

Welcome to the fourth Newsletter for 2025.

2025 AAL First Nations Scholarship

The Australian Academy of Law has again offered the AAL First Nations Scholarship tenable in 2025 for a First Nations final year law student studying for the LLB or JD or combined Law degree at any Australian law school, or the Diploma in Law through the NSW Law Extension Committee.

The amount of the award is A\$6000 for one year only.

The successful applicant may also have the opportunity of being mentored for up to a year by an AAL Fellow.

Applications based on the Selection Criteria below were through nominations by the respective Law Deans to the AAL Secretariat. Each Law Dean may nominate one Final Year First Nations law student.

Selection Criteria

1. Academic ability and likelihood of success;
2. Not normally in receipt of any other substantial scholarship or award;
3. Proposed post-graduation career path evincing a commitment to the law and/or legal practice.

Shortlisted applicants may be required to attend an interview with the Selection Panel.

The judging panel is presently deliberating on the 8 applications and an announcement will be made very soon. I thank [the Hon Pamela Tate AM KC](#) (chair), [the Hon Justice Lincoln Crowley](#) and [Professor Natalie Skead](#) for undertaking this important task.

AAL Research Grant Scheme 2025

Applications must be made by 30 April 2025.

Applications are open for an Australian Academy of Law Research Grant and may be made by anyone, whether a student (undergraduate or postgraduate), a professional academic, a practitioner or a judicial

officer and in each case whether still “in practice” or not.

The total amount available for this financial year is **A\$25,000**.

Applicants must be either:

- (a) Australian citizens or permanent residents; or
- (b) any other person, provided that either:
 - (i) they are conducting their research at or through an Australian university; or
 - (ii) the subject matter of the research is predominantly a matter of Australian law, even if with a comparative theme.

The proposed research may be empirical, theoretical, doctrinal or practical.

The criteria are:

- the extent to which the proposed research accords with the AAL's objects;
- its importance;
- its originality;
- its feasibility; and
- its value for money.

The amount of each grant will depend on the nature and quality of the applications both individually and comparatively. Nevertheless, individual grants might be in the order of \$5,000.

Approved projects should finish by 31 December 2025. Each project therefore must be achievable, including funding acquittal, within that period.

The AAL will not have intellectual property rights in the research but would stipulate that its funding be appropriately acknowledged. Unless the candidate objects due to (for example) other publishing commitments, the AAL has the right (but not the obligation) to publish the finished research on its website, with appropriate attribution.

Details and Application Form are available [here](#)

2025 AAL Essay Prize

The Australian Academy of Law is pleased to announce the offering of its Annual Essay Prize for 2025.

The amount of the Prize is \$10,000. The essay topic for the Prize in 2025 is as follows:

"Where has *Bird v DP* [2024] HCA 41 left the law of vicarious liability in Australia? How does it differ from the law in other common law jurisdictions? Should there be a legislative response to *Bird* and, if so, what should be its scope?"

The essay is to be a maximum of 8,000 words (excluding the abstract).

The Prize is open to anyone, wherever resident, who is studying or has studied legal subjects at a tertiary level, or who is working or has worked in a law-based occupation. There is no limit by reference to the age or seniority or experience of, or position held by, a person who may submit an entry. Accordingly, judicial officers, legal practitioners, legal academics and law students are all eligible to submit an essay.

The deadline for the submission of an essay is 31 August 2025 and this time limit is strictly observed.

Single-authored or multiple-authored essays will be accepted, but authorship must be original.

The Essay Prize Rules can be accessed [here](#).

For more information contact AALSecretariat@academyoflaw.org.au

Nominating new Fellows

I ask that each Fellow consider making a nomination of another distinguished lawyer to be a Fellow.

The eligibility criteria are that the person nominated is of exceptional distinction in the discipline of law and demonstrably committed to the objects of the Academy.

All Fellows are encouraged to look widely and broadly to nominate candidates.

I ask that you look at candidates beyond your usual professional or personal networks and that in nominating distinguished persons from the legal profession, from legal academia and from the judiciary you consider candidates from diverse backgrounds. I note that practitioners are

underrepresented amongst Academy Fellows.

To assist, a new and much more user-friendly [nomination form is available here](#).

Please forward your nominations to the AAL Secretariat aalsecretariat@academyoflaw.org.au by 31 August 2025.

The AAL expects to elect new Fellows by the end of calendar year 2024.

Forthcoming AAL events

7 May 2025 NSW Compulsory voting

5:15 pm – 6:45 pm AEDT

Venue: **Court 1** Federal Court of Australia Courts Building, Queens Square, Sydney

In this free public event, **Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC** will speak on *Compulsory voting in Australia: its history and purpose*. **The Hon Arthur Emmett AO KC** will provide a commentary.

Queensland introduced compulsory voting in 1915. The Commonwealth followed in 1924. Victoria introduced compulsory voting in 1926, New South Wales and Tasmania in 1928, Western Australia in 1936 and South Australia in 1942.

I will chair the event.

[The flyer is here](#). Please register.

Wednesday 18 June 2025 – Dinner at Gray's Inn

I thank **Desmond Browne CBE KC**, for his great help. He has arranged for a dinner to take place at the Small Pension Room in Gray's Inn, located next to Chancery Lane station. The address of Gray's Inn is 8 South Square, London.

The likely cost will be £100 per person.

Sir Ross Cranston has kindly agreed to be the speaker. He is a former judge of the High Court of England and Wales. He is an arbitrator, Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and member of the London Court of International Arbitration.

He is professor of law at the London School of Economics, having been Sir Ernest Cassel professor of commercial law and Centennial professor of law.

If you wish to attend the dinner, please notify the Secretariat as soon as possible. Numbers are limited, as the accompanying photograph shows, but there is one space left.



30 October 2025 - Melbourne

AAL Patron's Address

I am pleased to advise that the new Chief Justice of Victoria, the **Hon Richard Niall**, has agreed to give the 2025 AAL's Patron's Address. The date is 30 October 2025 in the Banco Court, Supreme Court of Victoria. The working title of **Chief Justice Niall's** address is *Lessons in mathematics*.

Recent events

Wednesday 2 April 2025 - 5:00pm – 6:15 pm

Online and at Court No 1, Old High Court, Supreme Court of Victoria, 450 Little Bourke Street, Melbourne

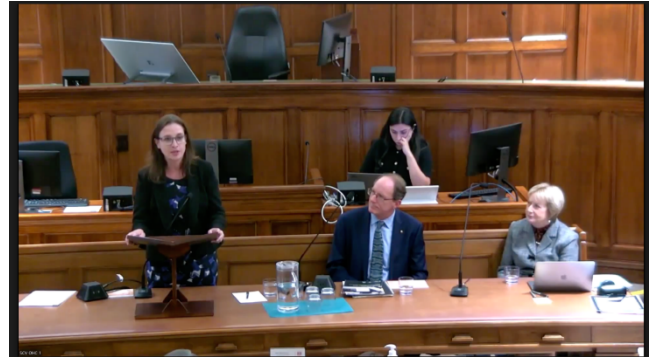
Whistleblower protection in Australia

The speakers were:

Professor AJ Brown AM who is Professor of Public Policy and Law in the School of Government & International Relations, Griffith University, where he specialises in public integrity, accountability, governance reform and public trust.

Ms Kylie Kilgour is a Deputy Commissioner of the National Anti Corruption Commission. Prior to her appointment as a Deputy Commissioner, **Ms Kilgour** was a Deputy Commissioner of the Victorian Independent Broad-Based Anti-Corruption Commission.

The Hon Pamela Tate AM KC chaired the event.



At the bar table, from left to right, Ms Kylie Kilgour, Deputy Commissioner, Professor AJ Brown AM and the Hon Pamela Tate AM KC

I am indebted to **The Hon Pamela Tate AM KC** for the following:

Professor AJ Brown described the complexities of the current regime and the gaps in the enforcement machinery raising the question of whose job is it to enforce whistleblower protection. He observed that whistleblower protection is a vital aspect of governance.

Deputy Commissioner Kilgour described in clear terms how the NACC works, including the key concepts of breach of public trust and abuse of public office. She explained some of the protections available under the legislation governing the NACC including the witness welfare program.

It was a stimulating and informative event with an in-person audience of about 28 and a remote audience of about 140 from Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, New South Wales, Western Australia, the Northern Territory and the ACT.

A link to the proceedings is [here](#).

ACT Event Thursday 3 April 2025

5:15 pm – 6:30 pm

Courtroom 3, Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory, Knowles Place, Canberra City.

In this free public event, **Professor Philip Pettit AC** presented a paper entitled “*Can Regular Corporations be Socially Responsible?*”

Professor Pettit is the Laurance Rockefeller University Professor of Politics and Human Values at Princeton University where he has taught political theory and philosophy since 2002, and since 2012-13 has held a joint position as Distinguished University Professor of Philosophy at the Australian National University, Canberra. He was appointed a Companion of the Order of Australia in 2017. In 2023 Professor Pettit published *The State* (Princeton University Press), a major new account of the state and its importance.



Professor Philip Pettit AC delivering his paper

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory, the Hon Lucy McCallum welcomed guests to this event.

It was a stimulating topic and the audience of 30 or so in the courtroom and 30 or so online appreciated the compelling argument made by **Professor Pettit**.

I was very pleased that the AAL’s Patron, **the Hon Stephen Gageler AC, Chief Justice of Australia** attended the event.

A synopsis of the paper and a link to the proceedings is [here](#).



From left to right, the Hon Alan Robertson AM SC, Professor Philip Pettit AC and the Chief Justice Lucy McCallum

AAL’s Annual Report for 2024

The final touches are being put to the annual report for calendar year 2024. Once published, an electronic version will be posted on the AAL’s website.

In his Message, the AAL’s Patron, **the Hon Chief Justice Gageler** writes:

The Academy has continued its mission of encouraging and enhancing connections between the judiciary, the profession and academia in 2024 through its many and varied activities, events and publications. During the year, I was delighted to write the Foreword for, and to launch, one of those publications: *The Humanity of Law: Selected Essays of James Allsop*. At the time, I praised the book’s contribution to our collective understanding of the nature of law and the judicial process.

I commend the Academy for continuing to provide a forum for informed discussion and

debate of current issues affecting our legal system. I also applaud the launch of its latest Research Grant Scheme to provide funding for empirical, theoretical, doctrinal or practical research.



I thank [Kerrie Douglass](#) and [Trischa Mann](#) for their excellent work on this 2024 Annual Report.

Donations to the AAL

The AAL's current status as a deductible gift recipient (DGR) expires on 1 July 2025 by virtue of a condition in schedule 5 to the *Treasury Laws Amendment (2020 Measures No. 2) Act 2020*. We have lodged an application to renew our status, but that involves a legislative amendment which is likely to take some time. If we are successful in our application our DGR status may be regained retrospectively, but that cannot be regarded as certain.

In other words, if you are considering making a gift within the next 12 months please note that at this stage tax deductibility is 100% certain only if your donation is made by **30 June 2025**.

Donations may be made via the website:

<https://academyoflaw.org.au/Donations>

or directly to:

AAL Public Fund, NAB BSB: 082514

Account No: 424765242

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