

December 2023

The AALS turned 25 this year! With a full calendar, we held an **international women's day** panel, then an **international family law** event, and invited back **AHRC President Rosalind Croucher**. In June, we **interviewed our founders**, with a late summer reception for **Dame Helen Winkelmann**, Chief Justice of New Zealand in September. In October, **Sir Michael Wood** and **Dr Devika Hovell** gave our **Crawford Lecture**, and to cap the year we hosted former prime minister, the **Hon Julia Gillard**, for our black-tie dinner. We also welcomed the first-ever **Lady Chief Justice of England and Wales** as a patron. **How's that for a year?!**

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Gold Members 2023

Allen & Overy
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Norton Rose Fulbright

International Women's Day 2023—In March we held a panel of our countries' leading women lawyers giving their stories for **IWD2023**. With a welcome from patron **Lady Arden**, past Chair **Anne Cruikshank** (Arinna Law) interviewed first female senior partners **Georgia Dawson** (Freshfields) and **Rebecca Maslen-Stannage** (Herbert Smith Freehills), along with first female general counsel **Samallie Kiyingi** (Afreximbank) who represented our Ashurst connection having started at Sydney predecessor Blake Dawson Waldron. The online panel was hosted by **Herbert Smith Freehills**. *Recording at aals.co.uk.*



Top row (L-R):
1 Rebecca Maslen-Stannage (HSF),
2 Anne Cruikshank (Arinna), 3 Georgia Dawson (Freshfields).
Second row (L-R):
4 Samallie Kiyingi (Afreximbank),
5 Anne Bodley, 6 Patron Lady Arden.

International family law event—Opened by host firm **Branch Austin McCormick** partner **Saika Alam**, in April the AALS convened a well-attended international family law panel on differences between Australia, England and Wales in this area. Led by Committee member **Julius Brookman** (Branch Austin McCormick), speakers included **Professors Rebecca Bailey-Harris** (1 Hare Court) and **David Hodson OBE KC (Hon) MCI Arb** (International Family Law Group), after a welcome from Chair **Anne Bodley**. *Recording at aals.co.uk.*

(L-R:): 1 Saika Alam (BAM),
2 Anne Bodley (AALS),
3 Julius Brookman (BAM),
4 Professor Rebecca Bailey-Harris (1 Hare Court), and
5 Professor David Hodson OBE KC (Hon) MCI Arb (International Family Law Group).



The AALS at 25: Interview with our Founders—On the anniversary of our 1998 launch, in June we published an interview with our founders **Ian Hunter KC SC** and former Federal Court of Australia **Judges Garry Downes AM KC** and **Ken Handley AO KC**. The interview retraces the **Australia Acts of 1985** after which cases were no longer appealed to the UK—prompting our founders to set up the AALS to maintain ties between the UK, Australia and New Zealand. *Interview at aals.co.uk.*

UK Patrons

The Rt Hon the Lady Arden of Heswall DBE

Former Justice of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom

The Rt Hon Sir Peter Gross

Former Lord Justice of Appeal

The Rt Hon the Baroness Carr of Walton-on-the-Hill

Lady Chief Justice of England and Wales

In Memoriam:

The Rt Hon the Lord Judge Kt PC

Formerly Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales

The Rt Hon Lord Carswell PC

former Lord of Appeal in Ordinary

The Rt Hon the Lord Walker of Gestingthorpe GBS PC

Former Justice of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom

Honorary Life Presidents

Ian Hunter KC SC (NSW)

Essex Court Chambers
(Chair/Co-chair c.1998-2010)

Christopher Jackson

MAMO TCV and Stratulat Albulescu
(Chair/Co-chair c.2005-2011)

Anne Cruikshank

Arinna Law
(Chair/Co-chair 2010-2012)

James Drake KC

7 King's Bench Walk
(Chair 2012-2016)

HHJ Tony Baumgartner

South Eastern Circuit
(Chair 2016-2019)

Founders

Hon Garry Downes AM KC

Formerly Federal Court of Australia

Hon Ken Handley AO KC

Formerly Federal Court of Australia

Ian Hunter KC SC (NSW)

Essex Court Chambers

Join the AALS!

Renew from 1 March:

Gold (corporate)

£500 annually entitles all employees to member rates (normally gratis).

Silver (individual)

£50 annually entitles the holder to member rates (normally gratis).

Bronze (concession)

£25 entitles eligible holders (students, NQ-3years PQE, job seekers) to member rates (normally gratis).

Rates plus PayPal fee

aals.co.uk

Australian Human Rights Act and the Voice Referendum—In June, the AALS invited back **Australian Human Rights Commission President Rosalind Croucher** who addressed both AHRC achievements under her presidency and the Voice Referendum that aimed to give Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islanders a constitutional voice. Hosted by member firm **King & Wood Mallesons** and led by KWM lawyer **Erin Eckhoff**, the online talk reached our UK and antipodean chapters. *Recording at aals.co.uk.*



Australian Human Rights Commission
President Rosalind Croucher AM



KWM Lawyer Erin Eckhoff
(Interviewer)

Patrons—In July, we welcomed the **Right Honourable the Baroness Carr of Walton-on-the-Hill** as a patron, the first woman appointed *Lady* Chief Justice of England and Wales in its 750-year history. We were sorry however to lose **Lords Carswell**, who died in May, **Judge** and **Walker**, who died in November.

Reception for New Zealand Chief Justice—In September, we welcomed the **Right Honourable Dame Helen Winkelmann GNZM**, Chief Justice of New Zealand, for a late summer reception hosted by member firm **Allen & Overy**. The Chief Justice is a patron to our New Zealand chapter. Our guests included former UK Supreme Court president, **Lady Hale**.



(L-R) Anne Bodley (Chair), Chief Justice Winkelmann, and A&O host partner Angela Clist

Sir Michael Wood gives annual Crawford Lecture—Moderated by **Dr Devika Hovell (LSE)**, in October **Sir Michael Wood KC** gave our annual **Crawford Lecture** in public international law. Our Crawford Lectures are hosted by **Freshfields**, Sir Michael addressing the UN Security Council and its fitness for purpose in light of recent international wars and crises. *Recording at aals.co.uk*



(L-R) Sir Michael Wood and Dr Devika Hovell with Chair Anne Bodley and James Kennedy (Freshfields)

Gala Finish: AALS hosts Julia Gillard for its black-tie dinner—In November, the AALS was honoured to host Australia's first female prime minister, the **Honourable Julia Gillard AC** for its **annual black-tie dinner** at the Old Hall, Lincoln's Inn. A pre-dinner reception was held by **Spark21** which supports the **First/Next 100 Years** commemoration of women in the law.



The Honourable Julia Gillard as guest of honour at our black-tie dinner

Next year: AGM Monday 22 January 2024—

The Chapter's **annual general meeting** will be held Monday 22 January 2024, please join us!