

2013

Introduction

The final WA Lee Equity Lecture included in this volume was delivered on 14 November 2013 in the Banco Court, Supreme Court of Queensland by the Honourable Justice Susan Kiefel AC, judge of the High Court of Australia. The topic of her lecture is ‘Lessons from a “Conversation” about Restitution.’

Susan Kiefel was appointed a judge of the High Court of Australia on 3 September 2007. She is the third female High Court justice. From 1994 to 2007 she served as a judge of the Federal Court of Australia and also served as a judge of the Supreme Court of Norfolk Island. Before her appointment to the Federal Court on 17 October 1994 she also served as a judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland having been appointed to that court on 16 June 1993. She also served as Chairperson of the Supreme Court Library Committee in 1994. In October 2001, she was appointed Deputy President of the Australian Federal Police Disciplinary Tribunal and was subsequently appointed as President of the Tribunal in April 2004. In 2003 she was appointed as a part-time commissioner of the Australian Law Reform Commission and in 2006 she was reappointed for a further three years.

On 14 October 1975 Kiefel was admitted as a barrister of the Supreme Court of Queensland and commenced practice at the bar in Brisbane. In 1977 she served as Honorary Secretary of the Bar Association of Queensland. She took silk on 5 November 1987 and was the first woman to be appointed to the rank of Queen’s Counsel in Queensland. From 1990 to 1993 she served as a part-time commissioner of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission and in 1993 she served as a member of the Committee of the Bar Association.

Susan Mary Kiefel was born on 17 January 1954. She attended Geebung State Primary School and Sandgate District High School to year 10 in 1969. She completed secretarial training at Kangaroo Point Technical College on a scholarship. She was employed in a number of secretarial positions and then worked as a receptionist for a group of barristers before undertaking work as a law clerk from 1973 until 1974 for Brisbane Solicitors Cannan and Petersen Solicitors. She completed her secondary education and the examinations of the Barristers Board for admission to the bar while working full time. She was awarded honours in the examinations for admission to the bar. In 1994 she took leave from practice for a year to undertake postgraduate study at Wolfson College, Cambridge. She completed her Master of Laws at the University of Cambridge and was awarded the CJ Hampson Prize in Comparative Law and the Jennings Prize. In 2008, she was elected to an Honorary Fellowship of Wolfson College, Cambridge. She then returned to practice at the bar in Brisbane. While at Cambridge she met her future husband Michael Albrecht, a social anthropologist, and they were married on 19 September 1987.

This is a preview. Not all pages are shown.