

A History of the Fulbright Scholar at the TC Beirne School of Law

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1 December 2018

What is the Fulbright?

Senator J. William Fulbright (from Arkansas) had a vision of the brightest minds in the United States going abroad and the future leaders from other countries coming to the United States.¹ He envisaged the international exchange of knowledge as a prerequisite for the proper functioning of any kind of world government. Coming just after World War II, Fulbright felt the moment was right to turn his vision into reality.

In 1945 Fulbright introduced a bill in the United States Congress that called for the use of proceeds from the sales of surplus war property to fund the “promotion of international good will through the exchange of students in the fields of education, culture and science”.² The Fulbright Fellowship program was born in 1946 when US President Harry S Truman signed the Fulbright Act into law.³

Today, Fulbright is the most “widely recognized and prestigious international exchange program in the world” and operates in over 160 countries.⁴ The capacity of the Fulbright program to identify and support the excellence and leaders can be evidenced by the outstanding career success of those who become known as Fulbrighters:

- 37 Fulbright alumni have served as heads of state or government of their home countries;⁵
- 59 Fulbrighters have been awarded prizes by the Nobel Committees;⁶
- 72 Fulbright alumni have been awarded MacArthur Fellowships, popularly known as “genius grants”;⁷
- 84 Fulbright alumni have won a total of 90 Pulitzer Prizes;⁸

The Fulbrighters at TCB

The TC Beirne School of Law is a world leading law school and currently ranked 36th best law school globally.⁹ As a world leading institution, the TC Beirne School of Law has attracted many United States based Fulbrighters to visit with the school and 12 TC Beirne staff and students have been successful in being awarded these highly

¹ Ralph H Vogel, ‘The Making of the Fulbright Program’ (1987) 491 *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 11-21.

² Randall Bennett Woods, *Fulbright: A Biography* (Cambridge University Press, 1995).

³ Fulbright Act of 1946 (Public Law 584).

⁴ Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, *Fulbright Program History*, United States Department of State <<https://eca.state.gov/fulbright/about-fulbright/history>>.

⁵ Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, *Notable Fulbrighters: Heads of State/Government*, United States Department of State <<https://eca.state.gov/fulbright/fulbright-alumni/notable-fulbrighters/heads-stategovernment>>.

⁶ Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, *Nobel Laureates*, United States Department of State <<https://eca.state.gov/fulbright/fulbright-alumni/notable-fulbrighters/nobel-laureates>>.

⁷ Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, *MacArthur Fellowship Recipients*, United States Department of State <<https://eca.state.gov/fulbright/fulbright-alumni/notable-fulbrighters/macarthur-fellowship-recipients>>.

⁸ Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, *Pulitzer Prize Winners*, United States Department of State <<https://eca.state.gov/fulbright/fulbright-alumni/notable-fulbrighters/pulitzer-prize-winners>>.

⁹ TC Beirne School of Law (2018) The University of Queensland <<https://law.uq.edu.au/>>.

Memorandum

competitive grants.¹⁰ All of these grants help connect the TC Beirne School of Law with top United States universities and transformed the lives of the Fulbrighters and helped them to inspire, invigorate and innovate.

Seven TC Beirne Fulbrighters involved visits to Harvard University, which is consistently ranked the top university in law globally. Fulbright Fellowships also have involved visits with Duke University, New York University, Syracuse University, University of Michigan, University of Washington and Yale University.

Out of the 12 Fulbrights awarded to members of the TC Beirne family, 8 of these were granted to TCB law students to enable them to study at top US universities, 2 of these were granted to academics to enable them to operate as visiting fellows and evidence is unclear on the nature of the first 2 grants, being those awarded in 1955 and 1965 respectively. Two of the TC Beirne Fulbrighters went on to become Dean of Law at UQ and 2 of the TC Fulbrighters were academics with disabilities.

| Name | Year | Details |
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| Edward Sykes | 1955 | <p>The first TCB Fulbrighter</p> <p>Edward Sykes was the first member of the Fulbright family to receive a Fulbright scholarship in 1955. Sykes' Fulbright was hosted by Harvard University. This connection with Harvard University paved the way for many subsequent Fulbrighters.</p> <p>Following his Fulbright, in 1962 Sykes was appointed as Professor of Public Law at the TC Beirne School of Law, and subsequently acted as Dean of that institution 1962 to 1967.</p> |
| William Johnston | 1965 | <p>The second TCB Fulbrighter</p> <p>TC Beirne's second Fulbright was granted in 1965 to William Johnston. Following his graduation with a Bachelor of Laws from the TC Beirne School of Law, Johnston went to Duke University on his Fulbright.</p> |
| David P Robin | 1967 | <p>The third TCB Fulbrighter</p> <p>Philip David Robin became the third Fulbrighter in 1967 when he was given the opportunity to study at Harvard University.</p> <p>Robin subsequently completed a Bachelor of Laws at the TC Beirne School of Law where he graduated in 1971. His career led to him taking silk and then being called to the District Court of Queensland on 1 May 1990.¹¹ He later retired 19 October 2014.¹²</p> |
| Ross Cranston FBA | 1972 | <p>The fourth TCB Fulbrighter</p> <p>Ross Cranston was awarded a Bachelor of Artss from the University of Queensland in 1969 and a bachelor of laws from the TC Beirne School of Law in 1970. Cranston became the fourth TC Beirne fullbrighter in 1972,</p> |

¹⁰ Michael White, *TC Beirne School of Law: A History* (TC Beirne School of Law, 2nd ed, 2016) 218.

¹¹ Supreme Court Library of Queensland, *A Snapshot of Queensland's Legal Heritage* (2016) <<https://legalheritage.sclqld.org.au/snapshot-queensland's-legal-heritage>>.

¹² Philip Robin QC (2018) Supreme Court Library of Queensland ><https://www.sclqld.org.au/judicial-papers/judicial-profiles/profiles/pdrobin>>.

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| | | <p>where he was granted the opportunity to study an LLM at Harvard University.</p> <p>Cranston was awarded his LLM from Harvard in 1973 and went onto illustrious career, including being awarded a knighthood. Sir Ross Cranston served as Solicitor General for England and Wales between 28 July 1998 and 11 June 2001 and then sit as the Member of Parliament for Dudley North between 2 May 1997 and 11 April 2005.¹³</p> |
| Ross Barber | 1976 | <p>The fifth TCB Fulbrighter</p> <p>Ross Barber is not only the fifth TC Beirne Fulbrighter, but his award in 1976 represents a milestone as Barber is the first person with a disability from the school to receive the honour and privilege of joining the Fulbright family. On his Fulbright, Barber was hosted by the University of Michigan as an academic.</p> <p>Both before graduating with his Bachelor of Laws in 1972 and after his Fulbright, Barber had a significant impact upon his colleagues and students. Her Excellency the Honourable Quentin Bryce AC CVO, noted when she was Governor-General of Australia, that she was “privileged to have as” her colleagues two exceptional lawyers with disabilities, one of which was Ross Barber.¹⁴</p> <p>Barber went on to become a leader in his field and dean of law at the TC Beirne School of Law from 1978 to 1981.</p> |
| Christine Zorzi | 1994 | <p>The sixth TCB Fulbrighter</p> <p>Christine Zorzi was the sixth TC Beirne Fulbrighter in 1994. Her Fulbright enabled her to study an LLM at Harvard University, for which she graduated in 1995.</p> <p>Following her Fulbright, Zorzi has moved to the United States, became a Member of the New York Bar 2000 and a partner with Sabin, Bermant & Gould LLP in New York.¹⁵</p> |
| Leon Wolff | 1994 | <p>The seventh TCB Fulbrighter</p> <p>Leon Wolff graduated which his Bachelor of Laws at the TC Beirne School of Law and was then awarded a Fulbright that same year. Wolff’s Fulbright enabled him to complete an LLM (Asian & Comparative Law), at the University of Washington.¹⁶</p> <p>After completing his Fulbright, Wolff became admitted as a legal practitioner and worked at Allens (Sydney office).¹⁷</p> |

¹³ Ross Cranston (2018) *Wikipedia* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ross_Cranston>.

¹⁴ Quentin Bryce AC CVO, *Address by the Governor-General at the National Disability Awards Gala Dinner* (2010) Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia <<https://www.gg.gov.au/speech/national-disability-awards-gala-dinner>>.

¹⁵ *Christine Zorzi* (2018) LinkedIn <<https://www.linkedin.com/in/christine-zorzi-2659218/>>.

¹⁶ *Curriculum Vitae of Leon Wolff* (2018) BePress <https://works.bepress.com/leon_wolff/cv/download/>.

¹⁷ *Associate Professor Leon Wolff* (2018) Queensland University of Technology <<https://staff.qut.edu.au/staff/wolffl/>>.

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| | | He enter academia and has worked at The Australian National University, the University of New South Wales and Bond University. He has been an invited visiting academic at a number of international institutions, including Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya, Gakushuin, Sophia and Ritsumeikan Universities in Japan; the Universities of Texas and Pennsylvania in the US; and Oxford Brookes and Bucharest Universities in Europe. He is currently an Associate Professor with the Queensland University of Technology School of Law. |
| Andrew Tuch | 1998 | <p>The eighth TCB Fulbrighter</p> <p>After completing his Bachelors of Law and Economics at the University of Queensland, Andrew Tuch became the eighth TC Beirne Fulbrighter in 1998 which enabled him to study an LLM at Harvard University.</p> <p>After completing his Fulbright, Tuch taught at the University of Sydney Faculty of Law and then went on to complete an SJD from Harvard University.¹⁸ He joined the University of Washington Law School in 2012 and now serves there as a professor of law.¹⁹</p> |
| Leigh Toomey | 1998 | <p>The ninth TCB Fulbrighter</p> <p>After graduating with a Bachelor of Laws and the University Medal from the University of Queensland in 1996, Leigh Toomey became the ninth TC Beirne Fulbrighter in 1998. Her Fulbright enabled her to complete a LLM in Human Rights Law at Yale Law School.</p> <p>Following her Fulbright, Toomey taught human rights and criminal justice reform at Queensland University of Technology and for the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. She has been admitted as a Solicitor in England and Wales and called to the bar in Australia.²⁰ Since 2015 Toomey has served as the Vice Chair, UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention at United Nations.</p> |
| Jacqueline Peel | 1999 | <p>The tenth TCB Fulbrighter</p> <p>After completing her Bachelors of Law and Science from the University of Queensland, in 1999 Jacqueline Peel became the tenth TC Beirne Fulbrighter. Her Fulbright enabled her to study an LLM at the New York University School of Law.</p> <p>After completing her Fulbright, Peel, Professor Peel returned to NYU Law School as a Hauser Research Scholar and Emile Noel Fellow in 2003 and 2004.²¹ She was awarded the Morrison Prize in 2018 and now is a professor of law at the Melbourne Law School.</p> |
| Kerrie Burmeister | 2001 | The eleventh TCB Fulbrighter |

¹⁸ *Andrew Tuch, Professor of Law* (2018) Washington University Law <https://law.wustl.edu/faculty_profiles/profiles.aspx?id=9368>.

¹⁹ *Corporate Law Scholar Tuch to Join Faculty* (2018) Washington University Law <<http://law.wustl.edu/news/pages.aspx?id=9094>>.

²⁰ *Leigh Toomey* (2018) LinkedIn <<https://www.linkedin.com/in/leigh-toomey-493469/>>.

²¹ *Professor Jacqueline Peel* (2018) The University of Melbourne <<https://law.unimelb.edu.au/about/staff/jacqueline-peel>>.

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| | | <p>After graduating with a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Queensland in 1998, Kerrie Burmeister worked as a solicitor at Blake Dawson Waldron before becoming the eleventh TC Beirne Fulbrighter in 2001. Her Fulbright fellowship gave Burmeister the opportunity to study an LLM at Harvard University.</p> <p>After completing her Fulbright Burmeister entered public service and has served in the Commonwealth of Australia’s Prime Minister and Cabinet for almost a decade.²² She now works as Assistant Secretary in Canberra.</p> |
| Paul Harpur | 2019 | <p>The twelfth TCB Fulbrighter</p> <p>Dr Harpur has become the twelfth TC Beirne Fulbrighter with his award in 2019 and the second academic with a disability to be given this honour. Harpur’s Fulbright enables him to work for three months as a visiting fellow at the Burton Blatt Institute, Syracuse University, and at the Harvard Law School Project on Disabilities, at Harvard University.²³ Harpur’s project, “Universally Designed for Whom? Disability, the Law and Practice of Expanding the “Normal User”, development and promotion of design that is accessible to everyone in society, whether they be able or disabled. Harpur’s research project aims to combat ableism’s influence on human life, so that in the future different ability is not associated with disablement, but instead is accepted as a part of human diversity.</p> |

²² Kerrie Burmeister (2018) LinkedIn <<https://www.linkedin.com/in/kerrie-burmeister-a4a69296/>>.

²³ Academic Staff (2018) TC Beirne School of Law <<https://law.uq.edu.au/team/academic>>.