

2017 UQ JULY GRADUATION CEREMONIES

Wednesday 19 July 2017 – 2.00pm
UQ Centre, Union Road, UQ St Lucia campus

Faculty of Business, Economics and Law

CITATION

Chancellor

Adjunct Professor John Story AO is a University of Queensland alumnus with degrees in Arts and Law, who has had a distinguished career as both lawyer and company director. He has served this university in many capacities, including as a Senator and for seven years as Chancellor.

Mr Story is a solicitor of the Supreme Court of Queensland, and for 37 years until 2006 was a partner of the national law firm Corrs Chambers Westgarth and its predecessors.

Practising in corporate and commercial law, he was involved in many major corporate transactions and developmental projects in Queensland during that time.

He served on a number of professional bodies and committees, including as Chairman of the Companies Committee of the Queensland Law Society and Queensland President and National Board Member of the Australian Mining and Petroleum Law Association.

Within his firm, he was at various times Queensland Managing Partner, National Head of the Corporate Advisory Group and National Chairman. He played a critical role in the merger of state firms to form Corrs Chambers Westgarth and thereafter its development as a national firm.

From his role as a corporate lawyer, it was a natural progression to directorial positions, and he has served as director and chairman of a range of leading Australian companies. In those positions, he has overseen the development of small regional entities into companies of national size and significance.

As a Director of Metway Bank Limited, he approved the merger with Suncorp and QIDC. As a director and then Chairman of the merged entity, he oversaw the acquisitions of the general insurance businesses of GIO and Promina, the weathering of the Global Financial Crisis, and the recognition of Suncorp as a stable and strong financial institution.

As a lawyer, he was involved in the establishment of Jupiters Limited in the 1980s, and joined the Board in 1991. Following its acquisition by Tabcorp Holdings Limited, he was appointed as a director and subsequently Chairman of that company. In those capacities, he oversaw the acquisition of the New South Wales wagering business and the separation of Tabcorp's casinos and wagering divisions into two separately listed viable companies.

Mr Story has maintained a deep interest in corporate governance, and served as Queensland President and National Chairman of the Australian Institute of Company

Directors. He received the Gold Medal Award 2012 of the Queensland Division and was made a Life Fellow of the Institute in 2013.

He has served with Commonwealth Government entities including the Commonwealth Securities and Advisory Committee, the Company Auditors and Liquidators Disciplinary Board, the Australian Financial Centre Forum and the Takeovers Panel.

In Queensland, he has been a Member of the Service Delivery and Performance Commission and the Public Service Commission.

Mr Story's grandfather was JD Story who, as a senior public servant and a member of Senate, was hugely influential in the foundation and development of the University of Queensland. On his retirement from the public service he acted in an honorary capacity as the University's first Vice-Chancellor.

With this family connection, it is not surprising that Mr Story should maintain his links with his alma mater. Over the years, he has provided the University with legal advice and been an Adjunct Professor in the School of Law. In 2006, he was appointed to the Senate and from 2009 to 2015 he served as Chancellor.

He has been a strong supporter of the recent refurbishment of the Law School's premises in the Forgan Smith Building. He is Chairman of the Fund-Raising Committee and with his wife, Mrs Georgina Story, has provided financial support.

In 2015, Mr Story was made an Officer of the Order of Australia for his distinguished service to business and commerce through a range of corporate governance roles.

Chancellor, I present to you Adjunct Professor John Story, Officer of the Order of Australia, Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws of this University, and Life Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, for the award of Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*, bestowed by the Senate of The University of Queensland.