

Introduction to the International Association of Judges Panel

Remarks given by the Honourable Justice Roslyn Atkinson AO at the International Association of Judges Panel on Combatting Corruption in the Justice System – Good Practices and Lessons Learned at the Launch of the Global Judicial Integrity Network: Vienna, 9 April 2018

Distinguished colleagues,

It is a pleasure to address you on these issues here in Vienna, where so many judges have come to meet and discuss these vital issues for the protection of the rule of law and to share their particular experiences and expertise in promoting judicial integrity.

I am a Judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland, Australia and President of the First Study Commission of the International Association of Judges. The International Association of Judges was founded in 1953 and it is a professional, non-political, international organisation. The main aim of the IAJ is to safeguard the independence of the judiciary, which is an essential requirement of the judicial function, guaranteeing human rights and freedom. The organisation currently encompasses 87 such national associations or representative groups, from five continents. The research of the First Study Commission focuses on the independence of the judiciary and it produces yearly reports on issues relating to that theme.

I will be moderating the panel today and delivering a short speech on measures to promote integrity and combat corruption within the judiciary, based on the findings of the First Study Commission's 2016 Report.

Each of our panellists will then address you on their paper and there will then be an opportunity for questions.

Our first panellist, Giacomo Oberto, is the Secretary-General of the International Association of Judges and will be speaking on how judicial integrity can be enhanced by using international documents like the Universal Charter of the Judge.

Our second panellist, Janja Roblek, is a Senior District Court Judge and President of the District Court in Kranj, Slovenia and a Member of the First Study Commission, and will be presenting on the importance of judicial ethics and integrity for public confidence in the judiciary and the rule of law.

Our third panellist, the Honourable Sir Nicholas Blake, is a retired Judge of the High Court (Queen's Bench) of England and Wales and a board member of the First Study Commission, and will be presenting on best practice in deterring corruption in a common law system.

Each of the panellists has prepared questions for discussion. Our rapporteur, the Honourable Justice Tony Pagone, will record the discussion to report back to the plenary session at the end.