

CHARLES DARWIN UNIVERSITY

Third

Austin Asche Oration in Law and Governance

**The Big Picture: Responding to Challenges
Arising in International Family Law**

Thursday 12 September 2013
5.00pm for 5.30pm

Dining Room and Nitmiluk Lounge
Level 4, Parliament House
Mitchell Street, Darwin



Austin Asche Oration

The Honourable Chief Justice Diana Bryant AO

Program

Thursday 12 September 2013

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| 5.00pm – 5.30pm | Welcome Reception |
| 5.30pm – 5.35pm | Welcome to Country |
| 5.35pm – 5.45pm | Welcome Address – Professor Barney Glover, Charles Darwin University |
| 5.45pm – 6.00pm | Welcome Address on behalf of the Australian Academy of Law by the Hon Kevin Lindgren AM QC |
| 6.00pm – 6.45pm | Keynote Address – the Hon Chief Justice Diana Bryant AO |
| 6.45pm – 7.00pm | Q & A session |
| 7.00pm | End of function |

Austin Asche AC QC



Austin Asche AC QC was the third Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory and fifteenth Administrator of the Northern Territory. He was made a Companion of the Order of Australia in 1994.

This oration honours the service of Austin Asche AC QC to the people of the Northern Territory and his contribution to the law, to tertiary education and to the community.

Abstract

Following her attendance at The 2nd International Family Law and Practice Conference 2013 in London, England, Chief Justice Diana Bryant will provide an overview of the international family law landscape, identify emerging trends and issues, and discuss what action government and people engaged in the practice of family law in Australia (including family law courts) could take to respond to specific challenges. The Chief Justice will have particular regard

to the various Hague Conventions (child abduction, child protection and adoption), Brussels II bis, the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights, and the way in which European instruments are affecting United Kingdom law and the importance of Commonwealth links. Some of the issues the Chief Justice will consider include surrogacy, shared parenting and the use of presumptions, and family violence.



Established in 2007, the Australian Academy of Law (AAL) joined the other four learned Academies in Australia. The AAL was formed on a recommendation of the Australian Law Reform Commission. Fellows of the AAL are individuals of exceptional distinction in the discipline of law drawn from all parts of the legal community - the judiciary, practitioners and academics - and united by the discipline and by the goal of preserving and promoting standards of excellence in the study, practice and administration of the law.



The Honourable Chief Justice Diana Bryant AO, Family Court of Australia

Chief Justice Bryant graduated with a Bachelor of Laws from Melbourne University in 1969 and has a Master of Laws from Monash University. Before her appointment to the Bench she practised as a family lawyer with a national firm in Perth and spent ten years at the Victorian Bar, becoming a Queen's Counsel in 1997.

Chief Justice Bryant is widely recognised for the role she played in establishing the Federal Magistrates Court (now the Federal Circuit Court), having guided the emergence and growth of the Court as inaugural Chief Federal Magistrate from 2000-2004. When appointed Chief Justice of the Family Court in 2004, she became the second woman in Australia's history to head a federal court.

Important initiatives established during her

tenure as Chief Justice are anonymisation and publication of all judgments of the Court on the web, introducing a less adversarial trial in the Family Court in children's cases and the Court's involvement with the Indonesian Religious Courts.

Chief Justice Bryant has served on many boards and advisory groups during her career and has had a longstanding commitment to the advancement of women in the law. She is currently the Patron of Australian Women Lawyers, and a Board member of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts. She received a Centenary Medal in 2001 for her role in the establishment of the Federal Magistrates Court.

