



NEW SOUTH WALES  
BAR ASSOCIATION

# Pitt Cobbett - A Pre-Engineer's Ghost Speaks from the Grave

**Presented by:**

**Professor Anne Twomey,  
University of Sydney**

**Chair:**

**The Hon JLB Allsop AO, Chief  
Justice of the Federal Court of  
Australia**

**Court 13A Law Courts  
Building, Queen's Square  
Sydney**

**5.15pm, Wednesday 5th June  
2019**

**1 HOUR SEMINAR  
1 CPD POINT IN THE  
SUBSTANTIVE LAW STRAND**

In *Spence v Queensland*, the High Court recently referred to the whispers of the pre-Engineers ghosts. One of those ghosts is Pitt Cobbett, a former Professor of Constitutional Law at the University of Sydney who died on the last day of Sir Samuel Griffith's term as Chief Justice. Cobbett wrote a great opus on the Constitution but its publication was frustrated by the Engineers Case and the new constitutional order it created. A century after Cobbett's death, his work is about to be published and his voice heard from the grave. Join Cobbett's successor, Professor Anne Twomey, as she explores what is surprising and what we can learn from Cobbett's century-old understanding of the Constitution.

**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 Tiffany McDonald  
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**NSW Bar Association  
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