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The Victoria University of Wellington was founded in 1899 to mark the Diamond Jubilee of the reign of Queen Victoria of Great Britain and of the then British Empire. Law teaching started in 1900. The Law Faculty was formally constituted in 1907. The first dean was Richard Maclaurin (1870-1920), an eminent scholar of both law and mathematics. Maclaurin went on to lead the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as President in its formative years. Former professors include the Right Honourable Sir Kenneth Keith, a member of the International Court of Justice at The Hague since 2005, and Sir John Salmond (1862-1924), one of the Common Law's leading scholars. Salmond's texts on jurisprudence and torts have gone through many editions and remain in print.

Alumni include Sir Robin Cooke (1926-2006), one of the leading judges of the British Commonwealth. As Baron Cooke of Thorndon, he sat on over 100 appeals to the Judicial Committee of the House of Lords, one of very few Commonwealth judges ever appointed to do so.

Since 1996 the [Law School](#) has occupied the Old Government Building in central Wellington. Designed by William Clayton and opened in 1876 to house New Zealand's then civil service, the building is a particularly fine example of Italianate neo-Renaissance style. Unusually among large colonial official buildings of the time it is constructed of wood, apart from chimneys and vaults.

The School is close to New Zealand's Parliament, courts, and the headquarters of government departments. Throughout Victoria's history, our law teachers have contributed actively to policy formation and to law reform. As a result, in addition to many scholarly articles and books, the Victoria SSRN pages include a number of official reports.

Victoria graduates approximately 230 LLB and LLB(Hons) students each year, and about 60 LLM students. The faculty has an increasing number of doctoral students. Ordinarily there are ten to twelve students engaged in PhD research.

Victoria University observes the British system of academic ranks. In North American terms, lecturers and senior lecturers are tenured doctrinal scholars, not legal writing teachers. A senior lecturer corresponds approximately to a North American associate professor in rank.

The name of the Victoria University of Wellington Faculty of Law Legal Studies Research Paper Series will be Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Papers. The Victoria University site opens with 280 scholarly papers. In addition to current working papers and

recent scholarly articles, Victoria University Legal Research Papers plans to publish occasional special issues that collect work on particular topics. Projected themes for special issues include constitutional law and democracy, jurisprudential perspectives of income tax law, and issues in the law of contract. Particularly in early months of the series, Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Papers will republish selected leading articles by VUW faculty members that have appeared in recent years. The inaugural editor is Professor John Prebble.

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Sincerely,

Bernard Black and Ronald J. Gilson
Directors
Legal Scholarship Network

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