

On **Tuesday 13 August 2024**, **Robert Turnbull** of 8 Wentworth Chambers will deliver the next Forbes Society legal history tutorial, *"The History of Precedents"* in Court 13A, Law Courts Building at

**5.15 pm**. Robert provides this outline:

How did a legal system evolve from 12 to 15 judges sitting at Westminster Hall propounding principles of law for a population of 2 million, to a complex federal system with hundreds of judges sitting at various levels of appeal, in dialogue with judges from around the world?

The history of precedent is bound up with two other institutional pillars: law reporting and appeals. How have those facets of legal history borne upon the development of the common law and the principles of equity?

**Robert's biography:** Robert is a barrister at 8 Wentworth Chambers. He practices in commercial, public law, white collar crime and tax, as well as other areas. Robert was formerly a solicitor at Clayton Utz, and Slaughter and May. He last gave a Forbes Society tutorial in 2014, and delivered the Thirteenth Annual Forbes Lecture in that year.

No registration is necessary for **in person attendance** – if you are unable to attend in person, to receive a link for online viewing please register here [Legal History Tutorial - Robert Turnbull - The History of Precedents - 13.08.24](#).

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

If you have any queries, please email [secretariat@forbessociety.org.au](mailto:secretariat@forbessociety.org.au).

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:** A reminder that membership of the Francis Forbes Society for the 2024/2025 financial year is now due. Membership will run to 30 June 2025: please see [Forbes Society Membership](#). One of the Society's objects is to encourage and promote research into Australian legal history, and it maintains the **Francis Forbes Fund** for that purpose, to which donations may be made. The membership form makes provision for donating to the Fund.

A previous grant from the Fund supported digitisation of letters from solicitors, barristers and law students to the University of Sydney Law School Comforts Fund during the Second World War, a project of Tony Cunneen's. See the story here: [Law School Comfort Fund](#)

**Forbes Fund grants:** Grants were made from the Fund for **2024** to support the following projects:

- Inma Conde (PhD candidate, University of Sydney Law School): A historical interpretation of Article 7(1) of the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods
- Dr Jeffrey Gordon (Senior Lecturer, University of Sydney Law School): Free speech moments in Australian legal history
- Dr Henry Kha (Senior Lecturer School of Private and Commercial Law, UNSW Law & Justice): Ne Temere and the Marriage Law of New South Wales: Religious Sectarianism in the 1920s

In addition, the Society supports an annual **Essay prize** for the best paper presented at the ANZLHS Conference, judged by a panel appointed by the Editor of law & history.