

# “The changing position and duties of company directors”

**The Hon. Justice Geoffrey Nettle**  
Justice of the High Court of  
Australia

The development of directors' duties spans the length of the 20th century, from the precepts of fiduciary obligation and the courts of Chancery to the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth). This lecture will examine the obligations placed upon, and the roles expected of, company directors. The position of present-day company directors in Australia will be considered in light of the schemes regulating the conduct of other office-holders, including union and public officials, and the approaches taken in other jurisdictions.

**The Hon. Justice Geoffrey Nettle**

Geoffrey Arthur Akeroyd Nettle was appointed to the Court in February 2015. At the time of his appointment, he was a judge of the Victorian Court of Appeal, to which he was appointed in June 2004. Before that he served as a judge of the Trial Division of the Supreme Court of Victoria, to which he had been appointed in July 2002.

He graduated in economics from the Australian National University, in law from the University of Melbourne and as a Bachelor of Civil Law from the University of Oxford. He was admitted to practice in 1977 and joined the Victorian Bar in 1982. He was appointed a Queen's Counsel in 1992. He practised in state and federal courts principally in commercial, equity, taxation and constitutional matters.

CLAYTON UTZ

**Harold Ford Memorial Lecture**

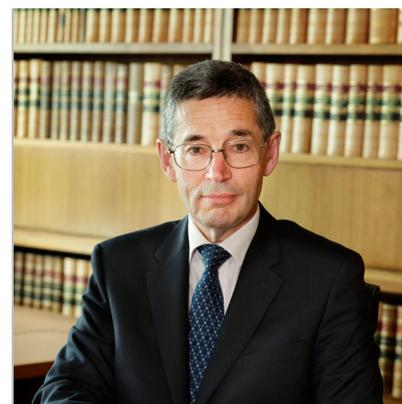
This Lecture is named in honour of Melbourne Law School's distinguished alumnus, Professor Harold Ford, who passed away in September 2012. Professor Ford spent almost his entire career at Melbourne Law School following his appointment to the Law School in 1949. He was Dean of the Law School in 1964 and from 1967 to 1973. He is remembered as a gifted teacher by several generations of law students. Professor Ford also made many important contributions to law reform, and co-authored a leading text titled Principles of the Law of Trusts and other influential books.

The Harold Ford Memorial Lecture celebrates the many contributions of Professor Ford to Melbourne Law School, the legal profession, and to the development of corporate law and trusts law.

**Post-lecture dinner**

Following the lecture, you are invited to attend a dinner, which will be held in the Woodward Centre on Level 10 of the Melbourne Law School. To attend the dinner, please register and pay online (\$100 per person).

**This lecture is co-presented by the Melbourne Law School and the Centre for Corporate Law and Securities Regulation, and sponsored by Clayton Utz.**



The Hon. Justice Geoffrey Nettle

**EVENT CONTACT DETAILS**

**Date:** Monday 26 June 2017

**Time:** Pre-lecture refreshments  
5:45pm - 6.30 pm

**Public Lecture**  
6:30pm - 7:30pm

**Post-lecture dinner**  
7:30pm - 9pm

**Venue:** G08 Theatre, Ground Floor,  
Melbourne Law School,  
185 Pelham Street, Carlton

Bookings are essential for  
this free public lecture.  
Enquiries: 03 8344 4444  
Register online at:  
[www.law.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.law.unimelb.edu.au)

**HAROLD FORD**  
MEMORIAL LECTURE