The Changing Face of Judicial Leadership: A Western Australian Perspective

Wednesday 19 October 2016 | 6-7pm followed by refreshments

Robert French was appointed Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia on 1 September 2008. At the time of his appointment he was a Judge of the Federal Court of Australia. He is a graduate of the University of Western Australia in science and law. He was admitted in 1972 and practised as a barrister and solicitor in Western Australia until 1983 when he went to the Independent Bar. He was an associate member of the Trade Practices Commission (now the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission) from 1983 to 1986 and Chancellor of Edith Cowan University from 1991 to 1996. From 1994 to 1998 he was President of the National Native Title Tribunal. At the time of his appointment he was an additional member of the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory and a member of the Supreme Court of Fiji. He was also a Deputy President of the Australian Competition Tribunal and a part time member of the Australian Law Reform Commission. From 2001 to January 2005 he was President of the Australian Association of Constitutional Law. In 2010, he was made a Companion in the Order of Australia and a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia. He is Patron of the Australian Academy of Law and an Honorary Life Member of the Australasian Law Teachers Association.

Venue: The University of Notre Dame Australia
Michael Keating Room (ND42) Cliff Street, Fremantle

RSVP: Pam Meehan on 9433 0741 or email pam.meehan@nd.edu.au

The Honourable David Malcolm Memorial Lecture series was established in 2015 by the School of Law (Fremantle) to honour the late David Malcolm, a former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Western Australia. The annual Memorial Lecture is dedicated to his life and work as an eminent jurist, scholar and legal practitioner as well as the significant contributions he made to the law profession, community and civil society. The annual Memorial Lecture will provide an opportunity to pay tribute to, and celebrate, his enduring legacy.

The lectures presented as part of this series are free of charge and open to members of the School of Law, the University and the general public.
The Honourable David Malcolm was a highly distinguished member of the legal profession. He graduated with an LLB from The University of Western Australia in 1959 and in 1960 he was the Rhodes Scholar for Western Australia. In 1962 he obtained his BCL from Oxford University with first class honours. He was admitted to legal practice in 1964 practising in various areas of law particularly commercial and corporate law, and mining, media, shipping and administrative law.

He was President of the Bar Association of Western Australia from 1982 to 1984 and held the position of Vice-President of the Australian Bar Association in 1984. In 2006 he was awarded the honour of life-member of the Australian Bar Association. During his years of legal practice, he was actively engaged in various organisations including serving as chair of the Town Planning Appeals Tribunal (1979-1986) and the Law Reform Commission (1979-1982).

He was appointed the 12th Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Western Australia in 1988, a position he held and served with distinction until his retirement from the bench in 2006. During his time as Chief Justice he served as patron, vice-patron and trustee of numerous organisations including President of the Scouts Association Board, Trustee for Youth at Fairbridge Inc., Chairman of the Special Airborne Services Trust and Trustee of the Francis Burt Law Education Centre and Museum.

His exemplary professional, civic and community work has been recognised and honoured nationally and internationally. In 1990 he was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of Western Australia and in 1992 he was made a Companion of the Order of Australia. In 1999 he was elected as an Honorary Bencher of Lincoln’s Inn, London. In 2000 he was awarded the Honour of Citizen of the Year in Western Australia in the category of the Professions.

On retirement from the bench in 2006, he was appointed as Professor of Law in the School of Law (Fremantle) at The University of Notre Dame Australia until 2010, and as Adjunct Professor from 2011.