

2012 JULY GRADUATION CEREMONIES

Wednesday 18 July 2012 – 11.00am
UQ Centre, Union Road, St Lucia

Faculty of Business, Economics and Law

CITATION

Award of Doctor of Laws *honoris causa* The Honourable Justice Margaret McMurdo AC

Chancellor,

The Honourable Justice Margaret McMurdo AC is one of the pre-eminent graduates of The University of Queensland's TC Beirne School of Law.

Her career is one of many 'firsts' including the first woman appointed to preside over an Australian appellate court and the first woman appointed to the District Court of Queensland.

After graduating in 1975, Her Honour served as the Associate to the Honourable Justice Demack, Senior Judge of the Family Court of Australia and was admitted as a Barrister of the Supreme Court of Queensland in 1976.

She then joined the Public Defender's Office in Brisbane where she was the Assistant Public Defender until 1989. During this period, Her Honour was a member of the Department of Children's Services Serious Offenders' Review Panel and took an active role on various Queensland Law Society Committees.

Her first judicial appointment came in 1991 when she was appointed a District Court Judge followed by her additional appointments as a Queensland Children's Court Judge in 1993 and President of the Court of Appeal of the Queensland Supreme Court in 1998.

Throughout her career, Her Honour has been a strong advocate for women in the legal profession and has served on a range of organisations concerned with judicial administration, women and the law, and education.

She was a founding member of the Women Lawyers Association of Queensland and is a member of the Australian and International Associations of Women Judges. She was Patron of the Southside Education Centre, which focuses on removing barriers to education for young women, and has been a member of the Zonta Club of Brisbane for 35 years.

She has been awarded honorary doctorate degrees from Griffith University and the Queensland University of Technology and continues to make a significant contribution to academia as a member of the QUT Law Faculty Advisory Board since 1991; a member of the Griffith University Council since 2003; and chair of the advisory committee of the Institute for Ethics, Governance and the Law at Griffith University.

Her Honour was a recipient of the Centenary Medal in 2003 and the Queensland Law Society's Agnes McWhinney Award for Outstanding Achievement by a Female Lawyer in 2006.

Her service to law and judicial administration, particularly legal education and women's issues, was acknowledged in 2007 when she was made a Companion of the Order of Australia.

Chancellor, in recognition of her distinguished career and her service to Queensland and Australia, I present to you The Honourable Margaret McMurdo AC, Bachelor of Laws from The University of Queensland, for the award of Doctor of Laws *honoris causa* bestowed by the Senate of The University of Queensland.