

Mary Gaudron portrait takes rightful place in the Bar's art collection



The latest addition to the Bar's rich collection of portraiture was unveiled at a formal ceremony in the common room on 21 February. President Michael Slattery QC described the painting as 'a truly remarkable work, which will become one of the enduring public images of Mary Gaudron throughout Australia'.

The Hon Mary Gaudron QC, former High Court judge, was joined by artist Sally Robinson at the unveiling. The Hon Justice Ian Harrison, a former president of the Bar Association, crowned the evening's honours by presenting Mary with her certificate of life membership of the organisation.

Perhaps the most striking and unusual feature of the painting is the screen-printed wording from section 75(v) of the Australian Constitution: that the High Court shall have original jurisdiction in all matters in which a writ of mandamus or prohibition or an injunction is sought against an officer of the Commonwealth. It was, Mary said, unique among the constitutions she had studied and the provision which ensured that there could be no repetition of Guantanamo Bay under the Australian legal system.



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