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Announcements

Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Palmer QC: Collected Addresses Part VII: Constitutional Law (I)

The Palmer Addresses is a collection of speeches and lectures delivered by the Right Honourable Sir Geoffrey Palmer QC, former Prime Minister of New Zealand and Distinguished Fellow of the Victoria University of Wellington Law Faculty. The series is sponsored by an anonymous donor whom the Faculty gratefully acknowledges.

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- **"The Legal History and Framework of the New Zealand Constitution"** 
Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper 30/2022

SIR GEOFFREY PALMER QC, Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law
Email: geoffrey.palmer@vuw.ac.nz

A paper presented to the "Building the Constitution" conference, held on 7–8 April 2000. The paper provides an overview of New Zealand's constitutional history and system. It notes that uncertainty surrounding New Zealand's constitution renders any assessment of its adequacy quite challenging. Nevertheless, it ends by posing a number of questions for reformers to consider.

"Government Appointments to Statutory Positions - Merits or Spoils?"

Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 31/2022

SIR GEOFFREY PALMER QC, Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law

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A presentation to the New Zealand Public Law Forum, "Public Law 2002", held on 16–17 April 2002. The presentation describes the history of the "spoils" – or "patronage" – system in New Zealand's public service, as well as its purported cessation after the Hunt Royal Commission into the Public Service in 1912. It questions, however, whether the rise of "quangos" (and the system of appointment to these bodies) constitutes a return to patronage. The presentation addresses proposals to create a central appointments unit, but dismisses these as unnecessarily cumbersome. It argues that the appointment system should not become too heavily bureaucratised and advocates for creative and diverse appointments.

"The Constitutional Revolution"

Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 32/2022

SIR GEOFFREY PALMER QC, Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law

Email: geoffrey.palmer@vuw.ac.nz

A talk given at St Catharine's College, Cambridge, on 20 April 2004. The talk addresses the major constitutional revolution then in progress in the United Kingdom, characterising it as a revolution with more serious implications than anything since the 17th century. It discusses the rise of the "elective dictatorship", the half-truth of parliamentary supremacy, and novel threats to the rule of law.

"The New Zealand Constitution in 2005"

Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 33/2022

SIR GEOFFREY PALMER QC, Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law

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A paper presented to a New Zealand Law Society seminar in May 2005. The purpose of the paper is to describe as briefly and accurately as possible the basic features of the New Zealand Constitution as they existed in 2005. It suggests, however, that to state the present position with any precision or clarity is a doomed task, not only because of the somewhat indeterminate nature of the constitutional enterprise in New Zealand, but also because there is serious doctrinal controversy about some of its central elements. The paper provides an overview and discussion of the Constitution Act 1986, the separation of powers, parliamentary sovereignty, the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990, the Treaty of Waitangi and the rule of law.

"The Symbols of Nationhood"

Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 34/2022

SIR GEOFFREY PALMER QC, Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law

Email: geoffrey.palmer@vuw.ac.nz

A speech delivered on Dominion Day, 26 September 2007. The speech addresses the importance of symbols as a source of national unity and purpose, and discusses a number of New Zealand's most important civic symbols. It argues that New Zealanders require a stronger sense of collective self, and suggests that they devote more attention to symbols as part of refurbishing New Zealand's civic culture.

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About this eJournal

Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Papers Series primarily contains scholarly papers by members of the **Faculty of Law at Victoria University of Wellington**. Some issues collect a number of papers on a similar theme to form a suite of papers on a single topic. Others issues are general or distribute mainly recent work.

The Student/Alumni Series is a subseries of the Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper Series. The subseries started in 2015 and publishes papers by students and alumni of Victoria University of Wellington, comprising primarily work for honours and postgraduate courses. Papers are collected into thematic or general issues.

The Victoria University of Wellington was founded in 1899 to mark the Diamond Jubilee of the reign of Queen Victoria of Great Britain and of the then British Empire. Law teaching started in 1900. The Law Faculty was formally constituted in 1907. The first dean was Richard Maclaurin (1870-1920), an eminent scholar of both law and mathematics. Maclaurin went on to lead the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as President in its formative years. Early professors included Sir John Salmond (1862-1924), still one of the Common Law's leading scholars. His texts on jurisprudence and torts have gone through many editions and remain in print.

Alumni include Sir Robin Cooke (1926-2006), one of the leading judges of the British Commonwealth. As Baron Cooke of Thorndon, he sat on over 100 appeals to the Appellate Committee of the House of Lords, one of very few Commonwealth judges ever appointed to do so.

Since 1996 the Law School has occupied the Old Government Building in central Wellington. Designed by William Clayton and opened in 1876 to house New Zealand's then civil service, the building is a particularly fine example of Italianate neo-Renaissance style. Unusually among large colonial official buildings of the time it is constructed of wood, apart from chimneys and vaults.

The School is close to New Zealand's Parliament, courts, and the headquarters of government departments. Throughout Victoria's history, our law teachers have contributed actively to policy formation and to law reform. As a result, in addition to many scholarly articles and books, the Victoria SSRN pages include a number of official reports.

Victoria graduates approximately 230 LLB and LLB(Hons) students each year, and about 60 LLM students. The faculty has an increasing number of doctoral students. Ordinarily there are ten to twelve students engaged in PhD research.

Victoria University observes the British system of academic ranks. In North American terms, lecturers and senior lecturers are tenured doctrinal scholars, not legal writing teachers. A senior lecturer corresponds approximately to a North American associate professor in rank.

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