

Nicholas Richard Cowdery AM QC BA LLB, Hon DLaws *W'gong*, FAAL was the Director of Public Prosecutions for the State of New South Wales from 1994 to 2011. That Office is the largest prosecuting agency in Australia. [See www.odpp.nsw.gov.au]

He is now: an Adjunct Professor in the Faculty of Law, University of Sydney (teaching two postgraduate elective courses each year: *Criminal Procedures* and *Discretion in Criminal Justice*); a Visiting Professorial Fellow in the Faculties of Law in the University of NSW (co-teaching an undergraduate elective course: *The Criminal Trial*) and in the University of Wollongong; and an Adjunct Professor at Charles Sturt University. He is a legal expert consultant to the Commonwealth Secretariat, London (including projects in the Maldives, Mauritius, Uganda, The Bahamas and Botswana and concerning prosecution disclosure obligations and the reduction of backlogs in criminal justice systems) and is a consultant to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on a joint International Association of Prosecutors drafting project. He is involved in research projects into the operation of drug laws and is a member of the Australian Drug Law Reform Initiative (ADLaRI).

He was educated at Sydney Grammar School and the University of Sydney where he was a resident of St Paul's College (and where he is now an Honorary Academic Fellow). He was admitted as a Barrister in 1971 after undergraduate employment in the office of the Commonwealth Deputy Crown Solicitor in Sydney. He commenced practice (1971 - 1975) as a public defender in Papua New Guinea (based in Port Moresby, Rabaul and Lae at various times and travelling throughout the country).

From 1975 until 1994 he was in private practice at the Sydney Bar, where he practised largely in criminal law (prosecuting and defending), but also in common law, administrative law and some commercial law. He appeared in most Australian jurisdictions. He is also a member of the Irish Bar (since 1993).

He appeared in, among other cases, the prosecutions of the late Justice Lionel Murphy (of the High Court of Australia) and of the late Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen (former Premier of the State of Queensland). He appeared in the Blackburn Royal Commission in 1989/90 and was counsel assisting the Brennan TRG inquiry in 1991.

In 1987 he was appointed one of Her Majesty's Counsel (QC). He was an Acting ("Associate") Judge of the District Court of NSW for periods in 1988, 1989 and 1990.

He is a member of: the NSW Sentencing Council; the Advisory Committee of the Sydney Institute of Criminology; the Criminal Law Committee of the NSW Bar Association; the National Human Rights Committee of the Law Council of Australia; the Board of the Rule of Law Institute of Australia.

He is: Chair of the Law Council's International Human Rights Observer Panel; a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law (FAAL); Co-Chairman of the Tick-induced Allergies Research and Awareness Committee (TiARA) at the Royal North Shore Hospital; Immediate Past President of the Old Sydneians' Union (Sydney Grammar School).

He is a former member of: the DNA Review Panel; the Advisory Panel of the National Institute of Forensic Sciences; the Advisory Committee of the DNA Laboratory, NSW ICPMR; the National Child Sexual Assault Law Reform Committee; the Human Rights Committee of the NSW Bar Association; and the Board of the Black Dog Institute.

He was a consultant to the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative on projects in Bahrain, training prosecutors (most recently in June 2013). He recently redrafted the Prosecution Code of Hong Kong, SAR – published September 2013. He was a consultant to the Holistic Reform of the Justice Sector in Malta. He is Advisor to Samoa on the establishment of an Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

He was President of the International Association of Prosecutors (IAP) from 1999 to 2005, is an Honorary Member of the IAP and Chairman of the Senate of the Association and was awarded its Medal of Honour in 2011. [See www.iap-association.org] From 2008 to 2013 he was Chair of the IAP committee, the Global Prosecutors E-Crime Network (GPEN).

He was inaugural Co-Chair of the Human Rights Institute (HRI) of the International Bar Association (IBA) from its creation in 1995 until 2000 [See www.ibanet.org] He was a member of a HRI mission to Burma/Myanmar in 2012 to report on the operation of the rule of law in the legal system.

He is a member of human rights bodies in the International Commission of Jurists (Australian Section) and LAWASIA (of which he is a Life Member). He is former Chair of the NSW Lawyers' Group of Amnesty International. He is a member of the Australian Skeptics, a White Ribbon Ambassador and a Campaign Champion of the Justice Reinvestment for Aboriginal Young People Campaign.

He was appointed a Member in the Order of Australia (AM) in 2003 for service to the development and practice of criminal law, and for fostering international relations in the area of human rights. He has received many domestic and international awards, including a Rotary International Vocational Excellence Award and the Medal of the International Society for the Reform of Criminal Law (based in Vancouver, Canada).

He is the author of "*Getting Justice Wrong: myths, media and crime*" (Allen & Unwin, 2001) and of many papers and contributions to other publications.