

PROFESSOR DAVID ALLAN AM

*John Farrar**

David was born in Bolton, England, where his father was in the clothing trade. David studied at Bolton School and at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, where he obtained a first in law. At Trinity Hall he was taught by many great scholars including Cecil Turner, Trevor Thomas, and Ellis Lewis. He has fond memories of all of them.

After a short time as games master at a London public school while he kept terms at the Middle Temple, he was called to the Bar and practised on the Northern Circuit in England, until he was appointed to a Senior Lectureship in Law at the University of Western Australia. In Perth he was involved in major law reform projects, but then was appointed Professor of Commercial Law in the Law School at Victoria University, Wellington in 1963. In New Zealand, he developed an interest in Personal Property Security and in Article 9 of the US Uniform Commercial Code. After two years, he went to a Chair of Law in Tasmania where he became Dean with a brief to restore the standing of the Law School after the University had suffered from the Orr case scandals. He was at that time already developing his international interests, and in 1969 he moved to Monash where he had more scope to develop South East Asian projects. At Monash, he was Dean of Law for 5 years (1972 – 1976).

David was an energetic Dean, as those who know him would expect. He has always been a “mover and shaker”, full of energy and ideas, and sometimes a thorn in the side of those in high authority. He developed the curriculum, including a joint LL.M. program with the University of Melbourne. He expanded the School and made a number of overseas appointments, including academics from Southeast Asia and North America. He served as external examiner in Hong Kong and Malaysia. He attracted many students from overseas, and he developed a number of interest groups of academics and practitioners.

David supervised the Credit and Security Project for the Asian Development Bank and LAWASIA. This produced 11 volumes of pioneering scholarship.

He served on, and later chaired, the International Trade and Business Committee of the Law Council of Australia. He was also an Australian delegate to UNCITRAL on a number of occasions. He was one of the founders and a chair of the International Law Section of the Law Council. He has been very active over

* Professor of Law, Bond University and Professorial Fellow, University of Melbourne.

many years with the Australia/New Zealand Banking and Financial Services Law Association, and is a member of its Board.

David left Monash and became Professor of Business Law at the University of Melbourne in 1986, where his drive and initiatives provoked the Law School into action on the postgraduate front. On his retirement in 1993, there was a takeover of his department by the Law School. David and I served on the Committee which planned what became the Centre for Corporate Law and Securities Regulation, now ably directed by Ian Ramsay.

In 1993 David accepted the offer of a professorship of law at Bond University. He taught principally in the postgraduate program and supervised successfully many higher degree theses. He has continued to teach even after his second retirement in 2002. He was made Emeritus Professor in that year. As well as teaching, David was responsible for developing Professional Legal Training at Bond.

David has continued to pursue vigorously his interest in Personal Property Security Law and has convened and chaired two important Conferences at Bond on this subject in recent years. He has also been a member of an Expert Group drafting a Model Law on Secured Transactions for transitional economies in Eastern Europe.

He has been a consultant with Mallesons Stephen Jaques since 1976, and he has been an active member of the Bar in most of the jurisdictions in which he has lived.

Like the late Lord Denning, David is not “a very retiring person”. David was born a Jew although he later converted to Anglican Christianity. This has led to a creative tension in his life – British in manner but Jewish in his restless drive and academic entrepreneurship. His drive and output put many of his younger colleagues to shame. He has been involved in 20 books, more than 50 articles and countless papers at seminars and conferences. David in fact counts his joint venture with Mary as his major achievement. David and Mary married in 1980, so their joint venture became in a sense a merger.