

**Citation for The Honourable Annabelle Bennett AC SC**  
**Doctor of Laws (*honoris causa*)**

Friday, 21 May 2021 – 1.00pm

Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present The Honourable Annabelle Bennett AC SC to you for admission to the degree of Doctor of Laws (*honoris causa*) in recognition of her exceptional achievements as a lawyer, in the fields of business and education and for her outstanding contribution to the wider community.

Annabelle was born in Sydney and is the daughter of a lawyer. Her father dissuaded her from studying law, and she decided instead to study science at the University of Sydney. She graduated with honours and went on to complete a PhD specialising in cell biology. Despite her father's caution, Annabelle subsequently studied a Bachelor of Laws at the University of New South Wales. Following her graduation, she began practising as a barrister, later focussing on intellectual property law.

On 5 May 2003, Annabelle was appointed as a judge of the Federal Court of Australia. She continued in this role until 2016. During this time, she was an additional Judge of the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory. She then returned to practice, as a consultant Senior Counsel, mediator and arbitrator at 5 Wentworth, now the longest established chambers in Sydney.

Annabelle is currently the Chancellor of Bond University. She also holds numerous other positions, including Chair of the ANSTO Board, Arbitrator of the Court of Arbitration for Sport, part-time President of the Anti-Discrimination Board of NSW, Chair of Gardior Pty Ltd, the trustee of The Infrastructure Fund, a member of the Board of Directors of the Garvan Institute of Medical Research, Chair of the Advisory Group of Judges to the World Intellectual Property Organisation, and a member of the Advisory Board of the Faculty of Law at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, to name just a few.

Her previous positions include Royal Commissioner of the Commission of Inquiry into National Natural Disasters (“the Bushfire Royal Commission”), Chair of Land Services SA, part-time Commissioner of the New South Wales Law Reform Commission investigating the control of digital assets following death or incapacity, President of the Copyright Tribunal of Australia, Presidential Member of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, member of the Review into Religious Freedom in Australia, Chair of the National Health and Medical Research Council, Pro-Chancellor of the Australian National University, Director of the Sydney Children's Hospital Foundation and member of the Administrative Decisions Tribunal of NSW. She was a Pro-Chancellor at the Australian National University from 1998 to 2011. Her interest in biological sciences continued with her involvement as a member of the Genetic Manipulation Advisory Committee, a member of the Biotechnology Consultative Group to the Commonwealth Government and a member of the Gene Patenting Advisory Committee of the Australian Law Reform Commission.

Throughout her career, Annabelle has been the recipient of many awards. Notably, she received the Centenary Medal in 2003 and has been awarded two honorary degrees: Doctor of the University by the Australian National University in July 2011, and Doctor of Laws by the University of New South Wales in June 2016. She was appointed an Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia in 2005 in recognition of her services to the law and to the wider community through her participation in a range of educational, medical, women's and business organisations. This was then upgraded to a Companion in the General Division of the Order of Australia in 2019 in recognition of Annabelle's service to the law, particularly in the field of intellectual property, and in recognition of her contributions to higher education and sports arbitration. She was made a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science in 2020 and is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law.

Annabelle is a distinguished member of her field and her influence has been far-reaching, with involvement in a wide range of matters and a very active presence overseas. Annabelle herself has noted the lack of Australian judges working overseas, and acknowledges that this work gives her an international perspective. Her work overseas has helped to raise the profile of Australian legal services. Despite early discouragement from entering the legal profession as a woman, Annabelle has also been a prominent voice for women in the legal field as a member (and former President) of Chief Executive Women, a member of the Reference Group for the APEC Women Leaders' Network Meeting in 2007 and the Head of Delegation to the APEC Women Leaders' Network Meeting in Peru in 2008.

Annabelle Bennett is an internationally recognised leader in intellectual property law, especially in patents, and has made significant contributions to Australian science through her tireless service on numerous boards and advisory groups. She continues to share her passion and knowledge of the law, teaching and engaging with legal professionals in Australia and overseas.

Chancellor, I present The Honourable Annabelle Bennett AC SC for admission to the degree of Doctor of Laws (*honoris causa*) and invite you to confer the degree upon her.