

AUSTRALIAN LAW JOURNAL  
PEOPLE IN THE LAW

The Hon Justice Michael Kirby AC CMG

In December 1998 it was announced at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, that Justice Michael Kirby, a Justice of the High Court of Australia, had been chosen by an international jury to be the Laureate of the 1998 UNESCO Prize for Human Rights Education. This Prize is awarded every two years, sometimes to individuals and at other times to institutions. Recent winners have included the Czech President, Mr Vaclav Havel, the Arab Institute for Human Rights and the Philippine Commission on Human Rights. Other international awards to Justice Kirby since his appointment to the High Court have included an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from the National Law School University of India and an Honorary Doctorate of Letters from the University of Ulster, in Northern Ireland.

In December 1998, Justice Kirby also celebrated 25 years in judicial office. He reflected on the changes that had occurred in an address to the dinner of the Australian Judicial Conference on the Gold Coast, Queensland in November 1998. He was first appointed a Deputy President of the Australian Conciliation and Arbitration Commission in December 1974 (49 ALJ 43, 503). Since then he has served as Chairman of the Australian Law Reform Commission, as a judge of the Federal Court of Australia, of the New South Wales Court of Appeal, of the Court of Appeal of Solomon Islands and, since 1996, as a Justice of the High Court of Australia.

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GEOFF LINDSAY SC

Commonwealth

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