

CITATION – DOCTOR OF LAWS (HONORIS CAUSA) THE HONOURABLE KENNETH MADISON HAYNE AC

The Honourable Kenneth Madison Hayne AC was a longstanding Justice of the High Court of Australia and has contributed significantly to the development of Australian law. Throughout his exceptional judicial career he has demonstrated a strong commitment to legal education and maintained a close connection with Melbourne Law School.

Hayne completed a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws (Hons) at the University of Melbourne in 1967. In 1966 Hayne was appointed to the editorial board of the Melbourne University Law Review, and in 1967 was awarded the Melbourne Law School Supreme Court Prize for the highest ranked graduating law student. Hayne was selected as the Rhodes Scholar for Victoria in 1969, and completed a Bachelor of Civil Laws (First Class Hons) at the University of Oxford in 1971.

Hayne joined the Victorian Bar in 1971, and was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1984. Hayne built up an exceptional career as a barrister, appearing in State and federal courts, and focusing on commercial and constitutional matters. On the strength of his work at the Bar, Hayne was appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court of Victoria in 1992. In 1995, he was appointed as a foundation judge of the Victorian Court of Appeal, where he was heavily involved in civil procedure reform in the interests of access to justice and efficient use of court resources. In September 1997, Hayne was appointed to the High Court of Australia, the highest court in the Australian judicial system, which bears responsibility for deciding constitutional matters, and appeals from all Federal, State and territory courts. In his eighteen years on the bench of the High Court, Hayne decided on a wealth of major cases, and contributed inestimably to the development of Australian law. In his judgments, Hayne demonstrated a consistent concern that High Court judgments facilitate the effective functioning of all courts below, and a preference for incremental development of the law. He retired from the High Court in June 2015 when he reached the constitutionally prescribed age limit of 70.

Over the course of his career, Hayne has performed exceptional service not only to the Victorian legal profession and the Australian judicial system, but also to legal education. This contribution was nationally recognised in 2002 when he was awarded the Companion of the General Division of the Order of Australia for 'service to the judiciary, to the law as an outstanding scholar, barrister and jurist, and to the community in the advancement of both legal and general education'. Hayne maintains a strong involvement with legal education and research at the University of Melbourne. He has sat as Chair of the Australian Advisory Board of the Centre for Corporations Law and Securities Regulation since 1996, and has taught a course on statutory interpretation in the Melbourne Law Masters program since 2012. Hayne's contribution to legal education was recognised by the Victorian Bar in 2007 with the establishment of the 'Victorian Bar – Justice Hayne Scholarship', awarded annually to an outstanding Melbourne Law School student in financial need. He continues to give lectures and masterclasses to law students of all levels, and is an active contributor to Australian legal education.