

December 2024

We opened this year with a new International Women's Day panel; saw a return of our popular wine tasting evenings; then hosted Lord Neuberger on freedom of speech. In September, we welcomed Federal Court Justice Melissa Perry on AI; met with Australian legal bodies at a Law Society reception; held our annual Crawford Lecture with ICJ Judge Hilary Charlesworth; and hosted celebrated Paralympian Lord Holmes for our annual black-tie dinner. We're on a roll!

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IWD2024: First Women of the Judiciary—After an inaugural **international women's day panel** last year when member firms had hit headlines with historic women senior partner appointments, in March we welcomed New Zealand patron **The Rt Hon Dame Sían Elias** (first female Chief Justice of New Zealand), **The Rt Hon The Baroness Hale of Richmond** (first female President of the UK Supreme Court), and **Chief Justice Debra Mortimer** (first female Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Australia) for an interview of our groundbreaking guests. Hosted online by **Allen & Overy**, the event was opened by partner **Angela Clist** and led by Counsel **Leanne Meyer** after an introduction from Chair **Anne Bodley**. *Recording at aals.co.uk.*



Top (L-R): Moderator
Leanne Meyer;
CJ Debra Mortimer;
Dame Sían Elias.
Second row (L-R):
Lady Hale;
Angela Clist;
Chair Anne Bodley.

Return of the AALS Wine Tasting—Hosted by member firm **Herbert Smith Freehills**, in June we resumed our popular **wine tasting** events, sampling leading English, Australian and New Zealand varieties. The event was led by wine industry leader Robin Davis of **SWIG Wines**. It has been at least five years since our last event, so was long overdue! **Cheers!**



Lord Neuberger on Freedom of Speech in International Law—In July, the AALS hosted **The Rt Hon The Lord Neuberger of Abbotsbury** (past President of the UK Supreme Court) speaking on his volume on *Freedom of Speech in International Law*, co-edited with past speaker **Amal Clooney**. Hosted by new member firm **Branch Austin McCormick**, our distinguished guest was interviewed by international law judge **Susan Lamb** (formerly appointed to the Supreme Court of Belize) following introductions from Branch Austin partner **Hal Branch** and AALS Chair **Anne Bodley**, with closing remarks and thank yous from AALS Committee member **Julius Brookman** (Branch Austin). *Recording at aals.co.uk.*



(L-R) Susan Lamb, Anne Bodley, Hal Branch (BAM), Rt Hon Lord Neuberger

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Former Justice of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom

The Rt Hon Sir Peter Gross

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

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In Memoriam:

The Rt Hon the Lord Judge Kt PC

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The Rt Hon Lord Carswell PC

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Join the AALS!

**Renew from 1 March:
Gold (corporate)**

£600 annually entitles all employees to member rates (normally gratis).

Silver (individual)

£55 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

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Federal Court Justice Melissa Perry on AI—In September, the AALS welcomed **AIRCDORE Hon Justice Melissa Perry** (Federal Court of Australia) speaking on *Communication Highways and AI: International Responses to Manipulated Realities*. Hosted by **Fox Williams**, the talk was opened by technology partner **Kolvin Stone** with welcomes from **Andrew Hill** (AALS Deputy Chair) and **Anne Bodley** (Chair). In addition to speaking widely on AI, Justice Perry is the first female **Deputy Judge Advocate General** for the Australian Air Force and holds a PhD in international law (Cambridge). *Recording at aals.co.uk.*



AIRCDORE Hon Justice Melissa Perry

Law Society Reception for UK/Australian Groups—In October, the **Law Society of England and Wales** welcomed UK/Australian groups to open the legal year including the **Australian High Commission**, the **Law Council of Australia**, the **Australian Bar Association**, the **Law Society of New South Wales**, the **UK Ministry of Justice**—and the leadership and membership of the **AALS**. The AALS has previously worked closely with the Law Council of Australia and was pleased to meet its current president and leadership.

ICJ Judge Hilary Charlesworth gives annual Crawford Lecture—

In October, we welcomed **HE Judge Professor Hilary Charlesworth** (International Court of Justice) for our annual **Crawford Lecture** in public international law. Our guest addressed women's representation on the Court over its 80 years and in international bodies, supported by **Penelope Nevill** (Twenty Essex) as Discussant. The AALS' Crawford Lectures are hosted each year by **Freshfields**.



Recording at aals.co.uk

(L-R) HE Judge Hilary Charlesworth (ICJ), Penelope Nevill (Twenty Essex), Professor Lorand Bartels (Freshfields) and Anne Bodley

Gala Finish: AALS hosts Paralympian Lord Holmes for its annual black-tie dinner—In November, the AALS hosted Paralympian swimmer **The Rt Hon The Lord Chris Holmes of Richmond MBE** for its annual **black-tie dinner** at the Old Hall, Lincoln's Inn. Following gold, silver and bronze medal-winning successes at Paralympic Games between 1988-2000, **Lord Holmes** worked as a journalist and practised law at **Ashurst**, invited by Ashurst partner **Cameron Smith** (AALS Secretariat). A **welcome reception** ahead of being called to dinner was again held in the Old Hall's historic Crypt, the dinner attended by this year's speakers including **Lord Neuberger** and past Chairs of the AALS.



Rt Hon Lord Chris Holmes as guest of honour at our black-tie dinner, Lincoln's Inn

Next year: AGM Monday 27 January 2025—As always, we have lots of plans for next year, and look forward to each one. Our next **annual general meeting** will be held **Monday 27 January 2025**, please join us!