

Justice Iain James Kerr Ross AO

BEc LLm GradDipLaw PhD Sydney MBA Monash – currently Judge of the Federal Court, President of Fair Work Australia (now called Fair Work Commission) and Chair of the Council of Australasian Tribunals, who has made an outstanding contribution in the broad fields of industrial law, industrial relations and law reform, and the breadth of his work is notable with respect to labour and administrative tribunals and to labour conciliation and general mediation

Honorary Doctor of Laws

Conferring ceremony: 11.30am, 23 May 2014 (Law)

Citation

Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present Justice Iain James Kerr Ross AO to you for admission to the degree of Doctor of Laws (honoris causa).

Justice Ross was educated at Caringah High School, Sydney University and Monash University. He graduated from this University with a Bachelor of Economics, in 1981, a Bachelor and Master of Laws in 1983 and 1987 respectively, and as a Doctor of Philosophy in 2001. He graduated from Monash University with a Master of Business Administration in 1993.

Iain was admitted to legal practice in 1983 and was appointed a Vice President of the Australian Industrial Relations Commission in 1994, a position he held for almost 12 years. Between 2006 and 2008 Iain was a partner with Corrs, Chambers and Westgarth.

On 1 November 2007, Iain was appointed as a Judge of the County Court of Victoria and as a Vice President of the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal. On 9 November 2009 Iain was appointed Judge of the Supreme Court of Victoria and from 1 April 2010 to 23 February 2012 he was the President of the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

On 1 March 2012 Iain was appointed a Judge of the Federal Court of Australia and President of Fair Work Australia, now known as the Fair Work Commission.

Iain was awarded a Centenary Medal on 1 January 2000 for service as Vice President of the Australian Industrial Relations Commission and was made an Officer of the Order of Australia on 13 June 2005. The citation reads as follows:-

“For service to industrial relations through contributions to institutional reform particularly the development of a universal superannuation system and enterprise bargaining, and as a teacher and researcher in the field.”

In addition to his service as a tribunal member and a judge, Iain has been active in law reform and in teaching at this University.

Iain was a part-time Commissioner of the NSW Law Reform Commission between 4 March 1998 and 31 December 2001. He was also a member of the Tribunal’s Working Group to the Australian Law Reform Commission’s Review of the Federal Civil Justice System and previously acted as a consultant to the ALRC’s Collective Investments reference.

Iain was a part-time Commissioner of the Victorian Law Reform Commission from August 2003 to May 2010. In that capacity he was a member of the divisions constituted to deal with references relating to workplace privacy; the application of the Uniform Evidence Code in Victoria; the review of the Bail Act and the Civil Justice Review. In October 2006 Iain was appointed Acting Chairperson for an interim period, pending the appointment of a full-time chair in June 2007.

Iain was instrumental in the establishment of an industrial advocacy training course run by the then Australian Centre for Industrial Relations Research and Training (ACIRRT) at this University.

Since 1997, Iain has been a part-time lecturer in the Faculty of Law at the University of Sydney, frequently teaching units in the Master of Laws program. In 2004, he was appointed an Adjunct Associate Professor in Law.

In addition to these activities, Justice Ross was the inaugural Chair of the Mediator Standards board and was the Chair of the Council of Australasian Tribunals from June 2010 to February this year.

In his work with the Council of Australasian Tribunals and as President of both the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal and the Fair Work Commission, Justice Ross has been an active proponent of tribunal excellence. He was instrumental in the development of the International Framework for Tribunal Excellence.

Chancellor, I present scholar and jurist the Honourable Justice Iain Ross AO for admission to the degree of Doctor of Laws (honoris causa) and I invite you to confer the degree upon him.