

## **Citation for Doctor of Laws (*honoris causa*)**

### **Allan James Myers AO QC**

Born in Hamilton in 1947, Allan Myers was raised in nearby Dunkeld in Victoria's Western District before receiving his further education at the University of Melbourne as a student of Arts and Law, where he proved an energetic editor of the *Melbourne Law Review* from 1967 to 1969.

Outstanding achievement as a student led to the award of the University of Melbourne Supreme Court Prize in 1969. Allan Myers then completed a Bachelor of Civil Law at the University of Oxford. He was admitted to legal practice in 1971, maintaining his connection to tertiary education with a role as a tutor at the Melbourne Law School, and progressing, in 1972, to an appointment as an assistant professor of law at York University's Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto, Canada. From 1974 to 1988 he lectured in security law and taxation law at the University of Melbourne.

In addition to writing and delivering many articles and papers, Allan Myers was Assistant Editor of the *Australian Taxation Law Review* for more than ten years. His scholarly and teaching activities in Australia, Canada and England have coexisted with a rigorous practice of commercial law. Allan Myers signed the bar roll in 1975 and took silk in 1986. For the past 35 years, Allan Myers has demonstrated his comprehensive and incisive grasp of the commercial realm in the courtroom and boardroom alike. Allan Myers is one of Australia's most highly respected barristers, with broad practice as an arbitrator and mediator. He is admitted in all Australian states and territories, as well as in England and Papua New Guinea.

Personal and professional success have provided Allan Myers with the opportunity to establish himself as a true activist philanthropist, demonstrating his conviction for the positive social impact of the arts and university programs through targeted support of a range of activities, all matching his broad commitment to the discipline and practice of the law, the advancement of the arts, the progress of medical science and equity of access to higher education for the disadvantaged. Allan Myers has provided welcome support to programs ranging from scholarships, research into facial disorders, international research collaborations and the broad support of the mission of Victorian universities.

However, it is the continued application of Allan Myers' dedicated time and expertise to a range of programs reflecting these same convictions that defines the generosity of his nature. He is President of the National Gallery of Victoria's Council of Trustees and a Board Member of the Ian Potter Cultural Trust and the Ian Potter Foundation. He has sustained a vigorous interest in the activities and capacities of the Victorian tertiary education sector, maintaining board memberships of the Alfred Felton Bequest, the Catholic Education Commission, the Monivae College Foundation, the Florey Neuroscience Institutes and the Newman College Council. He is a member of the Oxford University Law Foundation Advisory Council. His support of the relationship between Melbourne and Oxford Law Schools has allowed for the development of joint research projects, conferences of international significance and provided student scholarships.

Allan Myers has been instrumental in establishing and now chairing the Grattan Institute, a high-calibre, non-aligned policy think-tank established to stimulate and progress public debate based on solid empirical evidence. Viewed in conjunction with his commitments to Liberty Victoria and the weighty matters of state considered before the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission, Allan Myers emerges as a lifetime proponent of the social values espoused by a liberal democracy.

Allan Myers was awarded a Centenary Medal in 2003 and in 2007 he was made an Officer of the Order of Australia in recognition of his service to the community through support and sponsorship of a range of educational, Indigenous, heritage and art organisations, to the law, and to business.