



NEW SOUTH WALES
BAR ASSOCIATION

The Plunkett Lecture 2015

Sir John Latham: Judicial reasoning in defence of the Commonwealth

Presented by:

Dr Kelvin Widdows

Chair:

Jane Needham SC

NSW Bar Association

Common Room

5.15pm Tuesday

20 October 2015

1.5 HOUR SEMINAR
1.5 CPD POINTS IN THE
SUBSTANTIVE LAW STRAND

The lecture will seek to shed light on the extent to which Sir John Latham's personal or political convictions were a discernible influence on his judicial reasoning in cases on national security which came before him as Chief Justice of the High Court. Latham held the post from 1935 for some 17 years which covered peacetime, World War II and the 'Cold War'. While Latham is probably best known to Australian lawyers as a former Chief Justice, his career path to the Court was diverse and possibly unique in Australian judicial history, including a period in intelligence, a leading role in international negotiations over Australia's post-World War I national security, then three terms as Attorney-General in conservative national governments. Latham's activist conservative background led to speculation that, despite an earlier public commitment to rationalism, he would fail to act with impartiality in cases involving national security. Latham often affirmed that he would never deviate from the application of purely legalist method in his judgments.

THIS SEMINAR IS OPEN TO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF
THE FRANCIS FORBES SOCIETY FOR LEGAL HISTORY

REGISTRATION IS NOT REQUIRED

For more information, please contact Bali Kaur
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cpd Continuing Professional Development

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