

Mr Alan Cameron AO

The honorary degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred upon Alan Cameron by the Chancellor, Ms Belinda Hutchinson AM at a Faculty of Law graduation at 2.00pm on 29 May 2018.

Citation

Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present Mr Alan Cameron AO to you for admission to the degree of Doctor of Laws (honoris causa).

Today, Alan is being honoured for his outstanding contribution to law and governance in Australia through his distinguished career spanning more than 40 years in a range of executive and non-executive roles in both private and public sectors.

Alan is a graduate of this University with Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Laws and Master of Laws degrees. As a student he was President both of the SRC and of the University Union.

At the young age of 24, Alan became Principal Solicitor of the New South Wales Aboriginal Legal Service which had just gained funding from the new Whitlam government to honour the promise that no Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person would be unrepresented in court.

He acted as a consultant to the newly formed Australian Law Reform Commission in 1975 on its reference into criminal investigations. Alan then travelled to Indonesia to become a visiting fellow at the University of North Sumatra, before returning to Australia to join the law firm now known as Ashurst Australia (formerly Blake Dawson). He was a partner there for 12 years and served both as Sydney managing partner and then national managing partner.

In 1991, Alan was appointed Commonwealth and Defence Force Ombudsman. He relinquished that position at the end of 1992 to become chairman of the Australian Securities Commission (ASC) and was chairman of the ASC and its successor, the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC), for almost 8 years.

Alan has been a judicial member of the New South Wales Equal Opportunity Tribunal, and a member of the NSW Judicial Commission. He has been Chairman or non-executive director of many companies including the Business Law Section of the Law Council of Australia, Westpac Funds Management, Brookfield Multiplex, and Hastings Funds Management. He has been a regular consultant and advisor on regulatory and corporate matters in Australia and overseas and was until recently chair of the ASX Corporate Governance Council. Alan played a pivotal role in reviews of financial and market regulation in Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan and the United Kingdom and reviewed guidelines on police pursuits for the ACT Government and aspects of federal insurance and income tax assessment laws.

Alan has now returned to law reform as chairman of the NSW Law Reform Commission, an independent body providing expert law reform advice to the NSW Government, and has led the review into the State's guardianship legislation.

Alan was a Fellow of the University of Sydney Senate for 11 years to 2014 and was Deputy Chancellor for 7 of those years. During Alan's tenure in these roles, and as member of some 15 Senate committees, he impressively attended over 300 meetings and presided over 140 graduations in this Great Hall, equating to over 35,000 handshakes with graduating students. His wise counsel and wisdom has undoubtedly helped guide the trajectory of the University.

Alan is also a committed philanthropist. He has been Chair of the Tristan Jepson Memorial Foundation, an organisation dedicated to responding to issues of mental health and wellbeing in the legal profession and was a director of the Public Interest Advocacy Centre and Chair of the Sydney Peace Foundation.

Alan was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for his service to the law, commerce and public administration in 1997 and in 2011 was appointed an Officer in the Order of Australia for distinguished service to business and commerce, particularly through the promotion of regulatory standards, corporate governance and professional ethics to tertiary education and to the community.

Chancellor, I present to you Mr Alan Cameron AO for admission to the degree of Doctor of Laws (honoris causa) and I invite you to confer the degree upon him.