



The W A Lee Equity Lecture 2002

Banco Court

Thursday 31 October 2002, 6.00pm

Chief Justice's introduction of the Hon William Gummow AC, Justice of the High Court of Australia

The Hon Paul de Jersey AC Chief Justice of Queensland

This annual lecture bears the name of an immensely respected Queensland equity lawyer, and Tony Lee himself delivered the inaugural lecture. His successor last year was the eminent Hubert Picarda QC, and now this evening we are privileged to hear from Justice Gummow. As a jurist towering in all fields, and especially equity, His Honour's reputation well and truly precedes him.

Justice Gummow is a graduate of the University of Sydney, in arts, and in law with first-class honours, later graduating LLM – also with first-class honours. He commenced articles of clerkship at Allen Allen and Hemsley in Sydney in 1963, was admitted as a solicitor three years later, and after another three years, as a partner of the firm. He was called to the Bar in 1976, appointed to the Federal Court of Australia 10 years later, and to the High Court of Australia in 1995. He previously over some three decades lectured part-time at the University of Sydney, in the fields of intellectual property and equity. He is joint author, with R P Meagher and the late J R F Lehane, of *Equity: Doctrines and Remedies*; with J D Hayden and R P Austin he wrote several editions of *Cases and Materials on Equity and Trusts*; and with R P Meagher, jointly authored *Jacobs on Trusts*.



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In his article on the Judge in the Oxford Companion to the High Court of Australia (Blackshield, Coper and Williams, Oxford University Press, 2001, at pages 314-5), his late co-author, the distinguished John Lehane, suggested that His Honour's judgments exhibit "a careful textual analysis, highly sensitive to historical context and the evolution of principle"; judgments which have been "highly influential, particularly in the areas at the core of the Australian federation".

His Honour will this evening address the topic, "Equity: too successful?" It is my privilege and pleasure, in welcoming Justice Gummow again to this jurisdiction, to invite him now to deliver the 2002 W A Lee Equity Lecture.