

The Hon. Michael Kirby AC CMG

Chair of the United Nations Human Rights Council's Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2013-14)
Member of the Board of the Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration
Editor-in-Chief *The Laws of Australia*
International Jurist, University Professor and Visiting Fellow
Past Justice of the High Court of Australia (1996-2009)



BIODATA

Birth, education and early career:

- 1939 Born Sydney, Australia. Australian citizen.
- 1951-55 Educated Fort Street Boys' High School, Sydney.
- 1956-68 Educated the University of Sydney, graduating BA (1959); LLB (1962); BEc (1966); LLM (First Class Honours) (1967).
- 1962-63 Elected President of the Students' Representative Council, the University of Sydney (re-elected).
- 1965 President of the Sydney University Union.
- 1965 Elected Honorary Life Member, National Union of Australian University Students.
- 1964-69 Elected Fellow of the Senate, University of Sydney (re-elected).
- 1962-67 Admitted Solicitor, Supreme Court of New South Wales.
- 1967-74 Admitted Barrister, Supreme Court of New South Wales, High Court of Australia, Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory.
- 1974 Elected Member of the Bar Council, Bar Association of NSW.
- 1975 First judicial appointment.

Judicial and legal appointments

- 1975-83 Appointed Deputy President of the Australian Conciliation and Arbitration Commission.
- 1975-84 Appointed inaugural Chairman of the Australian Law Reform Commission. A federal office renewed by the succeeding Australian Government, until 1984 (resigned).
- 1976-84 Member *ex officio* of the inaugural Australian Administrative Review Council.
- 1981-84 Appointed Member of the inaugural Australian Institute of Multicultural Affairs.
- 1983-84 Appointed Judge of the Federal Court of Australia.
- 1984-96 Appointed Judge of the Supreme Court of New South Wales; Judge of Appeal; and President of the New South Wales Court of Appeal.
- 1983-86 Appointed Member of the Executive of the Commonwealth Scientific Industrial and Research Organisation (CSIRO) of Australia.
- 1995-96 Appointed by the Government of Solomon Islands as President of the Court of Appeal of Solomon Islands.
- 1991-1994 Administrator of the State of New South Wales on two occasions.
- 1991-1998 Acting Chief Justice of New South Wales on three occasions.
- 1996-2009 Appointed Justice of the High Court of Australia.
- 2007-2008 Acting Chief Justice of Australia on two occasions.
- 2009 Resigned as Justice of High Court of Australia on 2 February 2009.
- 2009-2010 Elected Councillor, Institute of Arbitrators & Mediators, Australia.
- 2009-2010 Elected President, Institute of Arbitrators & Mediators, Australia.
- 2009 Appointed Board Member, Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration.
- 2009 Appointed General Editor *The Laws of Australia*, published by Thomson Reuters Inc.
- 2009-2012 Trustee of the Constitution Education Fund of Australia (CEFA).

International and United Nations appointments

- 1978-1980 Elected Chairman, OECD Inter-Governmental Expert Group on Trans-border Data Flows and the Protection of Privacy.
- 1983 Appointed by Australian Government Member of the Australian Delegation to the General Conference of UNESCO, Paris.
- 1983-1990 Appointed by Australian Government Member Australian National Commission for UNESCO.
- 1985 Appointed Member of the UNESCO Committee of Counsellors on Human Rights and People's Rights (Paris). Later serving (1991) as Rapporteur and (1989) as Chairman of the Group.
- 1988-1992 Commissioner of the World Health Organisation (WHO) inaugural Global Commission on AIDS.
- 1988-1992 Member, Commonwealth Secretariat, Judicial Colloquia on Domestic Application of International Human Rights Norms of the Bangalore Principles, 1988.
- 1984-1998 Elected Commissioner of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) (Geneva); Member of the Executive Committee (1989-1998); Chair of the Executive Committee (1992-95); President of the ICJ (1995-98).

- 1991 Appointed Member of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Fact-Finding and Conciliation Commission on Freedom of Association and member of three member ILO Inquiry into Freedom of Association in South Africa (1991-92).
- 1991-1992 Chair of OECD Intergovernmental Expert Group on Security of Information Systems.
- 1993-1996 Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General for Human Rights in Cambodia (inaugural appointment).
- 1994 Independent Co-Chairman, Malawi Constitutional Conference (for United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)).
- 1995-2005 Elected Member of the Ethics Committee of the Human Genome Organisation (HUGO).
- 1996-2005 Appointed by UNESCO as Member of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC).
- 1998-2006 Honorary Member, Australian National Commission for UNESCO.
- 2001-2002 Chair, UNAIDS Expert Panel on HIV Testing of United Nations' Peacekeepers.
- 2002-2004 Honorary Adviser to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on issues of Human Rights and Biotechnology.
- 2003- Member, UNAIDS Reference Group on AIDS and Human Rights.
- 2004-2005 Elected Chair of Drafting Group of UNESCO IBC on the *Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights* (adopted by General Conference of UNESCO, 2005).
- 2004- Elected Member and Rapporteur, International Judicial Integrity Group, UNODC (prepared the *Bangalore Guidelines on Judicial Integrity*).
- 2005 Delivered Hamlyn Lectures (*Judicial Activism*), England.
- 2007-2009 Appointed by High Commissioner for Human Rights to Judicial Reference Group of OHCHR.
- 2007- Appointed to International Advisory Board of the Hague Institute for the Internationalisation of Law (HiIL).
- 2009- Elected member of Council, Human Rights Institute, International Bar Association (IBA).
- 2009- Elected Honorary Counsellor, American Society of International Law.
- 2010-2012 Appointed by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as a member of the Global Commission on AIDS & the Law, and as co-chair of the Technical Advisory Group of the Commission.
- 2010-2011 Appointed member of the Eminent Persons Group on the structure of the Commonwealth of Nations.
- 2012-2014 Appointed Commissioner UNAIDS/Lancet Commission of Defeating AIDS and Advancing Global Health.
- 2011 Elected Honorary Member of the Digital Enlightenment Forum, Luxembourg.
- 2013-2014 Appointed Chair of the United Nations Human Rights Council's Commission of Inquiry on Democratic People's Republic of Korea

University appointments

- 1964-69 Elected and re-elected Fellow, Senate, University of Sydney.
- 1977-83 Elected Member of Council, University of Newcastle (NSW); Deputy Chancellor 1978-83.

- 1984-93 Elected and re-elected Chancellor and Member of Council, Macquarie University (Sydney).
- 1983-2010 Member of numerous Advisory Boards of Universities in Australia and overseas. Appointed member of the International Advisory Board of the Cairns Institute of James Cook University.

Honours

- 1977 Awarded the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal, Australia.
- 1981 Elected President, Criminology Section, Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science (ANZAAS).
- 1981 Appointed Senior ANZAC Fellow, New Zealand Government
- 1982 President, Inaugural Law Section, ANZAAS
- 1983 Appointed Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG).
- 1984 Elected Honorary Fellow of the New Zealand Legal Research Foundation.
- 1987-1999 Elected Member and Councillor of Australian Academy of Forensic Sciences and later President of the Academy and Honorary Life Member.
- 1987 Awarded Media Peace Award (Aust).
- 1991 Awarded Australian Human Rights Medal (conferred annually).
- 1991 Appointed Companion of the Order of Australia (AC).
- 1997 National Trust of Australia. Elected Australian National Living Treasure.
- 1998 Laureate, UNESCO Prize for Human Rights Education.
- 1984-2009 Conferred Hon. D.Litt (Newcastle University; Ulster; James Cook University); Hon LLD (Macquarie University, Sydney University, Buckingham University; Ntl LS University, Bangalore (India); Australian National University; University of NSW; Murdoch University; Indiana University, USA; Melbourne University). Hon D Univ (University of South Australia; Southern Cross University; Griffith University).
- 2003 Awarded Centenary Medal (Federation of the Commonwealth of Australia).
- 2003 Awarded Prix Yves Pélicier by the International Academy of Law & Mental Health.
- 2005 Australian Law Awards: Lifetime Achievement Award.
- 2005 Elected Patron of Clarity International (for plain language in legal expression).
- 2006 Elected Honorary Fellow, Academy of Social Sciences in Australia.
- 2006 Elected Honorary Bencher, Inner Temple, London UK.
- 2007 Elected Honorary Fellow, Society of Legal Scholars (UK).
- 2007 Elected Honorary Fellow, Aust. Academy of the Humanities.
- 2008 Awarded Australian Privacy Medal (inaugural award).
- 2008 Named Lectures established by U.N.E., A.N.U. and S.C.U. Universities.
- 2008 Elected Honorary Life Member, Australian Bar Association.
- 2009 Elected Honorary Life Member, New South Wales Bar Association.
- 2009 Appointed Connolly Friend of Jessup International Mooting Competition, Australia.
- 2009 Elected Honorary Member, Law Council of Australia.
- 2009 Appointed Distinguished Visiting Fellow, Australian National Uni.; Visiting Professor, Southern Cross Uni. and UNSW.
- 2009 Appointed Honorary Counselor, American Society of International Law.
- 2009 Melbourne University inaugurates Michael D. Kirby Chair of International Law.

- 2009 Elected Councillor, International Bar Association, Human Rights Institute.
- 2009 Elected Fellow, Institute of Arbitrators and Mediators Australia.
- 2009 Appointed Member of the Board of the Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration.
- 2009 Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, 'Communicator of the Year' (co-winner).
- 2009 Australasian ALB Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Legal Profession.
- 2009 Appointed inaugural Patron of the Castan Centre for Human Rights Law, Monash University.
- 2009 Appointed Honorary Adjunct Professor in the Faculty of Law, University of Tasmania
- 2009 Appointed Honorary Adjunct Professor in the Faculty of Law & Business, Deakin University, Victoria.
- 2009 Elected Honorary Life Member, Law Council of Australia.
- 2009 Conferred Hon. LLD (UTS, Sydney, Bond University, Queensland).
- 2009 Appointed Honorary Adjunct Professor in the Faculty of Law and Business, University of Western Sydney.
- 2009 Appointed Conjoint Professor in the Law School, the University of Newcastle.
- Appointed Honorary Professor of Bond University Law School.
- 2009 Member, University of New South Wales Faculty of Law Advisory Council.
- 2010 Named as winner of the International Privacy Champion Award by Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC), Washington, DC. Conferred at OECD Paris.
- 2010 Accredited Mediator, Institute of Arbitrators & Mediators Australia.
- 2010 Certified Grade 1 Arbitrator, Institute of Arbitrators & Mediators Australia.
- 2010 Appointed Fellow, Australian Academy of Law.
- 2010- Appointed Patron, Castan Centre for Human Rights, Monash University, Melbourne.
- 2010 Monash University, Melbourne inaugurates Michael Kirby Centre for Bioethics.
- 2010 Conferred Hon. LL.D. University of Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- 2010 Named co-winner of the Gruber Justice Prize.
- 2011 Conferred Hon LLD by Victoria University, Victoria, Australia.
- 2011 Named Emeritus Chairman of the Australian Law Reform Commission.
- 2011 Named Co-Patron of Voiceless, Animal Welfare Organisation (with Nobel Laureate John Coetzee, Biologist Dame Jane Goodall and philanthropist, Brian Sherman).
- 2011 Awarded Australian Insurance Law Prize.
- 2011 Conferred Hon. D Univ. La Trobe University (Victoria).
- 2012 Conferred Hon. LLD (Deakin University, Victoria).
- 2012 Winner, Award for Meritorious Service to Public Education, Sydney, NSW.
- 2012- Appointed member, International Advisory Board, Transparency International, Berlin.
- 2013 Conferred Hon. D Univ. (Central Queensland University).
- 2013 Named Patron of the Kirby Institute for Infection and Immunity in Society (UNSW, Australia).
- 2013-2014 Commissioner, UNAIDS/Lancet Commission on Defeating AIDS and Advancing Global Health.

2013-2014 Named as Chair of UN Human Rights Council's Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Member of Board the Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration.

Editor-in-Chief of the *Laws of Australia*.

International Jurist, University Professor and teacher.

Past Justice of the High Court of Australia (1996-2009)

Languages

English.

Some French and German.

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