



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

—
Institute of
Criminology
50th Anniversary
1966–2016

2016 Paul Byrne SC Memorial Lecture



Speaker: Stephen Odgers SC

Uniform Evidence Law at 21

When

MONDAY 17 OCTOBER

6.00 – 7.30PM

(registration from 5.45pm,
cocktail reception at 7.30PM)

Where

Law Foyer, level 2
New Law Building (F10)
Eastern Avenue
University of Sydney

Registration

Complimentary, however
registration is essential

[Click here](#) to register or visit

www.sydney.edu.au/law/events

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The Paul Byrne Memorial Fund

has been set up to honour and continue Paul's interest in the criminal justice system by supporting the ongoing activities of the Institute of Criminology. Attendees of the Memorial Lecture are warmly invited to make a donation to The Fund. Gifts to The Fund support the activities of the Institute of Criminology and other activities in the field of criminal law at Sydney Law School, in memory of the late Paul Byrne SC.

About the lecture

It has been 21 years since NSW and the Commonwealth enacted uniform evidence legislation (UEL), largely based on the work of the Australian Law Reform Commission. Since then a number of other jurisdictions have followed suit (Victoria, Tasmania, A.C.T., Northern Territory). The legislation has introduced a number of important reforms in the law of evidence, particularly in criminal proceedings, and has on balance been a successful exercise in law reform. However, there have been problems, some the consequence of judicial construction of the UEL, requiring amendment. In 2005, the Australian Law Reform Commission (along with the NSW and Victorian Law Reform Commissions) proposed changes to the 10-year-old UEL and these were subsequently enacted.

Now the UEL is 21 and it is time to consider new amendments – partly to deal with problems that have arisen in the last decade, partly to ensure proper implementation of the policy framework around which the legislation was constructed. It is also time for the remaining hold-out jurisdictions (Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia) to adopt the UEL.

About the speaker

[Stephen Odgers SC](#) is a leading appellate advocate, prominent legal author and distinguished legal academic. He was a Senior Lecturer at the University of Sydney (1986-1988) and was appointed an Adjunct Professor of Law in 2006.

Stephen has been actively involved in Australian law reform for many years. He has worked at the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) (1980-1984), and was a Member of the Advisory Committee to ALRC for Report 102, *Uniform Evidence Law* (2005). He has also been the author of many discussion papers on law reform issues for the NSW Bar Association over a number of decades.

Stephen began practice as a barrister in NSW in 1989 and was appointed as Senior Counsel in 2000. He was one of the founding members of Forbes Chambers in Sydney in 1990, and has practised from there ever since.

About Paul Byrne SC

This is the fifth Paul Byrne SC Memorial Lecture honouring Paul Byrne SC, who had a life long interest in criminal law and the criminal justice system, as well being an active participant and generous supporter of the Institute of Criminology at the Sydney Law School.

Paul Byrne SC graduated in Arts and Law from the University of Sydney, and worked with the Public Solicitor's Office as a solicitor. He became a barrister in 1979, and was appointed a public defender. In 1983 he was awarded a Master of Laws degree with First Class Honours, and was awarded a University Medal. He was appointed Director of the Criminal Law Review Division and a Commissioner of the New South Wales Law Reform Commission. In 1995 he took silk and continued an outstanding career as an advocate in courts at all levels.

2016 marks the 50th Anniversary of the Sydney Institute of Criminology. Founded in 1966, the Institute has maintained a commitment to critical dialogue on criminal justice matters throughout the past 50 years.