

CITATION FOR HONORARY DOCTORATE OF LAWS

THE HON JUSTICE MICHAEL DONALD KIRBY AC CMG

Justice Kirby, a Justice of the High Court of Australia since 1996, is an internationally-recognised legal thinker across a broad spectrum of issues, a pioneer particularly in the legal protection of human rights, and a masterly orator and writer on these topics.

Justice Kirby attended the University of Sydney, graduating Bachelor of Arts (1959); Bachelor of Laws (1962); Bachelor of Economics (1966); and Master of Laws (First Class Honours) (1967). From 1964 to 1967 he practised as a Solicitor, Supreme Court of New South Wales; and as a Barrister, Supreme Court of New South Wales, High Court of Australia, Supreme Court, Australian Capital Territory, from 1967 to 1974. In 1974, he was elected a Member of the Bar Council of the New South Wales Bar Association.

In December 1974, he was appointed as Deputy President of the Australian Conciliation and Arbitration Commission, which saw him become the youngest man appointed to federal judicial office in Australia. He held this position for some nine years, concurrently serving as inaugural chairman of the Australian Law Reform Commission from 1975 to 1983.

In 1983, Justice Kirby became a Judge of the Federal Court of Australia. An appointment as President of the New South Wales Court of Appeal followed swiftly in 1984. In 1995, he took up further appointments as President of the Court of Appeal of Solomon Islands and President of the International Commission of Jurists (Geneva). He resigned from the New South Wales Court of Appeal upon his appointment in February 1996 to the position he currently holds on the bench of the High Court of Australia. On three occasions he held the position of Acting Chief Justice of New South Wales (1993-98) and he has twice been Acting Chief Justice of Australia (2007-8).

Justice Kirby has demonstrated tremendous dedication and leadership on the international stage. He has held myriad international and United Nations appointments over the course of his career. A number of these have had a particular focus on the issues surrounding the rights of sexual minorities and HIV prevention in the less developed world. (From 1988 to 1992 he served as Commissioner of the inaugural World Health Organisation Global Mission on AIDS, promoting the rights of HIV/AIDS sufferers against discrimination. In 2001 he chaired the UNAIDS Expert Panel on HIV Testing in UN Peacekeeping Operations and since 2003 he has been a member of the UNAIDS Expert Panel on AIDS and Human Rights.)

A past member of the UNESCO International Bioethics Committee, Justice Kirby is currently Honorary Advisor to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on Issues of Human Rights and Biotechnology, and since 2004 he has been Rapporteur, International Judicial Integrity Group, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. In 2007 he was appointed to the Judicial Reference Group of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and also to the International Advisory Board of the Hague Institute for Internationalisation of Law.

Justice Kirby has held several university appointments and has devoted significant energy and time to students and education over many years. From 1964 to 1969 he was Elected Fellow, Senate, University of Sydney. Prior to becoming Chancellor of Sydney's Macquarie University (a position he held from 1984 to 1993), Justice Kirby was Deputy Chancellor of the University of Newcastle (1978-1983). Since 1983 he has been a member of numerous advisory boards of universities in Australia and overseas. He is frequently called upon as a guest lecturer and regularly puts his support behind student initiatives which seek to further the cause of human rights around the world.

Justice Kirby is the recipient of many honours recognising his outstanding service to the law, learning and the advancement of human rights. These have come both from Australia and abroad and include among others his appointment as a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG) (1983) and as a Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) (1991); Laureate of the UNESCO Prize for Human Rights Education in 1998; honorary degrees from the University of Newcastle, the University of Ulster, James Cook University, Macquarie University, the University of Sydney, the National Law School University (Bangalore, India), Buckingham University, and the University of New South Wales; honorary fellowships from the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia, the Australian Academy of the Humanities, and The Society of Legal Scholars.

In 2008, Justice Kirby was awarded the inaugural Australian Privacy Medal, which recognises outstanding achievement in advancing privacy in Australia. The award paid tribute to Justice Kirby's leadership of the OECD Expert Group on the Protection of Privacy, which saw the development of the 1980 OECD Guidelines on the Protection of Privacy and the Transborder Flows of Personal Data. It also recognised his contribution as chair of the OECD Expert Group on Security of Information Systems, whose work produced the 1992 OECD Guidelines for the Security of Information Systems.

Justice Kirby is also a recipient of the prestigious Australian Human Rights Medal. The then president of the Australian Human Rights Commission, the late Sir Ronald Wilson, described Justice Kirby as "*an extremely warm and caring person who has devoted the major part of his life, both on a professional and private level, to the promotion, recognition and observance of individual rights. His effective advocacy and his integrity have been responsible for influencing many people both here in Australia and on the international scene*".

For outstanding service in the field of law and, in particular, human rights, Justice Michael Donald Kirby is nominated for the degree of Doctor of Laws (honoris causa).