



## HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA

Public Information Officer

8 October, 2003

### HIGH COURT CENTENARY CONFERENCE

A conference to mark the centenary of the High Court of Australia will be held on Friday and Saturday, October 10 and 11, with an official opening on Thursday, October 9.

The opening, in the Federation Ballroom at the Hyatt Hotel Canberra at 5pm, consists of a short historical film and brief speeches by Chief Justice of Australia Murray Gleeson, Attorney-General Philip Ruddock and Governor-General Major-General Michael Jeffery who will officially open the conference. This will be followed by a cocktail reception in the Great Hall of the High Court at 6.30pm. During the reception, the Federation Guard and the Royal Military College Duntroon Band will perform on the building forecourt.

Conference sessions, also held in the Federation Ballroom, will be divided into two themes: The Court in Australian Society and The Jurisprudence of the Court.

Under the first theme, the conference will explore the Court's first century, its relationship with government and the nation, and the break with the United Kingdom. The second theme will cover indigenous people, criminal law, federalism, torts, contract and commercial law, judicial review of administrative action, human rights, and equity and restitution.

Participants at the conference include Chief Justices from around the world, along with the Chief Justices of Australia's states and territories and the Federal Court and Family Court who will chair conference sessions. Guest speakers include Senior Law Lord and former Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Chief Justice of Canada Beverley McLachlin, Chief Justice of New Zealand Dame Sian Elias, former Chief Justices of Australia Sir Anthony Mason and Sir Gerard Brennan and former Justice Sir Daryl Dawson, Queensland Solicitor-General Pat Keane QC, Federal Court judge Mark Weinberg, Cape York Land Council adviser Noel Pearson and eminent academics from around Australia and from overseas.

Conference sessions and the opening ceremony are open to media. A program is attached.

The Centenary Dinner will be held at the National Museum of Australia on Saturday night. It is not open to media, but the pre-dinner entertainment at 7pm of an Aboriginal dance group on the museum forecourt, fireworks from a barge in Lake Burley Griffin in front of the museum, and a flame-out by an RAAF jet will provide spectacular picture opportunities.

For more information, contact High Court public information officer Fiona Hamilton on (02) 6270 6998, 0414 476 503 or [fhamilton@hcourt.gov.au](mailto:fhamilton@hcourt.gov.au).

## CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Friday, October 10

### *The Court in Australian Society*

9-11am:           **The Vision and the Reality: The Court's First Century**

Chair:             Chief Justice of South Australia John Doyle

Speakers:        Professor Leslie Zines (ANU)  
Dr Helen Irving (University of Sydney)

10-11am:         **The Court, Government and the Nation**

Chair:             Chief Justice of Victoria John Phillips

Speakers:        Professor Brian Galligan (University of Melbourne)  
Professor John Henningham (University of Queensland)

11-11.45am:     Morning tea

11.45-12.45pm: **The Break with the UK and the Internationalisation of the Common Law**

Chair:             Chief Justice of Western Australia David Malcolm

Speakers:        Sir Anthony Mason  
Lord Bingham of Cornhill

12.45-2pm:       Lunch

### *The Jurisprudence of the Court*

2-3pm:           **Indigenous People**

Chair:             Chief Justice of the Northern Territory Brian Martin

Speakers:        Chief Justice of Canada Beverley McLachlin  
Noel Pearson, Adviser, Cape York Land Council and Cape York Partnership

3-3.30pm:        Afternoon tea

3.30-4.30pm:    **Criminal Law and the Criminal Process**

Chair:             Chief Justice of the ACT Terence Higgins

Speakers:        Chief Justice of New Zealand Dame Sian Elias  
Mark Weinberg, judge of the Federal Court

4.30-5.30pm:    **Federalism and Federation**

Chair:             Chief Justice of the Federal Court Michael Black

Saturday, October 11

**The Jurisprudence of the Court (cont)**

9-10am: **Torts**

Chair: Chief Justice of NSW James Spigelman

Speakers: Professor Stephen Todd (University of Canterbury)  
Professor Jane Stapleton (ANU)

10-11am: **Contract and Commercial Law**

Chair: Chief Justice of Tasmania William Cox

Speakers: Professor Tony Duggan (University of Toronto)  
Professor Deborah de Mott (Duke University)

11-11.45am: Morning tea

11.45-12.45pm: **Judicial Review of Administrative Action**

Chair: Chief Justice of Queensland Paul de Jersey

Speakers: Queensland Solicitor-General Pat Keane QC  
Professor Peter Cane (ANU)

12.45-2pm: Lunch

2-3pm: **Human Rights, International Standards and the Protection of Minorities**

Chair: Chief Justice of the Family Court Alistair Nicholson

Speakers: Sir Gerard Brennan  
Professor Hilary Charlesworth (ANU)

3-4pm: **Equity and Restitution**

Chair: Sir Daryl Dawson

Speakers: Dr Joachim Dietrich (ANU)  
Dr Simon Evans (University of Melbourne)

7 for 7.30pm: Centenary Dinner – National Museum of Australia