

ALEXANDRA BRISCOE, ASSISTANT EDITOR

Victoria University of Wellington, Faculty of Law, Student/Alumni
alexandra.briscoe@vuw.ac.nz

JOHN PREBBLE QC, EDITOR

Professor of Law, Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law, Gastprofessor, Institut für Österreichisches und Internationales Steuerrecht, Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien, Adjunct Professor of Law, University of Notre Dame Australia - School of Law

MĀMARI STEPHENS, EDITOR

Reader, Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law

[Browse ALL abstracts for this journal](#)

Links: [Subscribe ~ Unsubscribe](#) | [Distribution](#) | [Network Directors](#)

Announcements

Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Palmer QC: Collected Addresses Part IV: MMP (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.

Sir Geoffrey Palmer QC established the Royal Commission on the Electoral System in 1985, while serving as the Minister of Justice. When the Royal Commission reported in 1986, it recommended that New Zealand adopt the mixed member proportional electoral system. MMP was adopted in 1993 by referendum, and the first MMP election held in 1996. The Government announced in October 2021 that it would be conducting a thorough review of New Zealand's electoral law, as part of which it will consider the Electoral Commission's recommendations for changes to MMP. The following addresses present Sir Geoffrey's views on MMP from various periods in its history.

Table of Contents

Section 189 of the Electoral Act and the Referendum

[Sir Geoffrey Palmer QC](#), Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law

What Changes are Likely to the Legislative Process and Other Functions of Parliament from MMP?

[Sir Geoffrey Palmer QC](#), Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law

Public Accountability in the MMP Environment

[Sir Geoffrey Palmer QC](#), Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law

MMP, the Westminster System and Government in New Zealand

[Sir Geoffrey Palmer QC](#), Victoria University of Wellington - Faculty of Law

[^top](#)

"Section 189 of the Electoral Act and the Referendum"

Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 36/2021

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

Email: geoffrey.palmer@vuw.ac.nz

A statement delivered on 26 July 1993. The statement addresses s 189 of the Electoral Act 1956, which provided for the entrenchment of certain reserved provisions in the Electoral Act. In the lead-up to the MMP referendum of 1993, the Campaign for Better Government sought to have this provision amended, such that the referendum would have to be passed by an absolute, as opposed to a simple, majority. Sir Geoffrey Palmer argues that s 189, while not legally entrenched, was "morally" entrenched, and that to amend it by a simple majority in Parliament would be constitutionally improper.

"What Changes are Likely to the Legislative Process and Other Functions of Parliament from MMP?"

Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 37/2021

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

A speech delivered to the seminar "MMP: Managing the Political/Public Sector Interface" on 24 March 1994. The speech argues that the introduction of MMP is likely to increase the importance of Parliament in New Zealand's system of government, with the potential for the House of Representatives to make and unmake governments, and for the executive to become more accountable to parliamentary opinion on legislative matters.

"Public Accountability in the MMP Environment"

Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 38/2021

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

An address to the "MMP and Ministerial Responsibility" conference, delivered on 11 April 1994. The address argues that the rise of single-party majority governments under the first-past-the-post system sapped the principles of ministerial responsibility of much of their vitality. It contends that MMP has the potential to restore some of that lost vitality, with a renewed emphasis on the confidence element of ministerial responsibility in particular.

"MMP, the Westminster System and Government in New Zealand"

Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 39/2021

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

An address delivered as part of the New Zealand Law Society seminar "Practical Issues for Lawyers Arising from MMP" in August 1995. The address argues that the advent of MMP will make a considerable difference to the way in which law is practised in New Zealand, and introduces practitioners to some of the fundamental changes.

[^top](#)

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.

Submissions

To submit your research to SSRN, sign in to the [SSRN User Headquarters](#), click the My Papers link on left menu and then the Start New Submission button at top of page.

Distribution Services

If your organization is interested in increasing readership for its research by starting a Research Paper Series, or sponsoring a Subject Matter eJournal, please email: sales@ssrn.com

Distributed by

Legal Scholarship Network (LSN), a division of Social Science Electronic Publishing (SSEP) and Social Science Research Network (SSRN)

Directors

LAW SCHOOL RESEARCH PAPERS - LEGAL STUDIES

BERNARD S. BLACK

Northwestern University - Pritzker School of Law, Northwestern University - Kellogg School of Management, European Corporate Governance Institute (ECGI)

Email: bblack@northwestern.edu

RONALD J. GILSON

Stanford Law School, Columbia Law School, European Corporate Governance Institute (ECGI), Stanford Law School

Email: rgilson@leland.stanford.edu

Please contact us at the above addresses with your comments, questions or suggestions for LSN-LEG.

[^top](#)

Links: [Subscribe to Journal](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Join Site Subscription](#) | [Financial Hardship](#)

Subscription Management

You can change your journal subscriptions by logging into [SSRN User HQ](#). If you have questions or problems with this process, please email ssrnsupport@elsevier.com or call 877-SSRNHelp (877.777.6435 or 212.448.2500). Outside of the United States, call 00+1+212+4482500.

Site Subscription Membership

Many university departments and other institutions have purchased site subscriptions covering all of the eJournals in a particular network. If you want to subscribe to any of the SSRN eJournals, you may be able to do so without charge by first checking to see if your institution currently has a site subscription.

To do this please click on any of the following URLs. Instructions for joining the site are included on these pages.

[Accounting Research Network](#)

[Cognitive Science Network](#)

[Corporate Governance Network](#)

[Economics Research Network](#)

[Entrepreneurship Research & Policy Network](#)

[Financial Economics Network](#)

[Health Economics Network](#)

[Information Systems & eBusiness Network](#)

[Legal Scholarship Network](#)

[Management Research Network](#)

[Political Science Network](#)

[Social Insurance Research Network](#)

[Classics Research Network](#)

[English & American Literature Research Network](#)

[Philosophy Research Network](#)

If your institution or department is not listed as a site, we would be happy to work with you to set one up. Please contact site@ssrn.com for more information.

Individual Membership (for those not covered by a site subscription)

Join a site subscription, request a trial subscription, or purchase a subscription within the SSRN User Headquarters: <https://hq.ssrn.com/Subscriptions.cfm>

Financial Hardship

If you are undergoing financial hardship and believe you cannot pay for an eJournal, please send a detailed explanation to Subscribe@SSRN.com

[^top](#)

To ensure delivery of this eJournal, please add LSN@publish.ssrn.com (**Briscoe/Prebble/Stephens**) to your email contact list. If you are missing an issue or are having any problems with your subscription, please Email Support@ssrn.com or call 877-SSRNHELP (877.777.6435 or 585.442.8170).

FORWARDING & REDISTRIBUTION

Subscriptions to the journal are for single users. You may forward a particular eJournal issue, or an excerpt from an issue, to an individual or individuals who might be interested in it. It is a violation of copyright to redistribute this eJournal on a recurring basis to another person or persons, without the permission of SSRN. For information about individual subscriptions and site subscriptions, please contact us at Site@SSRN.com

[^top](#)

