



Putting the Bite on Legal Education

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Celebration Honours Justice Kirby

And First Alumni Scholars in Law

The Law School hosted a function on the evening of 21 May 1996 to celebrate the appointment of Justice Michael Kirby to the Bench of the High Court of Australia. At the same time, the Law School took the opportunity to introduce and honour the winners of the Faculty's Alumni Scholarships for outstanding entering students.

One of the most distinguished graduates in the history of the University of Sydney, Justice Kirby holds the degrees of Bachelor of Arts (BA), Bachelor of Laws (LLB), Bachelor of Economics (BEc), and Master of Laws (LLM) from this University, and was awarded the Doctor of Laws (LLD, *honoris causa*) earlier this year. However, the Dean, Professor David Weisbrot, observed that there was still a number of Law degrees which Justice Kirby did not hold, such as the Master of Taxation, the Master of Health Law and the Master of Environmental Law, and the Dean expressed the hope that Justice Kirby's days as a student in the Faculty were not yet over.

To commemorate his appointment, Justice Kirby was presented with a framed photographic portrait. The Dean reported that several inscriptions were considered for the portrait, including "High Flyer" and "Frequent Flyer", before the Faculty settled upon "Thoughtful". Last year, Justice William Gummow was presented with a portrait inscribed "Equitable", upon his appointment to the High Court. This newly developed "tradition" owes its origins to a feature article on the judiciary in the *Australian* newspaper several years ago, which was accompanied by pictures of the High Court judges, each subtitled with a one-word epithet. Thus, former Chief Justice Sir Anthony Mason was dubbed "Sociable", Justice Michael McHugh "Punter", and former Justice and current Governor-General Sir William Deane "Intellectual".

Justice Kirby paid tribute to the abiding influence upon his thinking of the late Professor Julius Stone, and acknowledged the welcome presence at the celebration of two of his most important "role models" on the Bench, former Court of Appeal Justice Bob Hope ("Vigilant"), and former Chief Justice of NSW, Sir Laurence Street ("Elegant").

The Dean noted that it was quite appropriate to honour leading students at the same ceremony as Justice

Kirby, given the latter's very strong interest and involvement in legal education, especially at Sydney Law School.

The Alumni Scholarship scheme commenced at the University in 1995, and is funded by donations obtained directly and through the University's Annual Appeal. Applications are considered from students applying for admission to undergraduate programs, and successful applicants receive a scholarship worth \$3000 per annum for the duration of their course. Approximately 40 new Alumni Scholarships are awarded each year. Although the Law School only receives sufficient funds to award one or two scholarships directly, a large number of Combined Law students hold Alumni Scholarships which have been awarded by the Arts, Economics and Science Faculties.

The first Alumni Scholar in Law was Ms Jillian Parkin (ex-North Sydney Girls High School), who was recently selected from among the 30,000 students at the University of Sydney to speak about "the student experience" at the dinner following the Inaugural Lecture by the new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gavin Brown, on 4 September 1996. Jillian is now studying Arts-Law, with a major in German language.

The 1996 Alumni Scholars are Ms Jayne Huckerby (ex-Baulkham Hills High School) and Ms Katrina Sanders (ex-Ravenswood), both of whom finished among the top students in the State on the HSC examinations, with TER scores of 99.95 and 100, respectively. Both Jayne and Katrina are studying first year Arts-Law.



L-R: Justice Michael Kirby, Jillian Parkin, Jayne Huckerby, Katrina Sanders