

WEBINAR

JUDICIAL IMPARTIALITY Q&A: EXPLORING VIEWPOINTS

Monday 19 July 2021, 1:00 PM AEST

Proudly hosted by Monash University Faculty of Law and the Australian Law Reform Commission.

In this webinar, we will discuss views from the bench, the profession, academia, and the community on proposals made and questions raised by the ALRC's Judicial Impartiality Consultation Paper.

This webinar will explore:

- whether there is a need to reform the law and procedure on judicial bias and, if so, the form those reforms should take,
- the ethical rules around judges and lawyers communicating while a trial is ongoing,
- understanding litigant and community perceptions of judicial impartiality, and
- the institutional infrastructure required to best support judicial impartiality and public confidence in it.

Join us for a deeper understanding of the issues and insightful perspectives of those from all sides of the courtroom.

Chair:

The Hon Justice John Middleton, *Part-time Commissioner, ALRC and Judge, Federal Court of Australia*

Panellists:

The Hon Chief Justice William Alstergren, *Chief Justice, Family Court of Australia and Chief Judge, Federal Circuit Court of Australia*

Professor Matthew Groves, *Alfred Deakin Professor, Deakin University*

Nyadol Nyuon, *Chair of Harmony Alliance: Migrant and Refugee Women for Change*

George Selvanera, *Acting Chief Executive Officer, Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service*

Minal Vohra SC, *Barrister, Owen Dixon Chambers East*

Questions for the panel can be submitted on registration, via email (impartiality@alrc.gov.au) or live during the webinar.

REGISTER NOW: www.alrc.gov.au/news/webinar-ji-qa

Find out more about the ALRC Inquiry into Judicial Impartiality: www.alrc.gov.au



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WEBINAR

JUDICIAL IMPARTIALITY Q&A: EXPLORING VIEWPOINTS

CHAIR

The Honourable Justice John Middleton

Part-time Commissioner, Australian Law Reform Commission and Judge, Federal Court of Australia



Justice Middleton is a part-time Commissioner of the ALRC and was first appointed on 28 November 2012. His current term expires on 25 December 2022.

Justice Middleton joined the Federal Court of Australia on 31 July 2006. He was appointed Deputy President of the Australian Competition Tribunal effective from 16 February 2009, and presidential member of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal effective from 24 November 2010.

He graduated from the University of Melbourne as Bachelor of Laws (First Class Honours) and from the University of Oxford as Bachelor of Civil Law (First Class Honours). He was the Winter Williams Scholar (University of Oxford (1976)). He was admitted to practise as a barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court of Victoria in 1976. After serving as Associate to Sir Ninian Stephen, then Justice of the High Court of Australia, he was called to the Bar in 1979 where he practised predominantly in Constitutional and Administrative Law, Resources Law and Commercial Law.

He was appointed one of Her Majesty's Counsel for the State of Victoria in 1991 and subsequently became Chairman of the Victorian Bar Council.

PANELLISTS

The Honourable Chief Justice William Alstergren

Chief Justice, Family Court of Australia and Chief Judge, Federal Circuit Court of Australia



Chief Justice William Alstergren was appointed as Chief Justice of the Family Court of Australia on 10 December 2018. His Honour holds a dual commission as Chief Judge of the Federal Circuit Court of Australia, to which he was appointed on 13 October 2017. His Honour is also the administrative head of the Appeal Division of the Family Court of Australia.

After graduating from Melbourne University in Law (and completing an LLM), Chief Justice Alstergren undertook articles in family law with Kenna Croxford & Co. From 1991 he practiced as a barrister in Melbourne and took Silk in 2012. His Honour was regularly briefed in large and complex commercial, family, industrial and tax trials and appeals in the Federal Court and state superior courts.

He was a member of the Bar Ethics Committee, the founder of the Bar's Pro Bono Duty Barristers Committee and received the Distinguished Pro Bono Service award by the Victorian Chief Justice in 2008. His Honour is a former Chairman of the Victorian Bar. Immediately prior to coming to the Bench, His Honour was the President of the Australian Bar Association.

PANELLISTS

Professor Matthew Groves

Alfred Deakin Professor, Deakin University



Matthew Groves is the Alfred Deakin Professor of Law in the law school of Deakin University. Matthew researches in public law, with a particular focus on fairness in public administration. He has written and edited many books, including Aronson, Groves and Weeks, *Judicial Review of Administrative Action and Government Liability* (6th ed, 2017). Matthew is one of the authors of the Thomson and Reuters looseleaf service *Australian Administrative Law* and is also general editor of the *Australian Journal of Administrative Law*. The next issue of that journal will be a special issue on impartiality, which discusses key issues relevant to the ALRC reference on judicial impartiality.

Nyadol Nyuon

Chair of Harmony Alliance: Migrant and Refugee Women for Change



Nyadol Nyuon is a lawyer, human rights advocate, and Chair of Harmony Alliance: Migrant and Refugee Women for Change. She was born in a refugee camp in Itang, Ethiopia, and raised in Kakuma Refugee camp, Kenya. In 2005, at the age of eighteen, she moved to Australia as a refugee. Since then, Nyadol has completed a Bachelor of Arts from Victoria University and a Juris Doctor from the University of Melbourne. She previously worked as a commercial litigator with Arnold Bloch Leibler. Nyadol is a vocal advocate for, and a regular media commentator on, human rights, equality and non-discrimination.

George Selvanera

Acting Chief Executive Officer, Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service



George Selvanera is the Acting Chief Executive Officer of Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service. George has extensive international experience with roles in the UK, Middle East, Papua New Guinea and with the United Nations. This includes advising on, and driving, legal and policy reform including about children in institutional care, domestic and sexual violence and modernisation of public services, including youth justice, diversion and early intervention services.

Minal Vohra S.C.

Barrister, Owen Dixon Chambers East



Minal is a Victorian barrister specialising in family law. Her practice includes all areas of family law and appeal work.

Minal was the Victorian Bar Representative of the Family Law Section of the Law Council of Australia from 2007 to 2021. She presents widely on family law topics and issues around Australia, and was Chair of the Papers Committee for the LCA's Biannual National Family Law Conference in 2016. She is an accredited Family Law Arbitrator and member of AIFLAM. She is an accredited Advocacy Instructor with the Australian Advocacy Institute and has taught at its advocacy training workshops and assisted with moots and evaluations for the Bar Readers' Course.

Minal is a Victorian Bar Conciliator and a member of the Bar's Continuing Professional Development Committee. She is a member of the Asian Australian Lawyers' Association. She was co-editor of *Australian Family Lawyer*, a journal for family law professionals published through the Law Council of Australia.

Minal took Silk in November 2017.