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Announcements

Inaugural Lecture of Joel Colón-Ríos

Joel's inaugural lecture as Professor of Law at Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington will take place in GBLT1 on Wednesday 6 July, 6pm–7pm. Read more about Professor Colón-Ríos's lecture topic, and register your attendance [using this link](#).

Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Palmer QC: Collected Addresses Part X: The Bill of Rights

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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VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON - TE HERENGA WAKA

"Should Property be Protected in the Bill of Rights?"

Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 45/2022

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

A paper written for a panel discussion at the New Zealand Institute of Public Law conference, *Property in the Constitution - The Public Dimension of Private Property*, in July 1998. The paper discusses whether the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 should have a provision protecting private property. A discussion of the interaction between property and the Act follows, with particular reference to the original purpose of the Act. The paper examines the difficulty of this interaction in the context of transaction costs, uncertainty and, crucially, the lack of political will to implement solutions.

"Getting Practical about Human Rights"

Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 46/2022

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

An address to the 5th National Annual Workshop on Human Rights held in Jakarta, Indonesia in December 1999. The address notes the great strides being made towards greater human rights protection in Indonesia, but argues that much remains to be done. The address shares lessons learnt from New Zealand's experience in enacting a statutory Bill of Rights, noting the complexity of the task and the inexorable persistence required. It argues, however, that the practical advantages to be gained surmount the difficulties involved. The address ends by identifying four issues that warrant careful study during Indonesia's reforms.

"The Bill of Rights Fifteen Years On"

Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 47/2022

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

A keynote speech presented to the Ministry of Justice Symposium on the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 on 10 February 2006. The address discusses the origins of New Zealand's Bill of Rights, the experience that New Zealand has had with it over the past fifteen years, and how it might be developed in the future. It assesses six future policy options for the Bill of Rights, noting, however, that the conservative political and constitutional culture of New Zealand makes the prospect of reform very remote.

"The New Zealand Bill of Rights and the Police"

Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 48/2022

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

A paper presented to the Inaugural Human Rights and Policing Conference, held in Melbourne on 8–10 December 2008. The paper discusses the impact of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 on domestic jurisprudence, the reception of the Act by the New Zealand Police and its consequences for them. Multiple cases are examined to illustrate these points and characterise the relationship.

"Why the New Zealand Bill of Rights was Promoted 30 Years Ago"

Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 49/2022

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

An address to the New Zealand Bar Association on 20 August 2015, marking the 25th anniversary of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990. The address shares Sir Geoffrey's experiences from the lead-up to the Bill's introduction, discussing the primary reasons that were advanced for its enactment, as well as the post-Muldoon political market that made this possible. The address then evaluates how the Bill of Rights has fared since its enactment, lamenting the judiciary's cautious approach to its

interpretation. Looking forward, the address argues that it is time to make the Bill of Rights supreme law, warning that a Bill of Rights that lacks judicial force could be whittled away by Parliament.

"Does the UK need a Modern Bill of Rights? Or is it a Policy in Search of Purpose?"

Victoria University of Wellington Legal Research Paper No. 50/2022

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

Email: geoffrey.palmer@vuw.ac.nz

An "explainer" piece originally published in *Constitutional Law Matters* on 22 March 2022. The piece discusses the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990, suggesting that it was passed for three reasons: (a) to address social changes brought about by an increasingly heterogeneous society; (b) to incorporate the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights into domestic legislation; and (c) to fulfil election promises by the Labour Party in response to the recent "dictatorial" reign of Sir Robert Muldoon as Prime Minister. The piece canvasses the path of the Bill of Rights Act 1990 from white paper to statute, noting the aspects that were retained and dropped along the way. The piece concludes by suggesting that constitutional change is impeded by politicians' general dislike for fetters upon their freedom of action, and the public's limited understanding of the constitution. Increased civic literacy and constitutional change that is gradual and acculturated are the best solutions to these impediments.

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About this eJournal

Victoria University of Wellington - Te Herenga Waka Legal Studies Research Paper 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 - Te Herenga Waka Legal Studies 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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