

Professor George Williams



Professor George Williams is the Anthony Mason Professor at the Faculty of Law, University of New South Wales, and was the foundation Director of the Gilbert & Tobin Centre of Public Law from 2000 to 2008. He was formerly based at the ANU. He has an economics degree and a law degree from Macquarie University, a masters degree in law from UNSW, and a PhD from the ANU.

George has worked at the Australian National University, Blake Dawson Waldron and as Associate to Justice Michael McHugh of the High Court, and has held visiting positions as the Laskin Professor of Public Law at Osgoode Hall Law School, Toronto, at the Human Rights Institute, Columbia University Law School, New York and at University College London. As a barrister, Professor Williams has appeared in a number of High Court cases, including the *Hindmarsh Island Bridge Case* (1998). His books include *Human Rights Under the Australian Constitution* (1999) and *A Bill of Rights for Australia* (2000). He is a well-known media commentator on constitutional law issues and the High Court.

George has written and edited 22 books, including *A Charter of Rights for Australia*, *What Price Security? Taking Stock of Australia's Anti-Terror Laws*, *Australian Constitutional Law and Theory* and *The Oxford Companion to the High Court of Australia*. He practises as a barrister and has appeared in the High Court of Australia in cases such as *Lange v Australian Broadcasting Corporation* (on freedom of speech), the *Hindmarsh Island Bridge Case* (on freedom from racial discrimination) and *Plaintiff S157/2002 v Commonwealth* (on review of government action and the rule of law) and in the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal of Fiji, including in *Republic of Fiji v Prasad* (on legality of the 2000 coup).

In 2007 he chaired a NSW Government inquiry into Options for a New National Industrial Relations System and was a member of the High Level Advisory Group on Federal-State Relations to Kevin Rudd and Bob McMullan. In 2005 he chaired Victorian Human Rights Consultation Committee that led to the enactment of the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities.