation than that undertaken for the Australian Constitution in the 1890s). The process also involved a 6 month call for public submissions in 2015-2016. This consultation process resulted in the adoption of a framework called "Voice, Treaty, Truth". In the words of the Uluru Statement from the Heart, that was read aloud, on behalf of Australia's Indigenous Peoples, by Professor Davis at Uluru in 2017: "We call for the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution. Makarrata is the culmination of our agenda: the coming together after a struggle. It captures our aspirations for a fair and truthful relationship with the people of Australia and a better future for our children based on justice and self-determination. We seek a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations and truth-telling about our history."

**Professor Anthony
Cassimatis AM**



Professor Davis was named in the 2017 Australian Financial Review annual power list and was awarded the overall winner in 2018's Women of Influence. She was ranked number 7 on the Cultural power list for her work on constitutional reform and delivering the Uluru Statement from the Heart. Professor Davis has also been the 2010 NAIDOC Scholar of the Year, and was one of the Australian Financial Review and Westpac's 100 Women of Influence in Australia in 2013 and 2016. Professor Davis' other awards include: the National Australia Bank/Women's Agenda Inspirational Ambassador Award in 2013; the UQ Alumni Award for services to the UN and constitutional reform in 2014; the 58th ES Meyers Memorial Medal in 2015; the Duchesne College, UQ Acorn Award in 2015; and the United Nations Association of Australia QLD UN Award in 2017. In 2021, Professor Davis was awarded the Degree of Doctor of Laws honoris causa by UQ in recognition of her exceptional achievements in supporting Indigenous Peoples through legal frameworks and advocacy. She delivered the Mabo Orations in 2021 and 2023.

Professor Davis is an Australian Rugby League Commissioner and supports the Queensland Maroons and the North Queensland Cowboys (although she has indicated that she also supports all of the other Queensland NRL teams).

Above: Professor Megan Davis, Aunty Pat Anderson AO and Noel Pearson Credit: Indigenous Law Centre.



The Jackson Scholarship

The Honourable David JS Jackson

This biography has been prepared by UQLA Director James Rigby, one of his Honour's associates.

Justice Jackson is a brilliant lawyer and person.

I speak for all his Associates when I say that his kindness, intellectual rigour and his astute counsel have made their impression on our careers in the law.

Called in 1977, and taking silk in 1990, that astute counsel was honed over a 35 year career at the Bar.

Since his appointment as a Judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland in 2012 – the first to be sworn-in at the Queen Elizabeth II Courts of Law – Justice Jackson has made a significant contribution, including during his tenure on the Commercial List, and as chair of the Queensland Law Reform Commission from 2014 to 2020.

But how to measure a career on the Bench?

Perhaps by volumes of decisions reported. His Honour's Associates know all too well (from receiving the proof copies) how his crisp analysis of issues of procedural and substantive law found favour with the editors and their readers.

Or perhaps by distance covered – in time and place – between the leading authorities his Honour would bring to bear in illuminating the legal issues before the Court. There was no legal issue without precedent if one knew where, and when, to look.

(An alternative measure of distance – that driven by his Associates on regional circuits – might be unduly inflated, with his Honour's navigational directions not proving quite as astute as his Commercial List timetabling directions.)

Whatever the measure, his Honour's contributions as a Judge of this State were rightly described upon his retirement as outstanding.

To his Associates, Justice Jackson was variously a mentor, a leader, an idol and a friend. Judge – and, despite his insistence otherwise, to us I think he will always be known that way – had countless tales of history, politics, law and tea clippers to tell. His Honour had some thoughts on causation and loss of a valuable commercial opportunity – which he would generously share with his Associates, and shared with the profession in the speech by that name in 2017, one of his many contributions towards a greater understanding of the law.

His Honour sought to be a part of his Associates' lives – and more particularly, a part of their online group chat, at one point known as the "Jackson Five" (until his sixth Associate arrived), now the "Jackson Ten". Of course, there were limits even to the powers of a Judge of the Supreme Court.

Although a man of formidable intellect, his Honour's mentorship of his Associates revealed to us his care for people and the profession. His encouragement and support have led his Associates variously to studies at Oxford, their own careers at the Bar and work as solicitors and advocates. It is remarkable, given the well-known rigours of the profession, that all ten of his Honour's Associates remain in it. It is a testament to his example.

It is that example which has led the profession and a group of his Honour's former associates to establish the Jackson Scholarship to, in his name, extend support to students on their way to joining our proud profession.

James Rigby

Director | University of Queensland Law Alumni Association
Editor | *Nota Bene*





The de Jersey Scholarship

The Honourable Paul de Jersey AC CVO KC

This biography has been prepared by UQLA Director Georgina Morgan.

The Honourable Paul de Jersey AC CVO KC's career is best characterised as a lifetime of distinguished service to the people of Queensland. Given this, the UQLA is proud to announce that a new scholarship will be named in Mr de Jersey's honour.

Mr de Jersey was born in Brisbane in 1948, the third son of schoolteacher parents Ronald and Moya de Jersey. He spent much of his childhood in regional Queensland, living at Lowood, Coolabunia, Maryborough, Longreach and Ipswich. He then attended Ithaca Creek State School, before attending high school at the Church of England Grammar School.

Mr de Jersey studied at UQ as a recipient of a Commonwealth Scholarship and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws (with honours) in 1971. 1971 was clearly a momentous year for Mr de Jersey as not only did he graduate from university and join the Bar, but he also married his wife, Kaye, in that same year. Whilst at UQ, Mr de Jersey also served in Queensland University Regiment.

After graduating from UQ, Mr de Jersey practised at the private bar in Queensland. He took silk in 1981, after only a decade in practice. He was known for his leading commercial practice. He appeared before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council and appeared in leading constitutional cases before the High Court of Australia including, but certainly not limited to, cases such as *Koowarta v Bjelke-Peterson* (1982) 153 CLR 168.

In 1985, Mr de Jersey was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland, joining the bench at the very young age of 36 years old. He first served as the Commercial Causes Judge and then sat on the Mental Health Tribunal from 1994 to 1996. He was then appointed the President of the Queensland Industrial Court and was appointed Chief Justice in 1998. Being appointed as Chief Justice at the age of 50, Mr de Jersey was the second youngest person to hold this illustrious position. He served as Chief Justice for 16 years.

The call to serve the people of Queensland came again, and between 2014 and 2021 Mr de Jersey served as the 26th Governor of Queensland. The following year, Mr de Jersey was appointed as a Judge of Appeal of the Kingdom of Tonga.

Since 2000, Mr de Jersey has been a Companion of the Order of Australia and since 2021, a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order. In addition to his degrees from UQ, he holds Honorary Doctorates from USQ (2008) and Griffith University as well as UQ (2000).

Mr de Jersey has often remarked on his great affection for UQ, and has often returned to speak to students on occasions such as Orientation Week and celebrations for the Pro Bono Centre. Mr de Jersey often encourages attendees to foster their interests beyond the legal sphere, and encourages participation in pro bono work. Indeed, at an address to students in their first week of law school in February 2002 he told the crowd to ensure they engage in interests outside the law, stating that the best lawyers are never boring! He lives this advice as evidenced in his work in promoting cancer research and support for victims and their loved ones, and his involvement in community organisations. Mr de Jersey was the vice-president and then the president of the Australian Cancer Society between 1995-2001 and the Chairman of the Queensland Cancer Fund. He was also a member of the Churchie School Council from 1990 to 1997, and is a proud alumnus of Churchie, where he attended from 1961 to 1965. In 2023 he returned to the Churchie School Council to serve as Chairman. He was the Chancellor of the Anglican Diocese of Brisbane from 1991 to 2014 and is now Chancellor Emeritus. Mr de Jersey is also the President of the Episcopal Standards Board of the National Church.

Mr de Jersey has contributed significantly to both the legal profession of Queensland and the community more broadly, and the UQLA is proud to celebrate this distinguished career with the naming of a scholarship in Mr de Jersey's honour.

Georgina Morgan

Director | University of Queensland Law Alumni Association





The Pincus Scholarship

The Honourable Bill Pincus

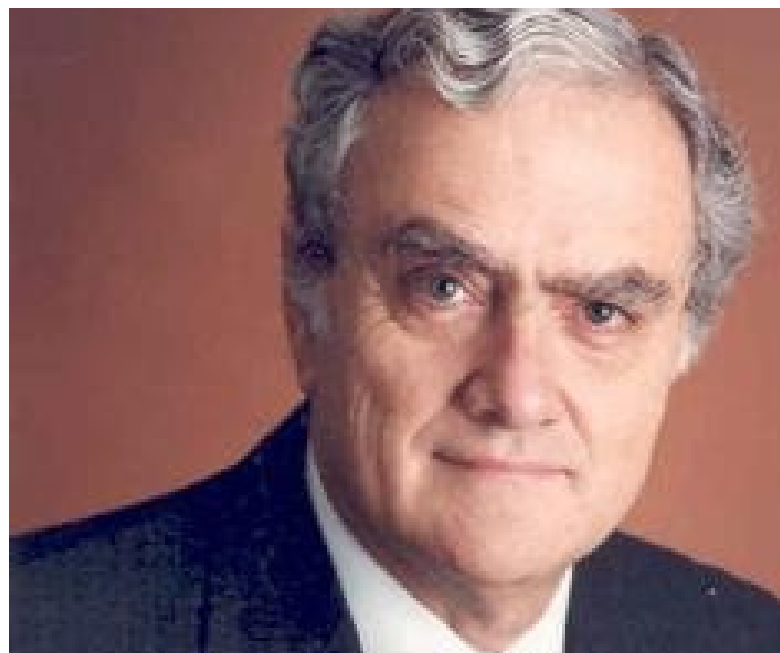
This biography has been prepared by David O'Brien, former associate to Justice Pincus and a former partner of Minter Ellison.

At the valedictory ceremony to mark the retirement of Justice C.W. ("Bill") Pincus from the Queensland Court of Appeal on 2 March 2001, Chief Justice de Jersey said:

"Judicially, Mr Justice Pincus' hallmarks have been his deeply penetrating intellect, and his glaring, his startling honesty - and that embraces an acute perception of reality. Some people have found the combination of those qualities disconcerting. Yet for obvious reasons their existence has been distinctly beneficial to the community... But His Honour's unique judicial legacy rests in his judgments: they display brilliance, and that is unsurprising given the conjunction of that intellect, wisdom and honesty. Their acuity is explained also in no small degree by His Honour's approach during hearings: a master of the Socratic method, he would draw counsel quickly to the point, often uncovering real issues not hitherto perceived."

No one would mind being described as 'brilliant', 'honest' and 'wise', but Pincus JA on the day seemed to be equally accepting of 'glaring', 'startling' and 'Socratic'. These balancing items were also emphasised by the two former colleagues of Bill who gave eulogies at his remembrance ceremony. The balance accurately captures the Judge's nature. However, the intriguing question is why the dissonance, if dissonance there be in the Socratic method?

I had the pleasure of reading a transcript of Chief Justice de Jersey's valedictory remarks to an earlier Chief Justice and Governor, Sir Walter Campbell. Sir Walter was visibly moved by the remarks, and observed of Bill that, "No one strove so hard for justice." And that is the point. Bill did not mind hurting feelings to get at justice. Doubtless those who appeared against Bill, and later before him, found his methods disconcerting. I know I did. But the method of pursuit was not personal, nor flinching. His Honour was always seriously engaged in the point, and consistently therefore welcomed serious push back.



I first came to know of Mr Pincus QC in 1984, my first year as an articulated clerk at Morris, Fletcher & Cross (now Minter Ellison). He was a leading commercial silk at the Queensland bar. I instructed him, and a junior, John Muir, in *Jago v Dainford Ltd*, a case they went on to win in the Federal Court and hold on appeal. In those days it was not hard to discharge your obligation to a client to brief the best barrister available. "Get Bill" was a familiar refrain.

Mr Pincus QC was appointed by the then Commonwealth Attorney-General, Senator Gareth Evans to the Federal Court of Australia and the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory on 23 April 1985, after what Chief Justice de Jersey described as a "dauntingly successful 26-year career at the bar". The Chief Justice of the Federal Court at the time was Sir Nigel Bowen. Both he and Senator Evans regarded this appointment as an achievement.

PINCUS

I was the Judge's associate in his first year as a Judge. Sir Nigel considered it important for a new judge to meet his judicial colleagues, and to visit each courthouse so the local profession could meet with him too. Consequently, much of the year was taken up with interstate travel. During these travels, it became obvious that Bill also had a national reputation. Many of the interstate Judges welcomed him as an old friend who they respected and, with or against whom they had appeared. This impression of a national reputation was reinforced almost every time we flew. Bill would be sought out by federal and state ministers of both major political parties, for many of whom he had acted, and warmly engaged during flights. Bill was also well known to the High Court, before whom he had appeared on numerous occasions prior to being appointed.

During my year as his associate, I saw the characteristics mentioned by Chief Justice de Jersey, and more. For example, Bill had a good sense of humour, including a sense of the ribald. On one visit to Sydney, while Justice Pincus was juggling a full lunch tray across a packed café at the Law Courts building, Justice Beaumont unexpectedly pulled a \$10 note from his pocket and called out, "Bill, have you got two fives for a ten?" Seeing Bill trying not to laugh while juggling a tray in a busy café was memorable.

In 1991, Bill became one of the 4 inaugural Justices of the Queensland Court of Appeal, and our paths began to diverge because of differing commitments. However, upon his retirement Minter Ellison held a dinner for Bill to mark the occasion, and in particular the great service he had done the firm as a barrister. An unusual thing happened at this dinner. Unprompted, Bill sang. In an impressive baritone voice, he sang Ol' Man River, a song made famous by Paul Robeson. Bill had mastered the song, including the twelfth and final verse:

*"Ah, gits weary
An' sick of tryin'
Ah'm tired of living
An' scared of dyin'
But ol' man river
He jes' keeps rollin' along!"*

David O'Brien



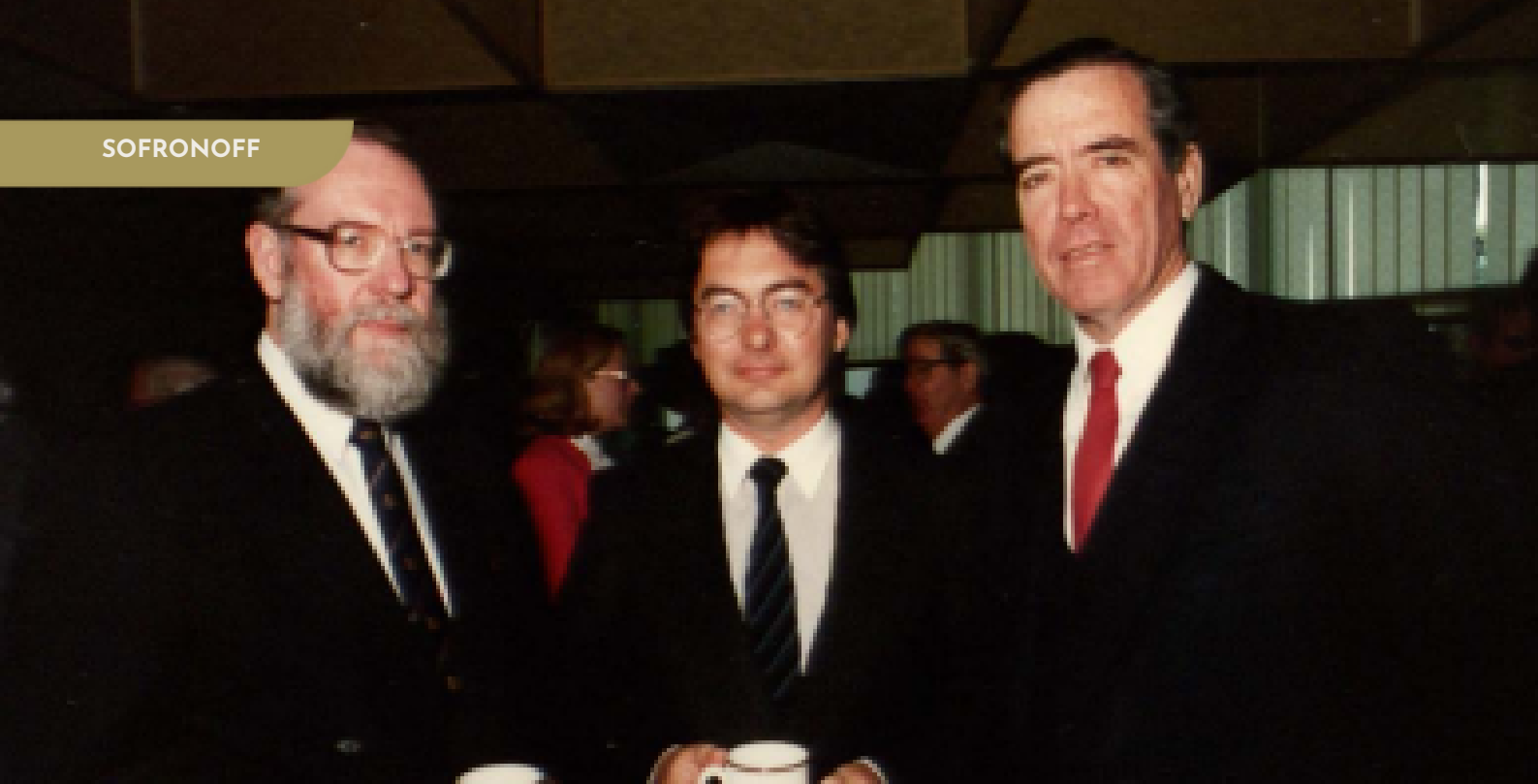
Above: The Hon. C. W. Pincus and Mrs Pincus.

It is appropriate that Bill be honoured and remembered with a scholarship at this Law School. In addition to his distinguished career as a barrister and judge, he here gained a first-class honours degree in law when those were not common, and the Virgil Power Prize (1959). He also taught here (1964-1970) and was a member of the board of the Law Faculty (1967-1981). Even today, he is fondly remembered by academics at the Law School. He regarded education as of foremost importance. Each of his 4 children were educated at UQ, three as lawyers and one as a doctor.

Chief Justice de Jersey finished his remarks by acknowledging Gillian Pincus (nee Stendrup), Bill's wife. The Chief Justice said:

"In wistfully farewelling Mr Justice Pincus from our immediate midst, we also farewell Mrs Gillian Pincus, whose own vast wisdom has no doubt not infrequently informed the Judge's. Her support of her husband has been substantial and warrants our expression of sincere thanks."

Gillian's support, and our thanks, grew in retirement.



The Sofronoff Scholarship

The Honourable Walter Sofronoff KC

This biography has been prepared by Alice Muir, his Honour's last associate prior to his retirement as President of the Queensland Court of Appeal.

Walter Sofronoff KC is widely recognised for his exceptional advocacy skills, numerous professional achievements and his fondness for very fast and very red cars. However, what stands out to me the most about Mr. Sofronoff is his open-minded and inquisitive nature, which extends beyond the legal realm. Despite his impressive four decades at the bar, and slightly over five years on the bench, he consistently seeks out fresh knowledge, perspectives and experiences.

Walter Sofronoff KC is the child of refugees. His father, a Cossack, fled Russia on horseback, and rode into Mongolia in 1930 following the Bolshevik revolution and the encroaching collectivisation of agriculture. He found work as a horse dealer in Shanghai where he met Mr Sofronoff's mother whose family had fled Harbin in Manchuria. When Shanghai was later occupied by the Japanese, Mr Sofronoff's mother and father fled again. First to a refugee camp in the Philippines and then to Australia where Mr Sofronoff was born. In 1956, Mr Sofronoff and his family moved to Hong Kong where his father had accepted a job as a horse trainer.

Mr Sofronoff spoke Russian at home and Cantonese in the playgrounds and streets of Hong Kong. It was only when he began school that he learnt English, which he spoke with an American accent like his peers. In his second year of high school, Mr Sofronoff was sent back to Brisbane to complete his education.



Upon finishing school, Mr Sofronoff admits to having no direction, but like many children of refugees, he felt he had a duty to vindicate the hardships of his parents by getting an education and doing well. For this reason, he followed a school friend and enrolled to study Bachelors of Laws and Arts at the University of Queensland.

Throughout his career he maintained a broad practice, aspiring to be the kind of lawyer to whom any case could be brought. While his initial focus was on criminal law, he soon expanded his expertise to civil, administrative and constitutional law.

Between 1992 and 1996, Mr Sofronoff served as the Vice-President and President of the Bar Association. In 1999, he was appointed President of the Queensland Anti-Discrimination Tribunal. He served as Queensland's Solicitor General from 2005 to 2014. Mr Sofronoff went on to lead several significant inquiries, including the 2015 Grantham Flood Commission of Inquiry and the 2016 Parole System Review.

In 2017, Mr Sofronoff KC was appointed President of the Queensland Court of Appeal. In 2021, Mr Sofronoff was appointed a member of the Anti-Doping Commission of the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile—the governing body of international motorsport—and then a judge of the International Court of Appeal of the FIA.

In my time at the court, I found him to be a very humble, generous man with a deep reverence for the rule of law and an absolute commitment to the legal profession. He seemed to delight in having his preconceived notions about a case being proven wrong by counsel. In hearing applications for leave to appeal by self-represented litigants, Mr Sofronoff took time and care to ensure not only that natural justice was delivered, but that parties felt heard and respected by the court. He even went so far as to shrug off the rules of court etiquette, once allowing a man to bring his pet dog to his hearing and another time telling me, "The authority of the Court of Appeal is not undermined by jeans".



Mr Sofronoff's career and skills at the bar were legendary. The former Justice Kirby describing Mr Sofronoff's opening statement in landmark *Wik* case called it a: "powerful, indeed electric moment". Despite this, Mr Sofronoff espoused to me a belief that a barrister's success in advocacy is dependant not on oration or rhetoric but rather effort and technical application of craft.

Mr Sofronoff KC retired from the Queensland Court of Appeal in May of 2022, but he did not retire from the law. He was quickly appointed to conduct The Commission of Inquiry into Forensic DNA Testing in Queensland and, subsequently, The ACT Board of Inquiry Into the Trial of *R v Lehrmann*.

A scholarship in Mr Sofronoff's name benefitting those students facing financial difficulties is particularly appropriate. Australia's legal profession is enriched and made fairer when students from all backgrounds have access to legal education. There is no more cogent example of this than Mr Sofronoff, whose parents were twice refugees, and who grew up speaking English as his third language. This scholarship will assist students to find their passion for the law, as Mr Sofronoff did, and will hopefully make it easier for students who will form the next generation of dedicated and consummate legal professionals.



Alice Muir





The Macrossan Fraser Scholarship

The Honourable Hugh Fraser KC

This biography has been prepared by Marissa Chesher, one of Justice Fraser's former associates.

The Macrossan family has a long history of service and dedication to the legal profession in Queensland. The first Justice Macrossan, Hugh Denis Macrossan (1881 – 1940) was a graduate of the University of Sydney. He spent three years as a teacher before going to the Bar, a practice he developed alongside his political aspirations. He became a Judge of the Supreme Court (1926) and then later the Chief Justice of Queensland (1940).

His younger brother, Neal William Macrossan (1889 – 1955) was one of Queensland's first Rhodes Scholars and he subsequently graduated from the University of Oxford (Magdalen College). At the Bar, he developed a strong civil practice. He was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court in 1940, later becoming the Chief Justice of Queensland (1946). Neal Macrossan, with his father-in-law TC Beirne, was instrumental in setting up the Law School at the University of Queensland.

Hugh and Neal Macrossan's brother was Vincent Macrossan, a solicitor who established the firm Macrossan & Co. His son, John Murtagh Macrossan (1930 – 2008) graduated from the University of Queensland and later with a Bachelor of Civil Law from Exeter College, Oxford. He became the third Justice Macrossan of the Supreme Court in 1980 and Chief Justice of Queensland (1989-98). During his time on the bench, John Macrossan delivered many significant judgments and oversaw the creation of the Queensland Court of Appeal.

Despite being a past associate of Justice Hugh Barron Fraser, I was not aware until recently of his family connections to the bench, and especially the three Justices Macrossan. Hugh Fraser is the grandson of Neal Macrossan. He graduated from the University of Queensland, was admitted as a barrister in 1979 while serving as Justice Dunn's associate at the Supreme Court of Queensland.

Above: Justice Fraser, his brother Don Fraser KC and their parents.

Right: Justice Fraser at the time of his appointment to the bench.



He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1992. His practice at the Bar was an incredibly broad ranging commercial litigation practice, with particular expertise in mining and resources cases, which saw him briefed in pivotal cases establishing native title in Australia such as *Mabo*, *Wik* and *Yarmirr*.

Hugh Fraser is Queensland's second longest serving Court of Appeal judge, serving from 2008 to 2022. He was also appointed as the Acting Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Queensland from 1 to 24 July 2015. As a judge, Hugh Fraser was known for his intelligence, courtesy and well-reasoned judgments. I often saw him completely lose track of time while working on a new judgment. Ultimately, this diligence culminated in more than 1800 legal judgments over his 14 years on the Bench.

Personally, Hugh Fraser is known for his sense of humour and equal devotion to his family and friends. He always speaks of his wife Margie, his children and growing number of grandchildren with great love and pride. One of his great joys in retirement has been to spend more time with his family. Similarly, some of my fondest memories of working as his Honour's associate were of seeing the genuine friendships he had with other members of the Court and the Bar. Certain judges were known to disappear for tea in Hugh's chambers. Many of these friendships had been formed while at the Bar but managed to stand the test of time. It was a good reminder of the importance of finding balance and moments of joy in your legal practice.

While Hugh Fraser may not have had the Macrossan name, he shared significant characteristics with his grandfather and the other Justices Macrossan. In particular, their shared desire to give back to the legal community and commitment to public service. They all had long careers on the bench with additional extracurricular public service appointments. John and Neal Macrossan and Hugh Fraser all sat for significant periods on the Supreme Court Library Committee, Hugh Fraser as its chair from 2009 to 2017. John Macrossan and Hugh Fraser also both served on the Bar Association including as President.

Equally, they all had a passion for mentoring younger lawyers and law students. While Hugh Fraser may be disappointed that so few of his past associates have chosen to go to the Bar (although I'm sure he remains hopeful that a few more may change their minds yet), he is proud and actively supportive of all his past associates' careers and was always keen to share his knowledge with them.

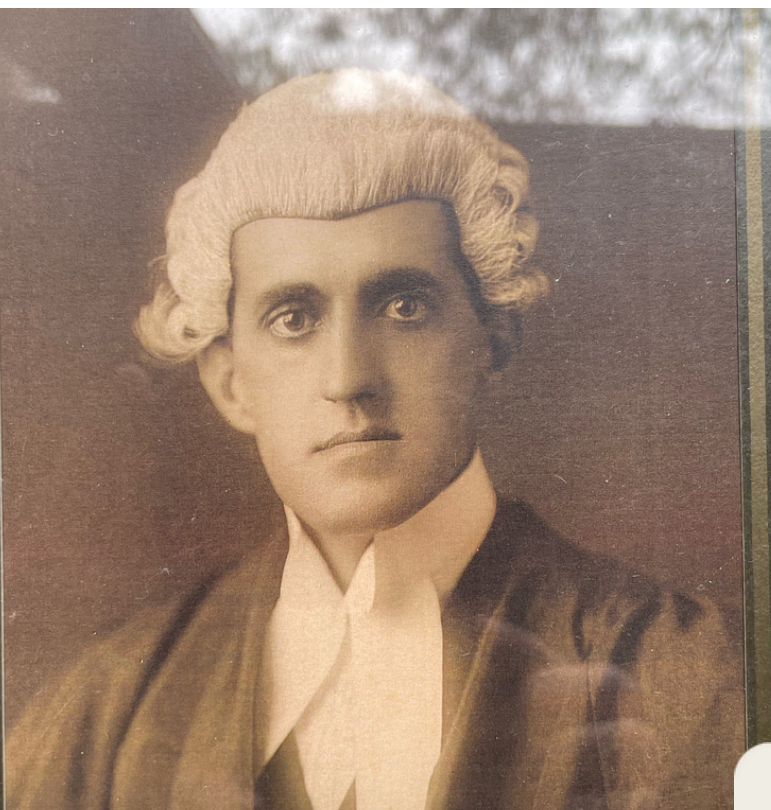
Right: Justice Fraser at the time of being called to the Bar.

Below: Chief Justice Neal Macrossan.



This made the year as his associate an absolute delight. Hugh Fraser has also made significant contributions to the legal development of countless barristers as Chair of the Bar Practice Course Management Committee, as the long term convenor of the ethics session in that course, and as a keen judge and mentor for universities' mooted competitions. With the same commitment to mentoring and education, John Macrossan served as Deputy Chancellor and later Chancellor of Griffith University, becoming an honorary doctor of Griffith University in 2001. He was ultimately recognised for his contribution to law, education and the arts through his appointment as a Companion of the Order of Australia in 1993.

This family dedication to the public service, education and mentorship continues to live on through the Macrossan Lecture Series, which was recently re-commenced by the UQLA, and through the Justices Macrossan's and Justice Fraser's significant marks on the jurisprudence of Australia. It is only fitting that the Fraser-Macrossan legacy will also endure through this scholarship to encourage other young students to pursue a career in law.



Marissa Chesher



Introducing some of our 2023 UQLA Scholarship Recipients



JAMIE MOHR

First year LLB (Hons)/BA student and recipient of a UQLA Scholarship

Tell us about yourself and your studies so far?

I have recently completed the first year of my double degree, Bachelors of Arts/Laws (Honours). At the beginning of this year, I relocated from Townsville to Brisbane to attend UQ, and have found my time at university so far both challenging and highly rewarding. I have met many incredible people, learnt from my very dedicated and inspiring lecturers, and formed strong bonds with my cohort. I have also participated in Junior Mooting, an invaluable experience, and an extended project with the UQ Pro Bono Centre, which I have especially enjoyed, as it has given me the opportunity to put my passion for human rights and community outreach into practice, and contribute to a highly impactful endeavour. In addition to my studies, team sport is an important part of my life, as is staying connected to my friends and family.

What led you to apply to UQ?

In Year 11, I was fortunate enough to be selected to participate in UQ's Young Changemakers Program – an on-campus program that focuses on strengthening participants' academic, leadership, and community engagement capabilities in the context of our global

society – which solidified UQ as the university I was determined to attend. I was excited by the variety of opportunities UQ provides its students, both academic and extra-curricular, and was immediately in awe of not only its impressive architecture, but the culture of excellence UQ fosters. The renown of the UQ Law School was another significant factor which drew me to the university.

What led you to apply for the UQLA Scholarship?

Coming from a single parent family which has continuously experienced financial difficulties, I was very aware that my goal of moving away from home to study at UQ would be challenging to achieve. I knew that seeking financial assistance was vital if I were to be able to complete the transition, and remain focussed on my studies throughout my degree. I was extremely grateful to discover that the UQ Law School is committed to supporting students like myself, and ensuring that financial hardship is not a barrier to accomplishing academic success, or to being fully immersed in all aspects of university life.

What are your plans for your studies, and beyond?

My plans for my studies are simply to ensure that I actively engage with and appreciate every new experience and opportunity which arises during my time at university. I look forward to learning more about each area of law throughout my degree, and discovering more about myself as I navigate where my interests lie – though I am currently particularly eager to develop my knowledge of Human Rights Law. Ultimately, I hope to leave UQ with extended skillset and the tools to be able to create beneficial change in the lives of others, and to embark on a career which I am proud of.



BANJO WARING

Second Year LLB (Hons)/BSc student and recipient of a UQLA Scholarship

Tell us about yourself and your studies so far ?

I have just completed my second year of a Bachelor of Science / Laws (Honours) degree at UQ. I am originally from Alice Springs in the NT, where I did all my schooling and completed a gap year in which I worked as a teacher's assistant at the Alice Springs Steiner School. I have greatly enjoyed my law degree in particular so far. The subjects themselves have been fascinating, while the lecturers are both highly knowledgeable and engaging. Outside of my academics, I have enjoyed playing cricket for UQ, living at St John's College, and playing the cello.

Tell us about yourself and your studies so far ?

I was set on studying law at university, and upon doing a bit of research I quickly discovered the UQ law school's incredible reputation. I had spoken to a couple of friends who were current UQ students, and they had spoken very highly of the campus itself, as well as the programs UQ offered. As if it wasn't enough already, the lure of the Brisbane weather and its surrounding area, beaches and fishing pushed me over the line.

What led you to apply for the UQLA Scholarship?

I applied for the UQLA scholarship for many reasons. Moving from interstate was an expensive affair, and I was keen to try and alleviate that cost if I could. I was also conscious of trying to reduce my working hours, as not only would it let me get the best out of my studies, but also pursue opportunities such as work through the UQ Pro-Bono Centre. This scholarship was an avenue to meet all those ends.

How has the UQLA scholarship impacted your life and studies?

I have been immensely grateful for the generosity of the UQLA, as it has alleviated a great deal of financial stress. Not only it has allowed me to dive fully into my academics, but also promoted opportunities to undertake more sporting activities and attend social events. This scholarship has therefore provided me with the opportunity to have a more well-rounded lifestyle at university, which has greatly assisted my academics.

What are your plans for your studies and beyond?

I still feel I am relatively early in my degree, and I am excited at the prospect at continuing to learn about different areas of the law. The idea of going into environmental law still appeals heavily to me, while the subjects of both contract and tort law have been personal highlights at UQ. I am also currently working as a paralegal, predominantly on criminal cases, which has sparked a heavy interest in criminal law. A common theme between all those areas has been a love of the advocacy side of the profession, and as a result I feel the bar is where I am headed. Outside of my academics, I hope to maintain a well-balanced life, continuing to play both cricket and the cello.

UQ Law Alumni Studying Overseas

In 2023 a significant number of talented young alumni were able to take up places reading for postgraduate degrees at universities abroad.



Jack Baldwin

(2017)

Read for an MSc in Law and Finance at Brasenose College, Oxford, with the support of the Gowrie Patrick Hore-Ruthven Memorial Scholarship and the Rotary Foundation Global Grant Scholarship.



Zoe Brereton

(2018)

Read for the LLM at Pembroke College, Cambridge, with the support of the Fellowship Fund International (Queensland) and Davis McCaughey Scholarship. Zoe will take up pupillage at Matrix Chambers in London in 2024.



Michael Chen

(2019)

Read for the Bachelor of Civil Law at Magdalen College, Oxford.



Milan Gandhi

(2017)

Read for the Master of Public Policy at St Edmund Hall, Oxford, on the John Monash Scholarship. He is continuing his studies with the MSc in Public Policy Research, with the additional support of the Blavatnik School of Government Scholarship.



Jane Hall

(2019)

Read for the LLM at St Edmunds College, Cambridge, with the support of the FFI Barbara Williams Memorial Fellowship.



Anna Kretowicz

(2020)

Read for the Bachelor of Civil Law at St John's College, Oxford, with the support of the Daniel Slifkin Scholarship.



Emma Beckinsale

(2019)

Read for the LLM at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.

Law School News

UQ Law School was named the Grand Champion for the tenth time in The International Maritime Law Arbitration Mooting Competition (IMLAM) in 2023. This year's IMLAM competition was Hosted by Swansea University (and the Institute of International Shipping & Trade Law). The competition this year featured 17 teams from universities in Singapore, Hong Kong, Europe, Australia, India, Iran, Bangladesh, Indonesia, England and Wales. Our team defeated the University of Sydney in the grand final, which was held at Trinity House in London on 6 July. The esteemed panel of judges for the final included Mr Justice Andrew Baker (Admiralty Judge, High Court), Simon Rainey KC (Quadrant Chambers) and Mr Paul Dean (Global Head of Shipping, HFW). Our team were also awarded Highest-ranked Team in the General Rounds, Best Speaker in the General Rounds (William Garske), Highly Commended Speaker in the General Rounds (Lauren Gunther), Best Speaker in the Finals (Lauren Gunther) and Runner-up Best Speaker in the Finals (William Garske). The Grand Champion team consisted of William Garske, Lauren Gunther, Joshua Fukushige, Rupert Hoare, Zoe Goss and Katherine Richards. The team were expertly coached by Jonathan Hohl (UQ Law alumni and 2019 IMLAM Grand Champion), with academic supervision provided by Professor Craig Forrest.



2022 valedictorian and LEAD scholar Michaela Gyasi-Agyei attended the LEAD scholarship's end of semester pizza lunch to impart some wisdom to her peers. Michaela discussed her role as a Lawyer at Corrs Chambers Westgarth in the Corporate/M&A Team, and was eager to answer her fellow scholars' questions about how she balanced her studies and extracurricular activities (including leading peer mentoring study sessions and active participation in UQ's African Students Association), her favourite study techniques and her work experience both during and after university. Michaela was part of the inaugural cohort of LEAD scholars and it has been inspiring to all – scholars and mentors alike - to see her succeeding so brilliantly after graduating. We wish Michaela all the best in what is sure to be an incredible career.


Law School News

The UQ Pro Bono Centre was thrilled to have had the opportunity in April to host its patron The Honourable Justice Peter Applegarth AM for a presentation attending to the importance of issue framing in oral and written submissions. The UQ Law School is immensely thankful to the generosity continually given by its alumni community. Both our teaching and co-curricular programs are indebted to their expertise and collaboration.



Fifth year Law/Arts student, and LEAD Scholarship recipient Sophie James has been based in Singapore for two semesters at the National University of Singapore thanks to receiving the prestigious New Colombo Plan Scholarship.

The Law School is pleased to see Sophie taking advantage of international travel opportunities, and in her breaks, Sophie has managed to visit Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, Malaysia and Vietnam! Next up, Sophie heads to Bangkok for a 3-month internship with the UN Office of Drugs and Crime in the Migrant Smuggling and Human Trafficking division. After that, Sophie says she may head to Indonesia for an intensive language study...or come home, if she starts feeling homesick! Having grown up in Toowoomba, the Law School community are proud to see Sophie taking her UQ law education into the international stage!


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Law School Staff Profile



Dr Dani Linder

Interviewed by UQLA Director William Isdale

What are your primary research interests?

My research interests include law and policy issues that impact Indigenous cultural identity and political participation. Specifically, I examine ways in which ever increasing and disproportionate rates of incarceration of Aboriginal women can further disenfranchise them if they're serving lengthy terms of imprisonment which impacts their political representation in Parliament.

I also consider indigenous voting rights, candidacy representation and institutional representation against international law standards and other Commonwealth jurisdictions like Canada and New Zealand which have similar history and legal systems to Australia. In doing so, I critically evaluate those systems and standards to make recommendations as to what each system, particularly Australia, should do better in terms of adhering to and upholding self-determination rights and political inclusivity of Indigenous people.

How did you come to be interested in these topics?

I have been interested in these topics because of my own identity as a Bundjalung and Kungarykan woman and public lawyer. I have seen firsthand how a lack of political representation of Aboriginal people can contribute to other systemic racism and issues of oppression. I've also seen how my own community thrive when given an opportunity to have a voice and empowerment to speak on and resolve their own community issues instead of non-indigenous bureaucrats with minimal to no contact with, or understanding of, the community and its issues. My background and identity inform who I am as an academic and the research I contribute to.

What has been your career path to date? (e.g. where did you start, how did you make your way to UQ?)

I completed a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree at Griffith University and then completed my Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice (GDLP) through the College of Law. While I studied my LLB I was one of the first Aboriginal cadets to be offered a position in the Australian Federal Police where I worked throughout my studies and a couple years after completion of my LLB and GDLP. I undertook a secondment with the ACT Department of Public Prosecutions and then decided to move to Queensland and work for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service where I ran an office and represented clients out in Roma and Mitchell. I then decided to work for the Australian Taxation Office in Brisbane in the Tax Counsel Network, Energy and Resources team where I'd scrutinise deductions from huge mining companies across Australia.

I then decided to go back to university and obtain my Master of Laws degree at Bond University which specialises in Corporate and Commercial Law and Practice. I then completed my PhD also at Bond University where my thesis was titled 'The Law and Policy of Indigenous Cultural Identity and Political Participation: A Comparative Analysis Between Australia, Canada and New Zealand'. During my PhD studies I was chosen to undertake a Kathleen Fitzpatrick Laureate visiting Fellowship at Melbourne University in Comparative Constitutional Law under the leadership of Professor Adrienne Stone.

Since completing my PhD I have worked as an academic at the University of Newcastle Law School and the University of New South Wales where I was Deputy Director of the Indigenous Law Centre.

William Isdale

Director | University of Queensland Law Alumni Association



PhD Candidate Profile



Rose Foster

Interviewed by UQLA Director William Isdale

What is your PhD research about?

My PhD investigates the legal barriers and opportunities for marine and coastal restoration. This decade has been named the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration, and with climate change impacts beginning to be felt it is now more important than ever to scale up restoration efforts worldwide. Although there is a growing body of research into the scientific, economic and governance side of restoration practice, existing legal arrangements may also be a barrier to undertaking these activities. In the marine coastal zone, which is often legally complex, there has been limited research to date into how the legal arrangements will impact restoration efforts, so my PhD seeks to fill this gap.

What did you do before embarking on a PhD?

I was a research assistant to Justine Bell-James at the law school during my last two years of law school, and I was pretty sure I wanted to continue in research afterwards. Once I graduated, I took up a research position at the Centre for Policy Futures at UQ, where I worked for a year and a half on policy and governance related to reef restoration on the Great Barrier Reef. This was a great chance to expand my knowledge beyond strictly legal issues, but I started to be keen to use my legal training again!

Why did you decide to do a PhD, and did your experience in practice inspire or inform this interest?

My research with Justine and at CPF was the inspiration for my PhD proposal, and my colleagues at CPF and Justine were really supportive of me making the jump to the PhD. There is a clear and urgent imperative to act on climate change, and as part of that, to restore marine coastal ecosystems.

In particular, I saw a chance to use my legal training to bridge the gap between the scientific practice of restoration and the law, which can be inaccessible to those who are not trained in it. I enjoy legal research in environmental law particularly because there are so many opportunities to collaborate with people in other disciplines and have an identifiable impact on projects happening around Australia.

How have you found your PhD experience so far?

I've really enjoyed my PhD so far, especially because the first year gives you a lot of freedom to really broadly research your topic and to direct your own project in line with your interests and what is emerging as important in your discipline. I have an incredible group of supervisors, colleagues and friends around the university who have been really supportive and answered all my questions (assuring me that they weren't "stupid" despite my apprehensions!), which has made all the difference in my first year. It has been a huge learning curve to be directing my own work, having moved from research assistance to my own project, which requires a level of self-confidence in my knowledge that I'm slowly trying to gain!

What are your aspirations after finishing your thesis?

It's hard to know at this stage, and feels a little outrageous to imagine the thesis being complete! Ideally I'd love to stay in academia and continue researching in environmental law. I also had the opportunity to lead seminars in environmental law at UQ this year, which I really enjoyed, so I'd like to continue doing that. Alternatively, I think it'd be a great experience to work for an NGO helping to navigate the legal frameworks for restoration, as there is a real need to support this kind of work from a legal perspective. I've been told by many people that I may be sick of restoration by the end of the thesis though, so maybe I'll need to switch to a different area entirely!

Featured Courses: “Death, the Dead and the Law”

As part of Nota Bene’s aim in informing alumni about what is happening at the Law School, in this edition we feature a unique new LLB elective that has been offered in 2023 – “Death, the Dead and the Law”, which is co-ordinated by Dr Kate Falconer.

In this article, current LLB student Anna Merlo outlines her experience of this interesting new course.

Anna Merlo



In Semester 1, 2023, Dr Kate Falconer was able to offer the course “Death, the Dead & the Law” for the first time. The course was in high demand from its inception, with the enrolment list reaching capacity quickly. When asked about its development, Dr Falconer explained that she contemplated offering the course for a few years, but dedicated herself to designing the course into a form that was able to be offered a year ago: “I spent the second half of last year quite intensely working on developing the course themes and content.”

The course’s weekly topics include the legal status of a corpse, the role of the coroner, disposal of dead bodies and the regulation of (or lack thereof) the funeral industry. While Dr Falconer’s own research is “very focused on particular issues raised by the dead body in law,” the inspiration for the course came from Dr Falconer’s enthusiastic involvement in the field of death studies, and her own academic background in archaeology and law. Dr Falconer said her attendance at various death studies conferences and seminars got her thinking about the fascinating conversations being had by “sociologists, philosophers, anthropologists, historians, and so on that law really hadn’t thought to get involved in.” This course, she says, is an attempt to change that!

Dr Falconer explained, “designing and teaching this course has genuinely been the best experience in my (still somewhat short) career as an academic! One of the advantages of teaching an elective is that you have students who have actively chosen to take the course and are eager to get involved in class. I have so enjoyed and appreciated how engaged everyone has been in class, and how willing they are to get involved in debates and discussions on what I think are hugely interesting topics.”

When asked if there were any courses like hers offered elsewhere, Dr Falconer said that to her knowledge, her elective is “one of only a very small handful of death law courses both in Australia and overseas (and one of an even smaller handful that focus solely on post-death issues, rather than topics like palliative care and voluntary assisted dying). Death does pop up in other courses – like health law, medical law, and succession law – of course, but it is rarely the focus of its own course. A travesty, if you ask me.”

Dr Falconer said her teaching approach for the elective is “informed mostly by my research. I like to teach the material in the way that the material makes sense to me...I really enjoy the process of distilling a huge field of information down to some key points, and then building it back up again to a level that can be played with and rearranged as needed.”

In designing the course, Dr Falconer “wanted students to experience the content as active participants in a discussion, rather than merely as recipients of information.” The area of ‘death law’ is most interesting, says Dr Falconer, because the law is not always clear! She elaborated, “instead we have social norms and practices that might influence behaviour, or at times act as informal laws themselves. You can’t exactly teach a social norm, but you can draw it out through discussion and debate, and then use it to inform more complex conversations about the role of (a particular) law in society, for example.” Within such a unique niche, Dr Falconer’s course blurs the lines between the legal, ethical and sociological, sparking unique and enlightening conversations in class.

Animal death

- Because our pets are our property, we can dispose of them in our will in the same way as any other item of personal property
- It is common for testators to set up trusts for the care and maintenance of their pet, or to make a gift of their pet (often alongside a monetary gift) to a friend or charity
- Less well-documented, however, is will-stipulated euthanasia
 - The NSW Society notes that '[s]ome people prefer their pet be euthanased [sic] on the grounds that they do not wish the animal to suffer grief of separation, re-homing to someone who may not love and care for the pet as they have done, or possibly to an animal shelter'
 - Euthanasia is a 'controversial' but 'popular' option
- In the US, pet euthanasia clauses have been voided on the basis of animal cruelty and because they are contrary to public policy – however these clauses do not appear to have been tested in Australian courts

Dr Falconer also thought carefully about what she wished for her students to get out of the assessment items that form part of the course, and framed them accordingly. She said, "This course is much more about creating convincing arguments that draw on a range of sources, not all of which will be legal, than it is about applying an established set of legal principles to a new set of facts." This included through having students submit several short oral presentations by audio or video file, with the process creating a bank of resources on the course website that allowed students to hear from their peers about a variety of other sources they might not otherwise have encountered. Despite some difficulty in crafting this unique piece of assessment, Dr Falconer said she has "absolutely loved listening to the recordings every week" and has been "so impressed with the quality of the analysis students are putting forward. So well worth the work in my opinion!"

Dr Falconer said this approach allows students to "explore in more detail the topics they have found interesting, and to establish their own connections between the course material and other perspectives that we might not necessarily address in class." Dr Falconer said that students develop their own perspectives on the weekly content, which "improve[s] the quality of the discussion and the level of insight that students bring to that discussion."

The course's development was not without challenges. Dr Falconer said the hardest part in this process was "figuring out ways to teach absences." At times, she explained, the law simply did not cover a particular area, but other disciplines might have. Relating these disciplines back to legal analysis of a particular issue was key. Dr Falconer worked alongside professional learning designers through ITaLI (the Institute for Teaching and Learning Innovation) at UQ in creating this elective, which helped her narrow down her "huge pile of vague ideas and topics and potential assessment tasks," to asking herself one precise question: "what do I want the students to get out of the course – both in terms of the material itself and in terms of practical skills, and how can I structure the course in order to reach those outcomes?"

Another important aspect of 'Death, the Dead and the Law' is how it incorporates professionals in the field through guest lectures, including medical doctors and state coroners. Dr Falconer said, "Honestly, I think sometimes information is best heard coming straight from the source. At the end of the day, if you want to know the process involved in declaring someone to be dead, you should hear from a doctor, and if you want to know what is involved in an autopsy, you should hear from a forensic pathologist." These conversations are also an important reminder that the topics discussed in class affect real people: "Teaching the Coroners Act is one thing, but hearing from a coroner about their experiences conducting real investigations that relate to actual people who have died is a far more effective way to emphasise this point."

Dr Kate Falconer's 'Death, the Dead and the Law' elective has been a huge success in 2023, and it is sincerely hoped the course will continue to be offered to engage students in important, open conversations that cover the legal, philosophical and sociological, to further enrich their studies in law.

Law School News

Academic News

- Andreas Schloenhardt's research on criminal justice systems – here and overseas, and dealing with transnational organised crime is profiled here at the following link: <https://stories.uq.edu.au/news/2023/from-the-godfather-to-bikie-gangs/index.html>
- Drs Radha Ivory, Greg Dale + E/Prof Arie Frieberg received Academy of Social Sciences in Australia (ASSA) funding for their workshop 'Due process or due proceeds? The future of confiscation and related AML laws in Australia'
- Congratulations to Paul Harpur, who was awarded a prestigious ARC Future Fellowship for his project 'Normalising Ability Diversity through Career Transitions: Disability at Work' and Nicholas Aroney an ARC Discovery project for his project titled 'Constituent power in federal constitutions'
- Brad Sherman – appointed Chief Investigator on ARC Centre of Excellence for Plant Success in Nature and Agriculture and the ARC Centre of Excellence in Synthetic Biology (ARC Centre of Excellence administered by Macquarie University)

Recent Book Publications



Parker and Evans's Inside Lawyers' Ethics

Holmes, Vivien and Bartlett, Francesca 4th ed. Cambridge, United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press, 2023



Criminal Law in Queensland

Schloenhardt, Andreas, Lelliott, Joseph, and Tessimann, Carl Sydney, NSW Australia: Thomson Reuters, 2023



Cheshire & Fifoot Law of Contract, 12th Australian edition

Seddon, Nicholas and Bigwood, Rick 12th ed. Chatswood, NSW, Australia: LexisNexis, 2022



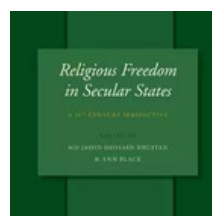
The Law and Practice of Corporate Governance, 2nd edition

Grantham, Ross 2nd ed. Sydney, NSW Australia: LexisNexis, 2022



Medical Biotechnology Innovation in India; a critical analysis

Nadh, P. Omkar Abingdon, Oxon, United Kingdom: Routledge, 2022



Religious Freedom in Secular States

Md Jahid Hossain Bhuiyan and Ann Black ed. In Studies in Religion, Secular Beliefs and Human Rights, Leiden, The Netherlands: Brill Nijhof, 2022



The UQLS President for 2023

Charlotte Traves

The President of the University of Queensland Law Society for 2023 is Charlotte Traves. She was interviewed by UQLA Director Georgina Morgan.

Tell us a bit about yourself:

My name is Charlotte, and I am in my penultimate year of a Bachelor of Arts/Laws (Hons) majoring in international relations and politics. Alongside my study, I work as a paralegal at Herbert Smith Freehills in the Projects, Energy and Infrastructure team. In my spare time, I really enjoy hiking - my favourite hike is the Routeburn Track in New Zealand.

How did you become involved in the UQLS and what made you want to join the UQLS?

I became involved with the UQLS when one of my good friends who was already in the society recommended I apply for the Careers Vice-President position. I wanted to join the association to become more involved with the law school and its people, and to meaningfully give back to the association which I had benefited so much from as a law student.

What are some of the events on the UQLS calendar this year & what has been a highlight so far?

Across our various portfolios, the UQLS hosted more than 20 events in Semester 1, 2023 alone. There are many more exciting events to come in Semester 2, such as the inaugural National Unjust Enrichment Moot, the Reconciliation Breakfast, the Law Revue production, Law Dinner and the Sir Harry Gibbs lecture.

The highlight of the year for me has been witnessing a resurgence in student eagerness to participate in the UQLS and develop new initiatives for members' benefit, and a reciprocal eagerness from the members to attend these events following what was a couple of quiet years during COVID-19.

What were your goals for the UQLS in 2023?

My goal for the UQLS this year was to ensure that the association was inclusive and unified on an internal and external level, was able to respond effectively to the broader group of students which it represents, and was accessible for all students.

What are you hoping to do after you graduate?

After I graduate, I would be very grateful for the opportunity to spend a year as a judge's associate, complete postgraduate study, and work at a commercial law firm. Eventually, I hope to pursue a career in private international law, or commercial litigation.

If alumni wish to reach out to the UQLS, who should they contact?

If alumni wish to reach out to the UQLS, they can contact myself at 'president@uqls.com'.

(UQLA note: please also feel free to contact the UQLA at secretary@uqla.org.au)



The JATL President for 2023

Cara Rowe

The President of the Justice and the Law Society (JATL) in 2023 is Cara Rowe, who is in her fifth year of studying for the dual degrees of Arts and Laws. She was interviewed by UQLA Director Shane Montgomery.

Could you tell us a bit about yourself and where you are at with your studies?

Of course! My name is Cara and I'm in my fifth year of a Law/Arts with an extended major in Political Science. I currently working and studying full time, but in my spare time I like reading and catching up for coffee with friends.

How did you become involved with JATL, and what made you want to join the association?

I first became involved with JATL five years ago in my first year. One of my friends in an older year invited me to the annual gala, which at the time was raising funds for the environmental office. I made friends with all the execs who were running the society and was keenly interested in the work that JATL did because I think it's important to use the skills we learn in Law School to help vulnerable people in our communities.

What events does JATL have coming up this year?

JATL has a number of career and social justice-related events coming up this year. The most popular event is our annual gala where we raise funds for a non-for-profit legal organisation. This year we are raising funds for the Capital Punishment Justice Project (CPJP) which advocates for people on death row and fights to end this punishment around the world. Additionally, we have a Wigs at the Bar event, where students network with barristers, judges, and associates. We also run a number of casual social events throughout the year, allowing our members to connect with others and enhance the community of the Law School.

In your time with JATL thus far, has there been a 'highlight' event or moment for you?

An event that I found really interesting was our most recent panel on digital privacy and the law. I enjoyed hearing from a range of speakers about this emerging area of the law and ways that the legal profession will have to adapt in the future to bring justice to victims of cyber crime. This panel had a good turnout, so we expect to hold more in future.

What were your goals for JATL this year (either personally or for the society generally)?

I wanted to better engage with the postgraduate law student community because I think that our different perspectives would enhance our Law School experiences. I also wanted to revive the Judge's Associate Seminar because it's a practical event and our members have a lot of interest in applying for associateships.

What are you hoping to do after you graduate?

I still have a few years until I graduate as I had a brief stint of studying part-time while I was the General Secretary of the UQ Student Union. I'm interested in law of political institutions and electoral law, as well as constitutional law and academia - maybe there's some way that I can roll all these things into one!

If alumni wish to reach out to JATL, who should they contact?

If alumni wish to reach out to JATL, they're welcome to contact me at president@jatl.org. We also love meeting professionals at our events - to find out the dates of our events this semester, feel free to shoot me an email or find us on Facebook!

Judicial Announcements

Prepared by UQLA Director Emily McClelland

Appointments



The Honourable Justice David Boddice

Justice David Boddice was appointed to the Queensland Court of Appeal on 10 April 2023 and served as a Judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland from 2 July 2010 to 9 April 2023. Justice Boddice served as an additional Judge of the Mental Health Court from 2011 to 2014 and as President of that Court from 2014 to 2017. Justice Boddice was appointed the Southern Region Judge of the Land Appeal Court in 2020. As a Judge of the Trial Division, Justice Boddice oversaw a number of the court's case management lists including the Criminal List, the Dangerous Prisoners List, the Wills and Estates List, the Supervised Case List and the Self-Represented Litigants List. Justice Boddice was admitted as a barrister in Queensland in 1984 and was appointed Senior Counsel in 2001.

His Honour previously served as a member of the Queensland Anti-Discrimination Tribunal (2006–2009), chair of the Queensland Nursing Tribunal (2007–2009), director (1993–2010) and chairperson (2006–2010) of Barristers' Chambers Limited, junior vice president (2006–2008), senior vice president (2008–2010) of the Medico-Legal Society of Queensland and member of the Continuing Professional Development Committee of the Bar Association of Queensland (2007–2009). Justice Boddice has been the legal patron of the Medico-Legal Society of Queensland since 2014.

Justice Boddice graduated from The University of Queensland with a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) in 1983.



The Honourable Justice Tom Sullivan

Justice Tom Sullivan was appointed to the Supreme Court of Queensland in February 2023. His Honour was called to the Bar in 1995 and took silk as Senior Counsel in 2008. Prior to being appointed to the bench, his Honour was a leading Queensland construction barrister with experience in a broad range of commercial matters.

Justice Sullivan also held the role of President of the Bar Association of Queensland from 2020 to 2022. After graduating from the University of Queensland, his Honour was awarded a University Medal and served as Associate to Justice G.N. Williams. His Honour also obtained a Masters of Laws from Cambridge University, in which he took a first.

Judicial Announcements



His Honour Judge Benedict Power KC

His Honour Judge Benedict Power KC was appointed to the District Court of Queensland in September 2023. His Honour will sit in Ipswich. His Honour was Associate to Justice Dowsett in 1995, admitted as a solicitor in 1997, and called to the Bar in 2004. His Honour took silk in 2021. Prior to being appointed to the bench, Judge Power KC appeared as Counsel Assisting in the Disability Royal Commission and appeared in the Grantham Flood Inquiry, was a Principal Crown Prosecutor for the Mental Health Court Chambers within the Brisbane Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions after serving as Principal Crown Prosecutor for appeals to the Court of Appeal, and spent three years with Legal Aid Queensland.

His Honour obtained a Masters of Science in Criminology and Criminal Law at Oxford University in 2008 and spent 12 months working on a prisoners' rights project with the Legal Aid Society of New York in the early 2000s.

Retirements



The Honourable Justice David Jackson

Justice Jackson retired as a judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland in February 2023 after over ten years on the bench. During Justice Jackson's time on the bench, his Honour was one of two judges responsible for managing the Commercial List for eight years from 2012 to 2020 and was one of two judges managing the Criminal List in 2022. His Honour was admitted as a Barrister in 1977 and was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1990.

His Honour graduated from The University of Queensland with a Bachelor of Laws in 1977. Justice Jackson was a member of the council of the Bar Association of Queensland and a director of the Association (2011–13). His Honour has previously served as a member of the Supreme Court Library Committee (2012) and chaired the Queensland Law Reform Commission between 2014 and 2020. Justice Jackson was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland in 2012.

Judicial Announcements



The Honourable Justice Philip McMurdo

Justice McMurdo was appointed to the Queensland Court of Appeal in November 2015 and retired in April 2023. Justice McMurdo graduated from The University of Queensland with a Bachelor of Commerce (1975) and a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) (1977). His Honour was admitted as a solicitor in 1977 and as a barrister on 4 March 1980. In 1992, Justice McMurdo was appointed Queen's Counsel. His Honour's areas of specialty at the bar included commercial matters, administrative law and intellectual property. His Honour served as a member of the Queensland Bar Council (1998–1999) and as a member of the Supreme Court Library Committee (1998–2003). Justice McMurdo was a part time law lecturer at the Queensland University of Technology (1980–81) and served two terms as a part time member of the Queensland Law Reform Commission (1995–2001).

On 27 February 2003 his Honour was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland. From 2003 until 2007, his Honour was the judge in charge of the Court's Supervised Case List. From 2007 until appointment as a Judge of Appeal, Justice

Justice McMurdo was one of the judges for the Court's Commercial List, sitting also in other civil cases and in criminal cases. Justice McMurdo was a member of the Judges' Building Committee for the design and construction of the Queen Elizabeth II Courts of Law building. Justice McMurdo was the President of the Judicial Conference of Australia for the two years to October 2014 and is a fellow of the Australian Academy of Law. His Honour became the chair of the Supreme Court Library Committee in 2019.

Nota Bene

This edition of *Nota Bene* was published by the University of Queensland Law Alumni Association in 2023.

To find out more about the UQLA or the new scholarship programme, visit our website, <http://www.uqla.org.au>

