



PART TWO INTRODUCTION



Chief Justice Robert French AC	4
Justice William Gummow AC	4
Justice Kenneth Hayne AC	5
Justice Dyson Heydon AC	5
Justice Susan Crennan AC	6
Justice Susan Kiefel AC	6
Justice Virginia Bell	7

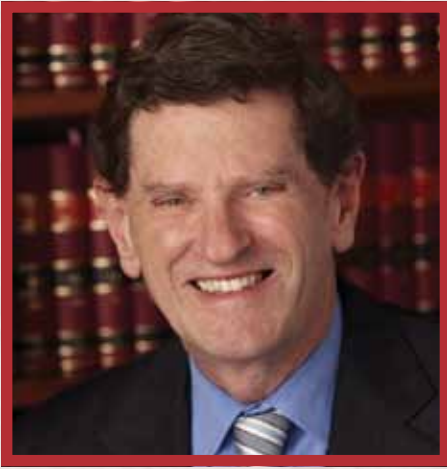


The High Court of Australia is the nation's highest court. It is established by the Constitution for the resolution of constitutional disputes. It is also the nation's final court of appeal. The Court sits in Canberra and, when there is sufficient business, it may sit in Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth or Hobart.

There are seven Justices of the Court. Ordinarily, constitutional cases are heard by all seven Justices. Appeals are usually heard by five or seven Justices. Before an appeal is heard the Court must have granted leave or special leave to appeal. Special leave applications are first examined by a panel of Justices, usually two. If the panel decides that special leave should be refused without oral argument, a disposition to that effect, with reasons, is published by the members of the panel, sitting in open court. If the panel considers that the application should be heard in court, it is so listed and proceeds to an oral hearing. Such hearings usually take

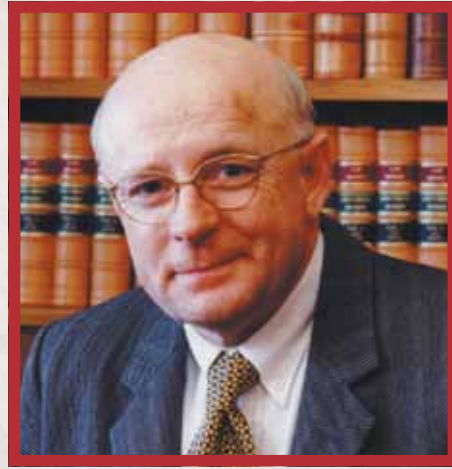
place before two or three Justices. They may take place in Canberra, Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth and Hobart. Interlocutory applications are heard by a single Justice, usually in the capital city in which they reside, or by video-link from Canberra.

At 30 June 2011, there were seven Justices of the High Court as profiled in the four pages following.



Chief Justice Robert French AC

Robert Shenton French was appointed Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia in September 2008. At the time of his appointment he was a judge of the Federal Court of Australia, having been appointed to that office in November 1986. He graduated from the University of Western Australia in science and law. He was admitted in 1972 and practised as a barrister and solicitor in Western Australia until 1983 when he went to the Western Australian Bar. From 1994–98 he was President of the National Native Title Tribunal. At the time of his appointment he was an additional member of the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory and a member of the Supreme Court of Fiji. He was also a Deputy President of the Australian Competition Tribunal and a part-time member of the Australian Law Reform Commission. From 2001 until January 2005 he was president of the Australian Association of Constitutional Law. Chief Justice French was appointed a Companion in the General Division of the Order of Australia in 2010.



Justice William Gummow AC

William Montague Charles Gummow was appointed to the Court in April 1995. At the time he was a judge of the Federal Court of Australia. He had held that office since 1986. He graduated from the University of Sydney as a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Laws. After 10 years in practice as a solicitor, he was admitted to the New South Wales Bar in 1976. He was appointed a Queen's Counsel in 1986. For 30 years he lectured part-time at the University of Sydney. He is the author and editor of several texts on equity and trusts. Justice Gummow was appointed a Companion in the General Division of the Order of Australia in 1997.



Justice Kenneth Hayne AC

Kenneth Madison Hayne was appointed to the Court in September 1997. At the time of his appointment he was a judge of the Victorian Court of Appeal, having been appointed one of the foundation judges of that Court in 1995. He graduated in arts and law from the University of Melbourne. He was Victoria's Rhodes Scholar in 1969 and graduated as a Bachelor of Civil Law from Oxford University.

He joined the Victorian Bar in 1971, and was appointed a Queen's Counsel in 1984. He practised in state and federal courts principally in commercial, constitutional and general civil matters. He was appointed a judge of the Victorian Supreme Court in 1992. Justice Hayne was appointed a Companion in the General Division of the Order of Australia in 2002.



Justice Dyson Heydon AC

John Dyson Heydon was appointed to the Court in February 2003, after having been a judge of the New South Wales Court of Appeal since 2000. He graduated in arts from the University of Sydney, and, as the Rhodes Scholar for New South Wales in 1964, graduated as Master of Arts and Bachelor of Civil Law from Oxford University.

He was admitted to the New South Wales Bar in 1973 and was appointed a Queen's Counsel in 1987. At age 34, he was elected dean of the University of Sydney Law School for 1978–79. He practised at the Bar from 1979 until his appointment to the Court of Appeal. He has published a number of legal texts, including his first book, *The Restraint of Trade Doctrine* in 1971. Justice Heydon was appointed a Companion in the General Division of the Order of Australia in 2004.



Justice Susan Crennan AC

Susan Maree Crennan was appointed to the Court in November 2005. At the time of her appointment she was a judge of the Federal Court of Australia, having been appointed to that office in February 2004. She was educated at the University of Melbourne (BA and PostgradDipHist) and the University of Sydney (LLB).

Justice Crennan was admitted to the New South Wales Bar in 1979 and joined the Victorian Bar in 1980. She was appointed a Queen's Counsel in 1989. Justice Crennan was President of the Australian Bar Association 1994–95, Chairman of the Victorian Bar Council in 1993–94, and a Commissioner for Human Rights in 1992. Justice Crennan was appointed a Companion in the General Division of the Order of Australia in 2008.



Justice Susan Kiefel AC

Susan Mary Kiefel was appointed to the Court in September 2007. At the time of her appointment she was a judge of the Federal Court of Australia and the Supreme Court of Norfolk Island. She served as a judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland in 1993–94 before joining the Federal Court. She was admitted to the Queensland Bar in 1975 and was the first woman in Queensland to be appointed Queen's Counsel, in 1987. Justice Kiefel served as a part-time Commissioner of the Australian Law Reform Commission from 2003 to 2007. She has a Masters of Laws degree from Cambridge University. Justice Kiefel was appointed a Companion in the General Division of the Order of Australia in 2011.



Justice Virginia Bell

Virginia Margaret Bell was appointed to the Court in February 2009. At the time of her appointment she was a judge of the New South Wales Court of Appeal. She graduated from the University of Sydney as a Bachelor of Laws in 1977. After seven years as a solicitor with the Redfern Legal Centre, she was admitted to the New South Wales Bar in 1984 and was appointed a Senior Counsel in 1997. Justice Bell practised as a public defender between 1986 and 1989 before returning to the private Bar. Between 1994 and 1997 she was a counsel assisting the Royal Commission into the New South Wales Police Service. Justice Bell was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of New South Wales in March 1999. She served as president of the Australian Institute of Judicial Administration 2006 to 2008.



Top: Part-image of Jan Senbergs' Constitutional Wall mural in the High Court's Public Hall; Courtroom 3 above.