



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**NOTRE DAME**  
A U S T R A L I A

# Media Release

Thursday, 30 June 2022

## NSW Governor awarded Honorary Doctorate

The University of Notre Dame Australia has awarded an Honorary Doctorate to the Governor of New South Wales in recognition of her outstanding service to the judiciary and the law.

The Honorary Degree, Doctor of Laws, was presented to Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC at a special graduation ceremony at Sydney's Town Hall this morning where she delivered the Occasional Address to more than 220 graduates, their guests and university staff.

Notre Dame's Chancellor, The Honourable Christopher Ellison, said Her Excellency had served as a role model and mentor for women in the law during a long and distinguished legal career that spanned 43 years.

"Throughout her remarkable career, Her Excellency has achieved many firsts, including being the first woman appointed to the NSW Court of Appeal, and subsequently as the first woman appointed as President of the Court," Chancellor Ellison said.

"She is also a dear friend of the University, having taught with us when our School of Law in Sydney was still in its infancy. More recently, she served as Chair of the School of Law Advisory Board, prior to her appointment as Governor.

"It was with great pleasure that we were able to present her with this Honorary Degree in recognition of her professional achievements, as well as the significant contributions she has made to both the Catholic and broader community over many years."

Her Excellency said: "I am honoured to be awarded this Honorary Doctorate from Notre Dame University, with whom I have had a very rewarding association over many years. I congratulate the leadership and the academics of Notre Dame for their work in producing the outstanding graduates who are here today."

Honorary degrees have been awarded on 47 occasions throughout the University's history to Australians who have made an invaluable contribution to the nation's civil, political, and spiritual life.

Other past recipients include former Prime Minister John Howard, the current Governor of Western Australia and former Federal Labor Leader Kim Beazley, and poet Les Murray.

**ENDS**

***Please note, video of the Governor's full speech and of the graduation ceremony is available***

**for download here:** [https://coloursock.digitalpigeon.com/msg/56GKsPgYEeywygJf-y\\_tlw/KfCO8\\_dbmVYc-ZRx3Sx6AQ](https://coloursock.digitalpigeon.com/msg/56GKsPgYEeywygJf-y_tlw/KfCO8_dbmVYc-ZRx3Sx6AQ)

**Still images are also attached for your use.**

**Biography:**

*Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC is the 39th Governor of New South Wales, commencing her five year tenure on 2 May 2019.*

*Prior to her appointment as Governor, Her Excellency enjoyed a long and distinguished law career spanning 43 years, during which time she served as a role model for women in law at both the State and national level.*

*Appointed Queen's Counsel in 1989, in 1993 she was made a judge of the Federal Court of Australia, the first woman to sit exclusively in that Court. In 1996, she achieved the distinction of being the first woman appointed to the New South Wales Court of Appeal and, subsequently, as the first woman to be appointed as its President. She served, on a number of occasions, as Administrator of the Government of the State of New South Wales.*

*She was made a Companion of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day Honours List on 26 January 2020 for "eminent service to the people of New South Wales, particularly through leadership roles in the judiciary, and as a mentor of young women lawyers".*

*Her Excellency has three children - Erin, Lauren and Anthony Sullivan - and is married to Mr. Dennis Wilson, a barrister, mediator, accredited international arbitrator and Adjunct Professor of Law, at Notre Dame University, Sydney.*

*Her Excellency brings her deep commitment to education, youth leadership, human rights and social justice to the role in service of the people of New South Wales.*

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