



W A LEE EQUITY LECTURE

Introduction of the Hon Mr Justice McPherson CBE

Banco Court, Thursday 4 November 2004, 6pm

Chief Justice, Paul de Jersey AC

I warmly welcome you all to the Supreme Court for this important annual event.

To be invited to deliver the W A Lee Equity Lecture bespeaks one's being acknowledged as a legal scholar of excellence and achievement.

The annual lecture was inaugurated in the year 2000. It celebrates the legal, I should add equitable, acumen of one of the finest academic lawyers this State has ever boasted, and that is Mr Tony Lee. It is his brilliance which in large part accounts for the generally high levels of understanding of equity and trusts, and especially succession law, exhibited by most of the now older contemporary lawyers in this State. As a lecturer, Tony Lee was accessible, incisive and inspiring.

And so to be invited to deliver a lecture in his name in this generally considered difficult field, is a mark of particular personal achievement.

The previous lectures have been delivered by most eminent speakers: Tony Lee himself, Mr Hubert Picarda QC, Justice William Gummow of the High Court and Justice Margaret White of this Court.

The address is sponsored by the Queensland Community Foundation, the public charitable trust chaired by former Queensland Premier Mr Mike Ahern and managed by the Public Trustee. The Foundation was set up to serve the State's communities by providing a permanent funding source for charity. Its



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board of governors comprises leaders from a variety of fields, all working voluntarily. The Foundation has enjoyed outstanding success.

Additionally this evening, there is the sponsorship of the Queensland University of Technology Faculty of Law, which coordinates the presentation of the address, and the QUT Centre of Philanthropy and Non-profit studies. The Law School of the QUT is highly respected State-wide and nationally, particularly with the involvement of the Dean, Professor Lavarch and his accomplished team.

And there are other sponsors whose contributions should be acknowledged with thanks, the Bar Association of Queensland, the Queensland Law Society, the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners, Thomson Law Book Company and Moet Hennessy Australia.

I want to say how much "the law" in Queensland is enhanced by creative initiatives like this. Lawyers are challenged by being encouraged to think and to think laterally, and the system, and the public, obviously benefit if that challenge is accepted.

This evening, the challenge will be levelled by Mr Justice McPherson.

His Honour, born in South Africa, immigrated to Australia in 1960. He was educated at Durban High School, graduated Bachelor of Arts from the University of Natal, and again together with a Bachelor of Laws, from the University of Cambridge, then being awarded a PhD by the University of Queensland. He was a full-time lecturer in law at the University of Queensland from 1961 to 1965, and in that year commenced practice at the Bar, being appointed one of Her Majesty's counsel 10 years later. His Honour has been a Judge of the Supreme Court since 1982, and was appointed as



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one of the inaugural Judges of Appeal in 1991. He has also served the public extensively outside the confines of the courthouse. For example, he joined the Queensland Law Reform Commission in 1969, serving as its Chairman from 1982 to 1991. For his contribution to law reform in this State, he was awarded a CBE in 1988. In addition, among many other external appointments, he was Chairman of Governors of the Utah Charitable Foundation in the second half of the 1980's, and was Chairman of the Judicial Conference of Australia from 1998 to the year 2000. Text books he has authored are highly acclaimed, including of course *The Law of Company Liquidation* now in its fourth edition, and his seminal historical work, *The Supreme Court of Queensland 1859 to 1960*. His Honour Mr Justice McPherson ...