

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Output 1.1

Question No. 84

Senator Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 27 May 2008:

Please provide a biography for each member of the appointments panel for the Federal Court of Australia.

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

Biographies for each member of the panel are below. As the panel included the Hon Chief Justice Michael Black AC and, when he was not available, his nominee the Hon Justice Kevin Lindgren, biographies for both Chief Justice Black and Justice Lindgren.

Name: The Hon Sir Francis Gerard BRENNAN AC KBE QC

Present Position: Non-Permanent Judge, Court of Final Appeal of Hong Kong, since 2000

Educational and Professional Qualifications:

Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws, University of Queensland, 1949

Hon. Doctor of Laws, Trinity College Dublin, 1988

Hon. Doctor of Laws, University of Queensland, 1996

Hon. Doctor of Laws, Australian National University, 1996

Hon. Doctor of Letters, University of Central Queensland, 1996

Hon. Doctor of Laws, University of New South Wales, 2005

Hon. Doctor of Laws and Hon. Doctor of the University, University Technology Sydney

Hon. Doctor of Laws, Melbourne University

Hon. Doctor of the University, Griffith University

Admitted, Supreme Court of Queensland, 1951

Appointed Queen's Counsel, Queensland, New South Wales, Northern Territory, Fiji and Papua New Guinea, 1965

Relevant Experience: Sir Gerard was a member of the Australian Law Reform Commission from 1975 to 1977, during which time he became the first President of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, a Judge of the Australian Industrial Court and an Additional Judge of the Supreme Courts of the ACT and NT.

In 1977, Sir Gerard became a foundation Judge of the Federal Court of Australia, before being appointed as a Justice of the High Court of Australia in 1981. In 1995, he was appointed Chief Justice of the High Court, serving in that capacity until his retirement in 1998.

Sir Gerard was created a Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire in March 1981 and a Companion in the Order of Australia in January 1988.

Name: The Hon Justice Jane Hamilton MATHEWS AO

Present Position: Acting Judge, Supreme Court of NSW

Educational and Professional Qualifications:

Bachelor of Laws, University of Sydney, 1962

Hon. Doctor of Laws, University of Sydney, 2000

Hon. Doctor of Laws, University of Wollongong

Relevant Experience: Justice Mathews has held judicial office at both state and Federal levels since 1980.

In 1980 Justice Mathews became the first woman to be appointed a judge of the NSW District Court and held concurrent appointments to the NSW Law Reform Commission, as part time Commissioner (1984-89), and as head of the NSW Equal Opportunity Commission (1985-87). In 1987 Justice Mathews became the first woman to be appointed a judge of the NSW Supreme Court.

In 1994 Justice Mathews was appointed to the bench of the Federal Court of Australia and as President of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and Deputy President of the Native Title Tribunal. In 2001 Justice Mathews resigned from the Federal Court and returned to the NSW Supreme Court as an Acting Judge.

Between 1992 and 1999, Justice Mathews was Deputy Chancellor of the University of New South Wales. She has been President of the International Association of Women Judges and is currently the patron of the Women Lawyers Association of NSW.

In 2005, Justice Mathews was made an Officer of the Order of Australia for service to the judiciary, to the legal profession, to the University of New South Wales, and to music.

Name: The Hon. Chief Justice Michael Eric John BLACK AC

Present Position: Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Australia

Educational and Professional Qualifications:

Bachelor of Laws, University of Melbourne, 1963

Admitted as a legal practitioner, 1964

Appointed Queen's Counsel, Victoria, 1980

Appointed Queen's Counsel, Tasmania, 1984

Relevant Experience: The Hon Michael Black was appointed Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Australia on 1 January 1991. At the time of his appointment, Chief Justice Black held the office of the Defence Force Advocate.

Chief Justice Black has been a member of the Victorian Bar Council, Foundation Chairman of the Victorian Bar's Course of Instruction for New Barristers and a member of the Council of the Leo Cussen Institute for Continuing Legal Education.

In 1998, Chief Justice Black was made a Companion in the Order of Australia for service to the law, to the legal profession and to the judiciary.

Name: Ian Ross GOVEY

Present Position: Deputy Secretary, Civil Justice and Legal Services
Attorney-General's Department

Educational and Professional Qualifications:

Bachelor of Law (Hons), University of Adelaide, 1974

Bachelor of Economics, Australian National University, 1981

Admitted as a legal practitioner, 1975

Relevant Experience: Mr Govey's current position involves responsibility for a diverse range of matters including administrative law, federal courts and tribunals, native title, human rights, family law and related services, inter-country adoption, legal assistance, Indigenous justice, territories, copyright, personal property securities, classification, constitutional policy, international law, legal services to government, and drafting and publication of legislative instruments.

Mr Govey has held a variety of senior positions in the Attorney-General's Department including positions responsible for law reform in corporate, copyright, trade and other areas of commercial law. He has also worked at the Australian Embassy in Washington DC and in the Treasury.

Mr Govey represents the Department on the International Legal Services Advisory Council, on the National Alternative Dispute Resolution Advisory Council, as a Director of the Australian Centre of International Commercial Arbitration and as a member of the Council of the Australian Institute of Judicial Administration. He is also an elected member of the Governing Council of UNIDROIT (International Institute for the Unification of Private Law).

Name: The Hon Justice Kevin Edmund LINDGREN

Present Position: Justice of the Federal Court of Australia

Educational and Professional Qualifications:

Bachelor of Arts, University of New South Wales

Master of Arts, University of Newcastle

Bachelor of Laws, University of London

Doctor of Philosophy, University of Newcastle

Hon. Doctor of Laws, University of Newcastle

Admitted, Solicitor, Supreme Court of New South Wales 1962

Admitted, Barrister, Supreme Court of New South Wales, 1975

Admitted, Barrister and Solicitor, Supreme Court of ACT, 1988

Appointed Queen's Counsel, 1991

Admitted, Barrister and Solicitor, Supreme Court of Victoria, 1993

Admitted, Barrister and Solicitor, Supreme Court of South Australia, 1994

Relevant Experience: Justice Lindgren was appointed to the bench of the Federal Court of Australia in 1994. Prior to his appointment, His Honour practised as Queen's Counsel at the Sydney Bar from 1991 to 1994 and as a Barrister at the Private Bar from 1984 to 1991.

From 1962 to 1969, Justice Lindgren practised as a solicitor. Between 1969 and 1984 he was Lecturer, Senior Lecturer and then Professor of Legal Studies at the University of Newcastle.

Justice Lindgren served as the President of the Copyright Tribunal of Australia from 2000 to 2007. He has also served as a Member of the Board of Directors of the College of Law, from 1995 to 1999, as Chairman of the Education Committee of the NSW Bar Association, from 1994 to 1999 and is a Foundation Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law.

Justice Lindgren has been the author or editor, alone or jointly, of a number of books, articles and papers, particularly on the subject of commercial law.