

AAL/ALRC Seminar:

Public confidence, apprehended bias, and the modern federal judiciary

Tuesday, 2 March 2021

Introductory remarks by the Hon Alan Robertson SC

Welcome to you all to this Australian Academy of Law/Australian Law Reform Commission joint seminar. My name is Alan Robertson, President of the Australian Academy of Law.

I acknowledge the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, on whose lands we are meeting this evening and acknowledge their elders past, present and emerging.

This is, I think, the first occasion on which the AAL and the ALRC have come together to conduct a seminar. The idea for this evening's seminar was put to the Australian Academy of Law by Justice Sarah Derrington, the President of the Australian Law Reform Commission, in December and I accepted straight away. I hope there will be more such joint seminars, on this or other references.

I thank the Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Australia, the Honourable James Allsop AO, for making this splendid courtroom available.

It is my task, at this point, to introduce the chair of tonight's seminar.

Justice Sarah Derrington is a graduate of the University of Queensland, with a BA and an LLB (Hons).

In 1990, she was admitted to the Bar in Queensland and as a barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory, where she commenced practice in the litigation section of Freehills in Canberra.

Subsequently she spent a year in the insurance litigation section of Minter Ellison in Brisbane before commencing part-time practice at the private Bar whilst pursuing her academic career at the University of Queensland.

Her Honour graduated in 1996 with an LLM and in 1999 with a PhD in the field of marine insurance law.

Justice Derrington was appointed Professor of Admiralty Law in 2008.

At the time of her appointment as a judge of the Federal Court and President of the Australian Law Reform Commission in January 2018, Justice Derrington was the Dean of Law at the University of Queensland and a barrister specialised in maritime and shipping law, general commercial law and arbitration.

She has published many learned articles and, with James M Turner QC of the English Bar, has co-authored *The Law and Practice of Admiralty Matters*, now in its second edition (OUP, 2016).

She was elected a Fellow of the Academy of Law in 2009.

By terms of reference dated 11 September 2020, the Attorney-General asked the ALRC to undertake a review of the laws relating to impartiality and bias as they apply to the federal judiciary.

Justice Sarah Derrington.