

Welcome to the ninth Newsletter for 2025.

CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME

Please join me in congratulating and welcoming the following 17 new Fellows to the Academy:

Professor Elisa Arcioni, Professor, Public & Constitutional Law, University of Sydney Law School

Mr Greg Barnes SC, Barrister

Associate Professor Kelley Burton, Discipline Lead, Law, University of the Sunshine Coast

Mr Craig Bydder SC, Solicitor-General of Western Australia

Professor Sharon Christensen, Executive Dean, Faculty of Business and Law, QUT

Dr Daniel Clarry, Barrister

Professor Alison Duxbury, Professor, Melbourne Law School, University of Melbourne

Professor Paula Gerber, Faculty of Law, Monash University,

Mr Patrick Gunning, Solicitor

Associate Professor Dr Danielle Ireland-Piper, Australian National University National Security College

Professor Ying Khai Liew, Co-Director of the Obligations Group and Associate Director (Private Law) of the Asian Law Centre, Melbourne Law School

Associate Professor Judith Marychurch, Assistant Dean – Teaching & Learning, Melbourne Law School, University of Melbourne

Associate Professor Dr Heather Roberts, ANU Law School, Australian National University

Professor Matthew Stubbs, Associate Dean (Research), Adelaide Law School, University of Adelaide

The Right Honourable Dame Helen Winkelmann, Chief Justice of New Zealand

Professor Leanne Wiseman, ARC Future Fellow and Professor in Intellectual Property Law, Griffith University

Professor Mimi Zou, Head of School of Private and Commercial Law, UNSW

The AAL expects the 2025 election of new Fellows to be completed by mid-October 2025.

I will include a complete list in the October Newsletter.

2025 AAL Essay Prize

The Australian Academy of Law offered its Annual Essay Prize for 2025. The closing date was 31 August 2025.

The amount of the Prize is \$10,000.

The essay topic for the Prize in 2025 was 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?

Twenty-three essays were submitted and those essays, anonymised, are with the judging panel for assessment.

The winning entry should be known in October.

FORTHCOMING AAL EVENTS

Monday, 20 October 2025 – Annual Joint Symposium with the Australian Academy of Science

Venue: The Shine Dome, Acton, ACT

This joint event will feature 2 speakers from the AAS and two speakers from the AAL, **Professor Will Bateman** and **Professor Jeannie Marie Paterson**, addressing AI and its impact.

Chief Justice Lucy McCallum has very kindly agreed to chair the event.

The flyer will be available soon.

Annual General Meeting

Thursday, 30 October 2025 – Melbourne

The AGM will take place from **4.45 pm AEDT** at the Barak Room, Supreme Court of Victoria, 210 William Street, Melbourne and online. The Notice of Meeting and registration details will be sent to Fellows in early October.

Thursday, 30 October 2025 – Melbourne

AAL Patron's Address

5.30PM Banco Court, Supreme Court of Victoria, 210 William Street, Melbourne

The Chief Justice of Victoria, the **Hon Richard Niall**, will give the 2025 AAL's Patron's Address.

Chief Justice Niall will have as his theme the use and misuse of statistics and quantification in relation to the work of the courts. The title of his address is *Lessons in mathematics*.

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

Thursday, 6 November 2025 – Sydney

Royal Society of NSW - Learned Academies Forum

This event will be hosted at Government House, Sydney. It runs for the whole day. **Emeritus Professor Ros Croucher AM** tells me the AAL will be included.

The focus of the 2025 Forum will be on AI: 'the good, the bad and the optimal'. **Ros Croucher** is to chair a panel, representing the AAL aspect of the day.

Wednesday, 3 December 2025 – Brisbane

Banco Court 5.30PM-6.30PM

The topic is recusal of judges on the grounds of apprehended bias, with a particular focus on the duty to sit.

Justice Shane Doyle will give the lecture, and **Justice Glenn Martin AM** will provide a commentary.

Justice JK Bond will chair the event. I thank **him** for putting this event together.

A flyer will be available soon.

RECENT EVENTS

Tuesday, 2 September 2025 5.15 PM – Sydney “What’s wrong with AI judges?”

This was a most stimulating event, attended by about 75 people in the Banco Court and about twice that number online.

The address was given by **Professor John Tasioulas**, Director, Institute for Ethics in AI, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Oxford and Senior Research Fellow, Balliol College.



The commentary was given by the **Hon Kristina Stern**, a Judge of the Supreme Court of New South Wales and a Judge of Appeal since 2023.

Questions from the floor were asked by the **Hon John Basten AO**, the **Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG** and by **Chief Justice Andrew Bell**.

[Professor Tasioulas' paper](#) and [Justice Stern's commentary](#) are available on the AAL's website.

I thank **Professor Tasioulas** and **Justice Stern** for their excellent papers and I thank **Chief Justice Bell** for making the Banco Court available.

Tuesday, 23 September 2025 - The Fourteenth Austin Asche Oration in Law and Governance - Charles Darwin University, Darwin

The Austin Asche Oration honours the service of the late **Hon Austin Asche AC KC** to the people of the Northern Territory and his contribution to the law, tertiary education and the community. It is sponsored by Charles Darwin University and the Australian Academy of Law.

This was the first **Austin Asche** oration since **Austin Asche** died, on 14 December 2024 aged 99. His great contribution was noted throughout the evening.

This year the speaker was **Lydia Khalil**, and her topic was *Democracy and Its Discontents*. **Lydia Khalil** is a Senior Research Fellow at the Alfred Deakin Institute at Deakin University. She is a Research Fellow at the Lowy Institute She manages the Digital Threats to Democracy Project. She is a recognised expert on terrorism and extremism.

A taste of the topic is as follows:

Extremism is antithetical to democracy, so what does the growth in the breadth and complexity of extremism tell us about the state of our democracy and democracy globally? What implications are there for the law? And how can we better work to repair and safeguard our democracy into the future amid rising global threats.



I thank **Lydia Khalil** for her excellent paper. She referred to democratic decline, to the infiltration of extremism into the mainstream, that democracy is a practice, to the necessity for a strong commitment to laws and values, to the need to revive the notion

of citizenship and acknowledging our obligations and the rights of others, and how education is critical in this respect.

The address was followed by a number of questions from the floor, stimulated by the paper and indicating the great interest in the topic and its currency.

I also thank **Chief Justice Michael Grant AO** for giving the vote of thanks on behalf of the AAL, including his reference to the “clarion call of hope” in **Lydia Khalil’s** address.

I thank **Professor Alan Berman**, Professor and Dean of Law, Charles Darwin University School of Law for his work on seeing this event to fruition and for acting as Master of Ceremonies.

There were approximately 150 attending face-to-face and 30 attending online. There is a consensus this was one of the best Austin Asche Orations CDU and the AAL have had.

[A recording of the proceedings is available here.](#)

AAL’s new website

The AAL’s new website is now operating. You will have been sent an invitation from me to log in and set up your new password, check your details and view the new site. Here is a link to the new site:

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

Features of the site include:

- Event registration
- Archive of previous events and resources including papers and recorded sessions
- Newsletters and publications
- Prizes, Scholarships and Grants information
- Fellow Spotlight
- A searchable Fellows directory

To see the contact details of other Fellows who choose to share those details, you will need to log in.



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