

2011

Introduction

In 2011 the WA Lee Equity Lecture was delivered by the Honourable Justice Margaret McMurdo AC, President of the Court of Appeal of the Supreme Court of Queensland. The topic of her lecture was 'Faith, Hope and Charity: The Resilience of the Charitable Trust from the Middle Ages to the 21st Century'.

McMurdo was appointed on 30 July 1998 as a judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland and as President of the Court of Appeal of the Supreme Court of Queensland and is currently still serving in that position. She was the first woman to be appointed as a presiding judge of an appellate court in Australia. Prior to her appointment to that position she previously served as judge of the Children's Court of Queensland from 1993 until 1998 and as a judge of the District Court of Queensland from 1991 until 1998.

McMurdo was admitted as a barrister of the Supreme Court of Queensland in 1996 having previously served as an associate to the Honourable Justice Demack, who held an appointment as a judge of the District Court Queensland and subsequently an appointment as a senior judge of the Family Court of Australia. McMurdo worked a barrister in the Public Defender's Office from 1976 to 1978 and held the position of Assistant Public Defender from 1978 until 1989. McMurdo then went on to practise at the private bar in Brisbane from 1989 until 1991 and held a commission to prosecute.

Before her judicial career, McMurdo was also a part-time member of the Criminal Justice Commission's Misconduct Tribunal (1990-1991); a founding member of the Women Lawyer's Association (1978-1983) and President of that organisation (1980-1981) as well as a member of the committee of that organisation (1978-1982); a founding member of the Department of Children's Services Serious Offenders Review Panel (1978-1983); and Member of the Queensland Law Society Criminal Law Committee (1978-1986). In addition McMurdo has also held many extra-judicial positions including: Member, American Law Institute (2012 to present); Founding Fellow, Australian Academy of Law (2007 to present); Member, Griffith University Council (2003 to present); Patron, Southside Education Centre (2001-2009); Member, International Association of Women Judges (1999 to present). Member, Judicial Conference of Australia (1998 to present); Chair, District Court Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Committee (1996-1998). Member, District Court Strategic Planning and Budget Committee (1996-1998); Elected Trustee, Brisbane Girls Grammar School (1994-1998); Member, Australian Institute of Judicial Administration (1992 to present); Member, Criminal Procedure Division, Litigation Reform Commission (1992-1994) and Member, QUT Faculty of Law Advisory Committee (1991-2011).

McMurdo was born in Brisbane and attended New Farm State Primary School and her high school education was undertaken as a pupil at Brisbane Grammar School

This is a preview. Not all pages are shown.