

His Honour appeared in the Court of Appeal, Supreme Court, Federal Court and High Court, the most recent being the successful appeal before the High Court in relation to personal injuries damages in the case of *Certain Underwriters at Lloyds v Cross* in which his Honour represented the appellants.

Darke J served as a director of the South Eastern Sydney Area Health Service and chaired its audit committee. In 2001 Darke J was the Bar Association's representative on the Hon Terry Sheahan's committee for the review of workers compensation in New South Wales. In September 2011 his Honour joined the board of the Barristers Sickness and Accident Fund.

His Honour has interests in American politics and history as well as domestic politics.

His Honour's long-standing devotion to the South Sydney Rabbitohs resulted in pro bono support in the litigation and campaigning to have the Rabbitohs reinstated in the competition when they were dropped in 1999.

Towards the end of his Honour's swearing in speech, his Honour said:

I am fond of saying that 'the Bar is not for everyone'. There are undoubted stresses and strains involved. There is fierce competition. Yet it gives to each of its members an independence which is truly rare in today's world. That is something to cherish.

The Hon Justice Melissa Perry

Melissa Perry QC was sworn in as a judge of the Federal Court on 23 September 2013.

The Hon Justice Melissa Perry's paternal grandfather came to Australia from Cypress and anglicised his name from Pieris to Perry. Her Honour's father was the late Hon John Perry AO QC of the Supreme Court of South Australia, an accomplished violinist who, as a student, led the Elder Conservatorium Orchestra and went on to play at the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra. There he met her Honour's mother, Jenny, who was a student pianist at the Conservatorium.

Perry J opted to follow her mother by taking up the piano, rather than the violin, and is a talented classical pianist; she shows her versatility of taste with a passionate interest in British rock music.

Perry J graduated with honours in law at the University of Adelaide in 1985. Her Honour worked as an associate to Hon Patrick Matheson a former Justice of the Supreme Court of South Australia. In 1988, she read for a Master of Laws at the University of Cambridge on a Shell Scholarship.

Her Honour was called to the bar in 1992, joining Bar Chambers in Adelaide and purchased a room. During her Honour's swearing-in speech, her Honour said:

...the words of encouragement that I received as I signed the customarily large cheque to buy my room, were that, 'You know there are many solicitors who won't brief you because you are a woman.' However, as Michael Jordan said on being inducted into the basketball hall of fame, 'Limits like fears, are often just an illusion,' - a sentiment that resonated with me...

Her Honour returned to Cambridge to complete a PhD and received the Yorke Prize in 1995 for her dissertation in public international law on state succession. Sir Elihu Lauterpacht QC was her thesis supervisor for the first year, after which her Honour worked with Professor Vaughan Lowe QC. Fiona McLeod SC, one of those who spoke at her Honour's swearing-in, quoted Professor Crawford, Whewell Professor of International Law at Cambridge, in saying that Perry J's PhD thesis was 'an excellent piece of work, first class in conception and execution.'

In 2004 her Honour was appointed queen's counsel in South Australia.

Perry J's practice was broad, with a particular interest in native title and public law. Her Honour appeared in the High Court of Australia on more than 40

occasions, including with successive Commonwealth solicitors-general Gavan Griffith AO QC, David Bennett AC QC and Stephen Gageler SC in a number of constitutional and environmental cases.

In 1997, her Honour was briefed to appear in *Yarmirr v the Northern Territory*. Her Honour later appeared in, or gave advice in connection with, *Jango v the Northern Territory*, the *Wik Peoples v the Commonwealth*, *Yorta Yorta* and the *Waanyi People v Queensland*. In 2003, her Honour co-authored with Stephen Lloyd the well-respected textbook *Australian Native Title Law*.

In April 2009, her Honour appeared in *Qarase v Bainimarama* in Fiji's Court of Appeal as amicus for the Citizens' Constitutional Forum. Jane Needham SC who also spoke at her Honour's swearing-in said that Perry J's address to the court on the importance of constitutionalism and its application to the situation in Fiji was described as powerful and cogent.

Her Honour came to the Sydney bar in 2004, first as a licensee on the sixth floor of Selborne Chambers, then as a full member in 2006. In July 2012, her

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Honour was called to the Bar of England and Wales as a member of Inner Temple and became a tenant at 20 Essex Street.

Her Honour is known for her warmth and engaging nature, complementing formidable legal skills which include seemingly tireless diligence in preparation.

Her Honour has been a board member of Voiceless, the Animal Protection Institute and has also conducted pro bono cases for the New South Wales Animal Welfare League, helped to establish the Barristers Animal Welfare Panel, and is a governor of World Wildlife Fund Australia.

Her Honour was involved in various legal professional bodies, including as a director and fellow of the Australian Academy of Law, a member of the Law Council Resources Energy and Environment Subcommittee since 2008 and a member of the Administrative Law Committee from 2005 to 2012.

Her Honour is also a squadron leader in the Royal Australian Air Force Legal Specialist Reserves.

The Honourable Bronwyn Bishop speaking at Perry's swearing-in said:

You have an impressive legal mind and deep understanding of legal principles and their rationale. You have been known and sought after for your high quality work, and admired for your courtesy, patience and kindness. To this end, one of your colleagues remarked that your immense legal knowledge and intelligence will be a wonderful asset to the Federal Court. Litigants will always be treated with the utmost respect. Your temperament and integrity positions you to adeptly face the challenges and responsibilities of this appointment.