

THE JAMES CRAWFORD BIENNIAL LECTURE SERIES ON INTERNATIONAL LAW

*Judith Gardam**

In 2003 the Vice-Chancellor of The University of Adelaide, Professor James McWha, kindly agreed to the proposal to establish a lecture series in Public International Law. The series is designed to not only recognise the achievements of Professor James Crawford, one of Adelaide Law School's most illustrious graduates but also the achievements of the School generally in the field of Public International Law.

The University of Adelaide Law School has a particularly fine tradition of excellence amongst its graduates and staff in Public International Law. Former students of the School have distinguished themselves across a wide range of activities involving the discipline of international law. They have served, for example, in a variety of government positions, as international law practitioners before a wide range of international and domestic tribunals and as legal officers in United Nations agencies and non-governmental and intergovernmental bodies.

Moreover, from time to time, the academic staff of the School has included a number of distinguished international lawyers. For example, the late Daniel O'Connell, a pre-eminent name in the field of public international law, was Dean and Professor at Adelaide Law School before his appointment to the Chichele Chair of Public International Law at Oxford. During his period at the School, Professor O' Connell completed a number of works on international law that rapidly acquired the status of classics. The special International Law collection housed in the Law School library bears his name.

Professor Ivan Shearer is another prominent former member of the academic staff and also a graduate of the School, who until 2003 held the Challis Chair of International Law at the University of Sydney. Professor Shearer is the author of several leading works on international law, is an acknowledged expert in the Law of the Sea and in 2001 was appointed to the United Nations Human Rights Committee.

Another distinguished member of the academic staff from 1993–8 was Professor Hilary Charlesworth, who subsequently served as the Director of the Centre for International and Public Law at the Australian National University and currently holds a Chair at the Research School of Social Sciences at the same institution.

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Professor Charlesworth has published widely in the field of international law generally and has made an outstanding contribution to the discipline by her innovative and ground-breaking work in feminist approaches to international law.

However, one particular graduate and former member of the academic staff stands out for his achievements in the field of Public International Law, namely Professor James Crawford. Professor Crawford is a graduate of both Adelaide and Oxford Universities. He was appointed as a lecturer at Adelaide Law School in 1974 and having attained a personal chair in 1983, he subsequently held the Challis Chair of International Law at Sydney University and in 1992 took up his current position as Whewell Professor of International law at Cambridge University.

Professor Crawford is the author of a wide range of leading works in the field of public international law. He has also served as a member of several prestigious international bodies, such as the international Law Commission, and the Institute of International Law. Moreover, until recently Professor Crawford was the Director of the Lauterpacht Research Centre for international Law at Cambridge University.

In addition to his outstanding contribution to the academy, Professor Crawford is widely acknowledged as a practitioner of considerable distinction. Indeed, in recognition of his services as an advocate, in 2003 he was awarded the Panglima Jasa Nengara, that carries the title of Datuk, by the Malaysian government.

Professor Crawford graciously agreed to have the new series named in his honour and to present the inaugural lecture in the series, entitled ‘The Rule of Law in International Law’. We were, moreover, fortunate to secure Professor Hilary Charlesworth as a commentator. The written version of their presentations is published in this volume of the *Adelaide Law Review*. It is particularly fitting that the Review publish the inaugural lecture and the associated commentary in the James Crawford Biennial Lecture Series, as Professor Crawford is a former editor of the Review and a member of its Advisory Board.