

The Forbes Society is pleased to inform members of the **Annual Forbes Lecture** which will be given on **Tuesday 22 July 2025** by [Professor Kathy Bowrey](#) of the Faculty of Law UNSW in Banco Court, Level 13 Law Courts Building. Professor Bowrey's title is *The Diva, her Lover and the Recording Company scheme to "get Melba": Introducing Dame Nellie Melba (1861-1931), the business woman*. If you are unable to attend in person, to receive details for **online viewing** please **register** here [2025 Forbes Lecture - Professor Kathy Bowrey](#) – the viewing link will be in the emailed confirmation you will receive after registering.

On **Tuesday 29 July 2025** at 5.15 pm in Court 13A, Level 13 Law Courts Building, 184 Phillip St, **Inma Conde** will present a legal history tutorial on the origins of the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods. If you are unable to attend in person, to receive details for **online viewing** please **register** here [Legal History Tutorial by Inma Conde - 29.7.25](#) – the viewing link will be in the emailed confirmation you will receive after registering.

Inma's presentation titled *From Professor Ernst Rabel to Article 7(1): Tracing the Origin and Interpretative Purpose of the CISG* is based on a chapter of her PhD thesis.

Abstract This presentation explores the historical origins of Article 7(1) of the CISG, the Convention's interpretative clause. It traces its intellectual foundations to the pioneering work of Professor Ernst Rabel and UNIDROIT in the late 1920s, when legal scholars first sought to unify private law across jurisdictions through comparative methodology. Article 7(1) was conceived as a tool to achieve international uniformity and safeguard the autonomous character of the CISG. Yet today, courts and tribunals interpret the Convention through a domestic lens—commonly known as the “homeward trend”—or overlook the provision entirely. This talk situates Article 7(1) within its legal-historical context and examines how its aim of uniform interpretation has been challenged by divergent judicial practice.

Inma Conde is a Casual Lecturer and PhD Candidate at Sydney Law School, supported by the RTP, WA Cooke, Jane Cooke, and Alfred Godfrey Scholarships, as well as a research grant from Francis Forbes Fund. Inma is an international lawyer currently working at the Office of International Law within the Attorney-General's Department. She also serves as Secretary of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law National Coordination Committee for Australia (UNCCA). An Australian citizen originally from Spain, Inma holds degrees in both civil and common law systems. She speaks four languages and brings a comparative perspective to global legal traditions and cross-jurisdictional challenges in academia and practice.

Other events: The Junior Vice-President of the Society, Professor Mark Lunney, will present an occasional lecture on 11 August 2025, titled 'The state of the road was such "as to be a disgrace to the responsible city officers": Immunity for nonfeasance for repair of roads and its challenges to the imperial legal order in the late nineteenth century'.

Other legal history tutorials will be presented in Court 13A, Level 13 Law Courts Building by previous recipients of grants from the **Francis Forbes Fund** including:

- [Associate Prof Marina Nehme](#) (University of New South Wales) on Thursday 18 September
- [Associate Professor Alecia Simmonds](#) (University of Technology Sydney) on Tuesday 14 October
- [Professor Gabrielle Wolf](#) (Monash University, formerly Deakin University) – on Thursday 30 October (online courtesy of the Law Society of NSW)

Registration details for these events will follow.

The 14th Annual **Plunkett Lecture** will be delivered by the NSW Solicitor General, Michael Sexton SC on 23 October 2025, in Banco Court.

If you have any queries, please email secretariat@forbessociety.org.au.

The Society is very grateful to the Hon. A S Bell, Chief Justice of NSW, for his permission to use Supreme Court facilities.

The 44th **Annual Conference of the Australian and New Zealand Law and History Society** will be held in the week commencing 24 November 2025 at The University of Melbourne, with the Conference Theme: 'Currency'. The Secretary, ANZLHS, Associate Professor Catherine Bond (UNSW School of Law, Society and Criminology) has advised that the conference website is now live: <https://law.unimelb.edu.au/44th-anzlhs-conference>. Through the **Francis Forbes Fund** the Forbes Society supports a prize awarded for the best presentation by a higher degree research student or an early career researcher at the Annual ANZLHS conference. This paper may be published in *law&history*.

Upcoming dates

22 July	Forbes Lecture – Professor Kathy Bowrey of the Faculty of Law UNSW (Banco Court) – 5.30 pm (<i>note different start time from tutorials</i>)
29 July	Legal history tutorial – Inma Conde (Sydney Law School) (Court 13A) – 5.15 pm
11 August	Occasional lecture by Professor Mark Lunney (Court 13A) – 5.15 pm
18 September	Legal history tutorial – Associate Prof Marina Nehme (UNSW) (Court 13A) – 5.15 pm
14 October	Legal history tutorial – Associate Professor Alecia Simmonds (UTS) (Court 13A) – 5.15 pm
23 October	Plunkett Lecture – NSW Solicitor General, Michael Sexton SC (Banco Court) – 5.30 pm
30 October	Legal history tutorial – Associate Professor Gabrielle Wolf (Monash University) (online) – 5.15 pm
27 – 29 Nov	ANZLHS Conference 2025 at The University of Melbourne