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Announcements

Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Palmer QC: Collected Addresses Part VI: A Constitution for Aotearoa New Zealand (II)

The Palmer Addresses is a collection of speeches and lectures delivered by the Right Honourable Sir Geoffrey Palmer QC, former Prime Minister of New Zealand and Distinguished Fellow of the Victoria University of Wellington Law Faculty. The series is sponsored by an anonymous donor whom the Faculty gratefully acknowledges.

Table of Contents

Transparency, Governance and Constitutions

[Sir Geoffrey Palmer QC](#), Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law

New Zealand Business and the Constitution

[Sir Geoffrey Palmer QC](#), Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law

A Proper Constitution for New Zealand

[Sir Geoffrey Palmer QC](#), Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law

[^top](#)

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"Transparency, Governance and Constitutions"

Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 27/2022

SIR GEOFFREY PALMER QC, Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law

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An address to Transparency International New Zealand, delivered on 22 May 2017. The address introduces Sir Geoffrey Palmer and Dr Andrew Butler's book, *A Constitution for Aotearoa New Zealand*. It touches on a number of themes, such as the inadequacy of civics education in New Zealand schools and communities, the growing democratic deficit overseas, and the need for open government and a refreshment of the Official Information Act 1982.

"New Zealand Business and the Constitution"

Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 28/2022

SIR GEOFFREY PALMER QC, Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law

Email: geoffrey.palmer@vuw.ac.nz

A speech at a *Constitution for Aotearoa New Zealand* event, delivered on 30 August 2017. The speech makes the case for a written constitution, arguing that unbridled political change and lawmaking is the biggest threat the business community faces. It also discusses the reasons behind political disengagement, and argues that democratic renewal is required in order to encourage civic literacy and to rebuild trust in the institutions of government.

"A Proper Constitution for New Zealand"

Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 29/2022

SIR GEOFFREY PALMER QC, Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law

Email: geoffrey.palmer@vuw.ac.nz

An address to the Constitutional Workshop of Pacific Women's Watch New Zealand, delivered on 16 November 2019. The address introduces Sir Geoffrey Palmer and Dr Andrew Butler's two books, *A Constitution for Aotearoa New Zealand* and *Towards Democratic Renewal – Ideas for Constitutional Change in New Zealand*, and their proposals for a written constitution. It discusses the principal obstacles to constitutional change in New Zealand, in addition to some concerning global trends and challenges to democracy overseas. It also canvasses a number of areas that are in need of reform, from electoral law to local government.

[^top](#)

About this eJournal

Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Papers Series primarily contains scholarly papers by members of the **Faculty of Law at Victoria University of Wellington**. Some issues collect a number of papers on a similar theme to form a suite of papers on a single topic. Others issues are general or distribute mainly recent work.

The Student/Alumni Series is a subseries of the Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper Series. The subseries started in 2015 and publishes papers by students and alumni of Victoria University of Wellington, comprising primarily work for honours and postgraduate courses. Papers are collected into thematic or general issues.

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. Early professors included Sir John Salmond (1862-1924), still one of the Common Law's leading scholars. His 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 Appellate 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.

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[^top](#)

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[^top](#)

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