

## **Symposium in Melbourne on Thursday 8 October 2015**

Some 60 people attended the Victorian event for 2015 on Thursday 8 October 2015. The symposium was held in the Banco Court of the Supreme Court of Victoria and was followed by refreshments in the splendid Library of the Court.

The Hon Stephen Charles QC, Professor Hilary Charlesworth and Mr Doug Porteous spoke on the topic “Undue influence and inappropriate pressure: the critical importance of nurturing and protecting independent organs of government”. Their presentations were followed by an interesting question time.

The Academy is also indebted to the Hon Justice Chris Maxwell AC, President of the Victorian Court of Appeal, for filling in for the Chief Justice on the evening, and to the Hon Justice John Digby and Professor Duncan Bentley for organising the event.

As well, the Academy thanks Chief Justice Marilyn Warren AC for the use of the Banco Court and the Library.

## **Annual General Meeting of the Academy**

Fellows will have already received formal notice of the annual general meeting of the Academy and accompanying documents.

The AGM will be held at 4.30 pm on Tuesday 27 October 2015 in the Conference Room of the Federal Court of Australia, Level 20, Law Courts Building, Queen’s Square, Sydney. Following the AGM, Professor Rosalind Croucher, the President of the Australian Law Reform Commission will give a short talk on “Getting to grips with encroachments

on freedoms in Commonwealth laws—the ALRC Freedoms Inquiry”.

This will be an informal presentation and will be followed or accompanied by refreshments.

Fellows are encouraged to attend, both for the business purposes of the AGM and for what promises to be an interesting and informative discussion to follow.

## **Inaugural Annual Essay Prize**

The Judging Panel has completed its task and settled upon the winning essay and the runner up.

In accordance with the Rules Governing the Annual Essay Prize, the Academy expects to notify all participants by 31 October and to announce the identity of the winner on the Academy’s website by that date.

This is being handled by the Prizes and Scholarships Committee comprising the Justice Alan Robertson, Professor Bee Chen Goh and myself.

On behalf of the Academy I thank the Judging Panel of The Hon Professor William Gummow AC, Professor Gillian Triggs and Mr Russell Miller AM for undertaking the judging task.

## **Remaining State and Territory events for 2015**

The following is the current position regarding State and Territory events planned for the rest of 2015 (see, too, under “Events” on the Academy’s website: [www.academyoflaw.org.au](http://www.academyoflaw.org.au) ).

## *Western Australia*

Wednesday 28 October 2015: Professor Frank S Alexander of Emory Law School, Atlanta, Georgia will speak on homelessness, urban blight and the law at Courtroom 1, Federal Court of Australia, 1 Victoria Avenue, Perth.

Dr Eugene Clark  
Mr Ian Govey AM  
Mr William Madden  
Professor Donald Rothwell  
Professor Joshua Getzler  
Professor Sarah Worthington QC  
Emeritus Professor Sandford Clark  
Professor Richard Bartlett

A flyer for the West Australian event is **annexed** to this Newsletter.



## *Australian Capital Territory*

On Thursday 19 November, Fellows in Canberra will be holding an event in the ACT Supreme Court, 6 Knowles Place, CANBERRA.

Kevin Lindgren  
President  
[kevlindgren@gmail.com](mailto:kevlindgren@gmail.com)  
Tel (02) 9422 2085  
0414 914 827  
20 October 2015

There will be two speakers, Professor Richard Collier, FAcSS, FRSA of Newcastle University, UK, and Professor Margaret Thornton, FASSA, FAAL of The Australian National University.

The topic will be "[Balancing on a Tightrope: Law & Life in Legal Practice](#)".

Attached is a flyer for this event, which all Fellows, in particular, those in the ACT are encouraged to attend.

## **Australian Law Reform Commission – 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

A celebration of the fortieth anniversary of the establishment of the Australian Law Reform Commission will be held in Sydney on Friday 23 October at the Federal Court of Australia at 5.00pm. A flyer for this event is **annexed** to this Newsletter.

## **New Fellows**

On behalf of the Academy and its members I am pleased to extend a warm welcome to the following lawyers who have accepted the Academy's invitation to become Fellows since the last Newsletter:



**'Neighbourhood Stabilization Strategies for  
Vacant and Abandoned Properties'  
by Professor Frank S Alexander**

**Wednesday 28 October 2015**

**5.15 pm**

**Courtroom 1, Federal Court of Australia,  
1 Victoria Avenue, Perth**



The challenge presented to communities by vacant and abandoned properties is a phenomenon the world over. In this presentation Professor Alexander will focus on the particular challenges presented to neighbourhoods and local governments in the US by growing inventories of vacant, abandoned, and foreclosed properties — particularly in older industrial cities as they experienced significant employment and population losses. Since 2007 and the advent of the Global Financial Crisis this challenge became one experienced to some degree by virtually all communities in the US.

**Professor Frank S Alexander**

Understanding the challenge requires an appreciation of the collateral costs of abandonment and an understanding of the legal and policy systems which create incentives for abandonment. The solutions lie in a redesign of such systems in a manner that makes possible the conversion of these properties from liabilities into community assets. While Australia mostly avoided the type of foreclosure crisis experienced in the US, the suggested redesign of the US legal and policy systems in response to the US crisis may possibly offer food for thought in an Australian context

**Frank S. Alexander** is the Sam Nunn Professor of Law at Emory University School of Law and Co-founder and Senior Advisor of the Center for Community Progress. He is the author or editor of eight books and over fifty articles in real estate finance and community redevelopment including *GEORGIA REAL ESTATE FINANCE AND FORECLOSURE LAW 2014-2015* (10th ed., 2014) and *LAND BANKS AND LAND BANKING* (2nd ed 2015). Professor Alexander's work has focused on homelessness and affordable housing, serving as a Fellow of the Carter Center of Emory University (1993-96), and as a Commissioner of the State Housing Trust Fund for the Homeless (1994-1998). He has served as Interim Dean of Emory University School of Law (2005-2006), as Visiting Fellow at the Joint Center for Housing Studies, Harvard University (2007), and has testified before Congress concerning the mortgage foreclosure crisis (2008, 2009). Professor Alexander received his J.D. from Harvard Law School, a Masters in Theological Studies from Harvard Divinity School, and his B.A. from the University of North Carolina.

**RSVP:** [aal@law.anu.edu.au](mailto:aal@law.anu.edu.au) or 02 6125 4178.

This event may count as MCLE/CPD points.



Australian Government

Australian Law Reform Commission

1975-2015

Celebrating 40 years  
of law reform

# The Australian Law Reform Commission

*invites you*

*to celebrate the ALRC's 40th Anniversary with*

*Professor Rosalind Croucher AM, ALRC President*

*The Hon Chief Justice Robert French AC, Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia*

*Senator the Hon George Brandis QC, Attorney-General of Australia*

*and*

*The Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG, former Justice of the High Court &  
Chairman Emeritus of the ALRC*

Friday 23 October 2015

5pm - with formalities from 5.30pm and a  
reception to follow

Ceremonial Court, Federal Court of Australia  
Law Courts Building, Queens Square, Sydney

RSVP by Monday 19 October 2015

Ph: (02) 8238 6304

Email: [tina.obrien@alrc.gov.au](mailto:tina.obrien@alrc.gov.au)

## Balancing on a Tightrope: Law & Life in Legal Practice

Thursday 19 November 2015 5.30–6.30pm (followed by drinks)

ACT Supreme Court 6 Knowles Place, Canberra

**Professor Richard Collier, FAcSS FRSA** Newcastle University, UK

**Professor Margaret Thornton, FASSA FAAL** The Australian National University



'Work/life balance' emerged as the catchcry of the late 20th century and was supplemented by the discourses of 'wellness' and 'happiness' in the 21st century.

This joint presentation will compare and contrast contemporary approaches to work/life balance in the context of UK and Australian law firms. The presentation will examine the tension between the concept and the increased focus on competition. The presentation will consider the implications of rethinking work/life balance and wellbeing in the law for understanding the specific contexts in which professional legal ethics operate and for ideas of legal professionalism itself.



The presentation will draw on interviews with lawyers and legal professionals conducted by the presenters in the UK and Australia.

**Richard Collier** is Professor of Law & Social Theory at Newcastle University, UK. He has published widely in the area of law and gender, with a particular focus on issues surrounding men and masculinities, and his books include: *Men, Law and Gender: Essays on the 'Man' of Law* (Routledge, 2010), *Fragmenting Fatherhood: A Socio-Legal Study* (with Sally Sheldon, Hart, 2008), *Masculinities, Crime and Criminology: Men, Corporeality and the Criminal(ised) Body* (Sage, 1998), *Masculinity, Law and the Family* (Routledge, 1995) and *Fathers' Rights Activism and Law Reform in Comparative Perspective* (edited with Sally Sheldon, Hart, 2007). He is presently conducting research projects on male lawyers, masculinities and work-life balance in law and wellbeing in the legal profession.

**Margaret Thornton** is Professor of Law and ANU Public Policy Fellow at The Australian National University. She has degrees from Sydney, UNSW and Yale, and is a Barrister of the Supreme Court of NSW and a Foundation Fellow and former Director of AAL. Her research interests include the legal profession, legal education, discrimination law and feminist legal theory. She has published extensively in these areas and her books include *Privatising the Public University: The Case of Law* (Routledge, 2012). Her present ARC-funded project is entitled 'Balancing Law and Life' and focuses on law firms. Professor Collier is the International Partner on this project.

**RSVP by Tuesday 17 November 2015:**

W [academyoflaw.org.au/events?id=47](http://academyoflaw.org.au/events?id=47)

E [lisa.ofarrell@anu.edu.au](mailto:lisa.ofarrell@anu.edu.au)

T 02 6125 4124

*This event may count as MCLE/CPD points.*