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Announcements

Collected Papers by the Right Honourable Sir Geoffrey Palmer QC Part XX: Tributes

The Palmer Series collects the papers of the Right Honourable Sir Geoffrey Palmer QC, Distinguished Fellow of the Victoria University of Wellington Law Faculty. The Palmer series is sponsored by an anonymous donor whom the Faculty gratefully acknowledges.

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LEGAL SCHOLARSHIP NETWORK: LEGAL STUDIES RESEARCH PAPER SERIES

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON LEGAL RESEARCH PAPERS

■ "Retirement of Right Hon Sir Ronald Davison, GBE, CMG"

New Zealand Law Journal 89, 1989

Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper Series Palmer Paper 87/2015

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

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This was originally presented as a speech by Rt Hon Geoffrey Palmer, Attorney-General at the final formal sitting by Sir Ronald Davison as Chief Justice of New Zealand in the High Court, Wellington. In the 11 years that his Honour has been the Chief Justice of New Zealand, he has assuredly made his mark on the High Court and the country's judicial system. He was appointed before the Royal Commission on the Courts had been appointed. But it had been working on its task for a year and a half and was expected to produce recommendations for significant changes in Court structures. Sir Davison's accession to office was in circumstances very like those of his leaving of it, thanks to a new report from the Law Commission expected to lead to further changes in the Courts. That said, there have been many changes in 11 years, not all of which Sir Ronald Davison would claim credit for, but he has been involved in them all, either advocating the change or agreeing with it and supporting its introduction. The result has been a judicial system which is alive to the needs of the day whilst maintaining a firm connection with those traditions of the past which make the Courts such an important part of our Constitution.

Sir Ronald's own judicial work has been strongly centred in the field of administrative law and the

control of the work of the Administrative Division of the High Court. He has been noted for the speed with which he rendered judgment, as well as for a lucidity of style which sets out relevant facts and law concisely before proceeding to a conclusion not only just but also sensible. In his dealings with the Government and its agencies, Sir Ronald has smoothed the way for a number of developments by declining to stand on the dignity of office. He has been ready to engage, with unfailing equanimity, in discussion at any time and with anybody if that would ensure progress on matters such as new accommodation.

"A Pacific Tribute to Burns H. Weston"

Transnational Law & Contemporary Problems, Vol. 21, No. 3, 2013

Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper Series Palmer Paper 88/2015

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

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This paper is a tribute to Burns H. Weston, including the author's memories of him in Iowa since 1969.

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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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