

# FROM MAGNA CARTA TO THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS: 2015 AND BEYOND

An event to commemorate the 800th Anniversary of the  
Magna Carta and International Human Rights Day

## INTRODUCING THE SPEAKERS





## **ALEX NEWTON**

### **Specialist, Business and Human Rights**

Alex Newton is a lawyer and public policy expert with extensive experience in executive roles, in both national and international contexts. From 2009 to 2015, she was employed as a senior advisor in Australia's Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, specializing in legal and social policy. Alex led work on whole-of-government strategies to develop social investment in Australia. Most recently, she was appointed as Group Director of the Defence Abuse Response Taskforce: the national taskforce established by the Australian Government to manage over 2,500 complaints of sexual and other forms of abuse in the Australian Defence Force.

Outside her work for the public service, Alex lectures a postgraduate law course in transnational business and human rights at the Australian National University; she created the course in 2010 and continues to run it as an annual intensive. She also lectures in international human rights law at the University of Technology, Sydney.

Previously, Alex worked with the United Nations Secretary-General's Policy Committee in New York and, before that, she was a lawyer with the Australian Human Rights Commission. She started her career as a corporate lawyer with the firm King and Wood Mallesons, Sydney.

Alex has authored numerous publications on business and human rights, and social responsibility and speaks regularly on these issues in Australia and internationally.

She holds a Master of Laws from Columbia University, New York and Bachelors of Arts and Laws (first class honours) from Sydney University.



## **PAUL LYNCH MP**

### **Shadow Attorney General of New South Wales**

Paul has represented the seat of Liverpool in the NSW Legislative Assembly since his election in 1995.

Paul was on the executive of NSW Young Labor from 1981-82, and was its Secretary from 1982-83.

Previously, Paul was a Councillor on the Liverpool City Council, a post he held from 1987 to 1995.

In 2007, Paul Lynch was made Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health).

In the Keneally Labor Government, Paul was Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Commerce, Minister for Energy, Minister for Public Sector Reform and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

Paul is now the Shadow Attorney General and the Shadow Minister for Justice in the Robertson Labor Shadow Cabinet.

Prior to his life in politics, Paul practised as a solicitor working mainly in personal injury and criminal law including at the ICAC and at Geoffrey Edwards & Co, Carroll and O'Dea and Stoikovich and Banfield. He holds a B.A (Hons) and an LL.B from the University of Sydney.



## **NICHOLAS COWDERY AM QC**

**Chair of the Magna Carta Committee of the  
Rule of Law Institute of Australia**

Nicholas Cowdery AM QC was the NSW Director of Public Prosecutions from 1994 to 2011, and Inaugural Co-Chair of the Human Rights Institute of the International Bar Association. He is Adjunct Professor at the Sydney Institute of Criminology and Chair of the Magna Carta Committee of the Rule of Law Institute of Australia.



## **DR CHRISTOPHER WARD SC**

**Senior Counsel at the New South Wales Bar**

Dr Ward is a Senior Counsel at the New South Wales Bar, and specialises in all forms of public international law. Dr Ward represents government and private clients in all matters of public international law, including human rights matters, maritime boundary disputes and cases concerning diplomatic immunity. He was international legal counsel for Mr Peter Greste and for Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukumaran.

Dr Ward is an Adjunct Professor in public international law at the College of Law of the Australian National University (ANU). He is the President of the International Law Association (Australian Branch) and a fellow of the Centre for International Public Law at the ANU.



## **DR SARAH PRITCHARD SC**

### **Senior Counsel at the New South Wales Bar**

Dr Sarah Pritchard SC has been at the Sydney Bar since 1999, and is a member of eleven Wentworth chambers.

She is chairperson of the Law Council of Australia's Human Rights Committee, as well as the NSW Bar Association's Human Rights Committee. She is also a member of the Law Council of Australia's Indigenous Legal Issues Committee. She is a former judicial member of the NSW Administrative Decisions Tribunal, and a former member of the NSW Legal Aid Commission's Human Rights Committee.

Prior to coming to the Bar, she was an Australian Research Council post-doctoral fellow and then senior lecturer in the Faculty of Law at the University of New South Wales. She is also a former director of the Australian Human Rights Centre at UNSW.

In 1994, she obtained a Doctor of Laws (Dr.Iur.) from the University of Tuebingen, the title of her dissertation being "International Legal Protection of Ethnic Minorities: Historical and Contemporary Developments", 2001, Duncker & Humblot Berlin. In 1989, she was associate to Justice Michael McHugh of the High Court of Australia.

From the mid 1980s, she worked with numerous indigenous delegations and human rights organisations at the United Nations. She was closely involved in the development of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and in advocacy at the UN and elsewhere in relation to East Timor.



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**Date:**  
Thursday 10 December 2015



**Time:**  
6.00pm-8.00pm



**Venue:**  
Strangers Function Room -  
Parliament House

**REGISTER HERE**

<https://events.lawsociety.com.au/2015/644/>

