



# Aboriginal Australians and the Common Law

You are warmly invited to the Ninth Annual Patron's Address held by the Australian Academy of Law

**WHEN:** THURSDAY 22 OCTOBER 2020 | 4:45 FOR 5:00 PM

**PLACE:** ONLINE

## SYNOPSIS:

From its inception, the colony of New South Wales operated under English Law. The initial designation was essentially military, unsurprisingly given the new inhabitants in this very 'unEnglish' land. As the colony grew, so did its common law footprint, and so it has remained. What was not and, it may be thought, is still not, settled was the common law's relationship with the Australians who had been settled on the land for over 60,000 years.

In this brief overview, Her Excellency examines the historical and changing relationship of the Common Law and Australian Aboriginals

## THE PATRON'S ADDRESS:

This annual address was inaugurated in 2012 when it was given by the Academy of Law's then Patron, Chief Justice Robert French AC. The last two Patron's addresses were given, in 2018, by the then Chief Justice of New Zealand, the Right Honourable Dame Sian Elias GNZM and, in 2019, by the Academy of Law's present Patron, Chief Justice Susan Kiefel AC. The Academy is grateful to Her Excellency, The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC, a Fellow of the Academy, for agreeing to deliver this, the ninth Patron's address.

## HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE MARGARET BEAZLEY AC QC

Governor of New South Wales

Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC is the 39th Governor of New South Wales, commencing her five year tenure on 2 May 2019.

Prior to her appointment as Governor, Her Excellency had a long and distinguished law career spanning 43 years, during which time she served as a role model for women in the law.



Appointed Queen's Counsel in 1989, in 1993 she was appointed to the Federal Court of Australia. In 1996, she was the first woman appointed to the New South Wales Court of Appeal and, subsequently, as the first woman to be appointed as its President. She served, on a number of occasions, as Administrator of the Government of the State of New South Wales.

She was made a Companion of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day Honours List on 26 January 2020 for "eminent service to the people of New South Wales, particularly through leadership roles in the judiciary, and as a mentor of young women lawyers"

Register for this event visit  
[www.academyoflaw.org.au/events](http://www.academyoflaw.org.au/events)  
 By 12 October 2020