



Democracy, Human Rights and the Judiciary: the common law and the wider world

Wednesday, 4 September 2019 at 5.00 pm

Court One, Federal Court of Australia,
Level 8, Commonwealth Law Courts,
305 William Street, Melbourne

Chaired by The Honourable James Allsop AO, Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Australia

Guest Speaker – Sir Nicholas Blake



Sir Nicholas Blake joined Matrix Chambers as a founder member in May 2000 and became its first chair until 2002. He was appointed a Recorder in 2000; a Deputy High Court Judge in 2002 and became a Bencher of the Middle Temple in the same year.

In December 2005 he was appointed by the Minister of Defence to review the circumstances surrounding the deaths of four young trainees at Deepcut barracks, Surrey resulting in the publication of the Deepcut Review in April 2007. He specialised in public law, criminal justice, human rights, immigration and asylum and private international law. He has written and spoken in the UK and internationally on these topics.

In 2007 he was appointed a High Court Judge of the Queen's Bench Division and assigned to the Administrative Court.

He served as the first President of the newly created Immigration and Asylum Chamber of the United Kingdom Upper Tribunal from February 2010 and served until October 2013.

From January 2014 until May 2017 he represented the judiciary of England and Wales on the International Association of Judges and its regional affiliate the European Association of Judges. Over the same period he has been a member of the Franco British Irish Judicial Colloque.

In 2016 and 2017 he participated in training seminars in adversarial criminal justice in Latin America, speaking with judges and prosecutors in Columbia, Peru, Panama and Mexico.

He retired from the judiciary in October 2017 although will continue to serve as a Deputy High Court Judge.

He has been appointed a Security Commissioner. He has re-joined Matrix as a Consultant and a member of the Inquiries and Investigations teams where he is able to conduct quasi-judicial inquiries, particularly those involving public and international law, human rights and related issues.

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