

The Hon Justice Griffiths

On 23 April 2012, Justice Griffiths was sworn in as a Federal Court judge. Chief Justice Keane, Attorney-General Roxon, the solicitor-general, Mr Gageler, and Mr Dowd (on behalf of the Law Society) spoke at the ceremony.

Justice Griffiths grew up in the Riverina – born in Narrandera, primary school in Grong Grong and high school in Wagga Wagga. Justice Griffiths still retains a property in the Southern Highlands, and is a reputable Angus and Murray cattle breeder.

Justice Griffiths then went to ANU where he graduated with a degree in arts and law, and the university medal in law and the ACT Supreme Court judge's prize. Professor Zines was his mentor at ANU, who encouraged him to pursue further study, a LLM from Harvard University, then a MA and PhD from Cambridge University. For four years, he was a fellow of Emmanuel College at Cambridge. His other great mentor in law was the late Professor Sir David Williams, his PhD supervisor. He was awarded the York prize for his doctoral thesis *Judicial Restraint and Activism in Judicial Review of Administrative Action for Abuse of Discretion*.

He returned to Canberra where he was appointed director of the Federal Administrative Review Council. He then moved to Sydney and became a solicitor and a year later a partner at Blake Dawson Waldron, practising administrative law, competition law, environmental law and planning law.

In 1994, he was called to the bar and the 11th Floor, and was known as a forceful and tenacious advocate. He took silk after six years, practising administrative law, competition law, environmental and planning law, commercial law and Aboriginal land rights. He was involved in a number of landmark cases ranging from a matter with the Australian Crime and Corruption Commission and Metcalf which concerned a request by the ACCC for injunctive relief to restrain Metcash



from completing the majority share sale agreement of the Franklin supermarket chain, to an animal welfare case involving an appeal to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal of the Minister's decision to allow eight Asian elephants to be imported for captivity in Australian zoos.

In 2009, he became a member of the Judicial Commission of New South Wales and since 2010, chairman of the Human Rights Committee of the New South Wales Bar Association. He has also authored several articles and papers, including co-writing a chapter on administrative law in *Butterworths' Court Forms, Precedents and Pleadings*.

By Therese Catanzariti