

The Annual Castan Centre for Human Rights Law Conference 2014

Our annual conference will be held on Friday 25th July at the Deakin Edge in Federation Square with a full day of local and international experts.

Jillian C. York, Director for International Freedom of Expression at the Electronic Frontier Foundation, is visiting Australia especially for the conference. A passionate defender of Internet freedom, York will be examining the hot topic of internet spying in the wake of the Edward Snowden revelations.

Fresh on the heels of completing the report of the commission of inquiry on Human Rights in North Korea, retired High Court Judge **The Honourable Michael Kirby** will speak about the appalling human rights abuses he uncovered during his time leading the commission into the Hermit Kingdom.

In light of the continuing public and political debate about asylum seekers, offshore processing and the re-settlement of refugees, **Elaine Pearson**, Australia Director at Human Rights Watch, will debate the consequences of Australia's border

protection policies.

Dr Cassandra Goldie, CEO of the Australian Council of Social Service, will draw on her extensive legal, public policy and advocacy experience to speak on poverty in Australia while Australia's commitment to addressing poverty overseas will be investigated by **Adam McBeth**, who is an Associate Professor at Monash University and a Deputy Director of the Castan Centre as well as co-author of the recent book, *The International Law of Human Rights*

George Williams AO is one of Australia's leading constitutional lawyers and public commentators and as chair of the Victorian Human Rights Consultation Committee in 2005 helped bring about Australia's first State bill of rights, the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities. At our conference he will discuss the High Court's role in recent human rights cases.

Working as a senior advocate with the Foreign Prisoner Support Service, human rights activist and writer **Martin Hodgson** has worked on the cases of individuals



The Honourable Michael Kirby will speak at our conference on Human Rights abuses in North Korea

imprisoned overseas, advised on death penalty cases around the world and managed public and judicial campaigns for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. At our conference he will discuss Indigenous rights in the criminal justice system.

Our final confirmed speaker is **Dr Ronli Sifris**, who is a Monash University lecturer and associate of the Castan Centre. Her book *Reproductive Freedom, Torture and International Human Rights: Challenging the Masculinisation of Torture* has recently been launched and she will take the floor to discuss women's reproductive rights.

To register for the conference, and to keep updated about more speakers, go to our website (law.monash.edu/castancentre).



Keynote speaker Dan Mori during our 2012 Gala Dinner held at Carousel

Join us at our Gala Dinner

The Castan Centre's biennial gala dinner has been announced for October 23rd this year. The keynote speaker will be Jon Stanhope, who finishes his term as administrator of the Australian Indian Ocean Territories this September. In that role Mr Stanhope has been responsible for both the Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Christmas Island, which is home to a large asylum seeker detention centre.

Mr Stanhope will reflect on his life and work on Christmas Island during a highly controversial period, and his signature achievement of overseeing the creation of Australia's first Human Rights Act in his capacity as Chief Minister of the ACT from 2001 -11.

This year, Mr Stanhope was awarded Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in recognition of his distinguished service to the community through leadership roles, the advancement of human rights and social justice, and economic development.

The gala will again be held at Carousel, overlooking Albert Park Lake and the Melbourne CBD skyline. Our dinner is a major fundraising event for the Centre and as well as a night of delicious food and wine there will be fantastic raffle and auction prizes on offer.

More information on ticket sales will be released to our members shortly. In the meantime, if you would like to donate an item for our raffle or auctions, please call our administrator Simone on 9905 3327 to discuss.