

## **CITATION – Professor Michael Coper, ANU College of Law**

The Chancellor's Award for Distinguished Contribution to the University is awarded for eminent achievement and merit of the highest degree.

Professor Michael Coper was Dean of the ANU College of Law from 1998 to 2012. During that fifteen year period he made an outstanding contribution to legal education at ANU, Australia-wide and to the internationalisation of legal education and legal services, all of which was characterised by his commitment to the core values of using the law to remedy social injustice and disadvantage.

Professor Coper's eminence is evidenced by the number of distinguished appointments he has held and continues to hold, and the number of international conferences to which he has been invited to deliver papers, including events in the US, China, Japan, Italy, Canada, the Czech Republic, India, Argentina, and Chile . He is one of only a small number of non-US members of the prestigious and influential American Law Institute, having been nominated and elected in recognition of his constitutional law research. He was elected as Chair of the Council of Australian Law Deans in 2005, serving until 2007 during which time he was instrumental in forging a 'whole of discipline' focus for the Council. During and since his time on the Council, He has been a driving force in the formulation and implementation of the Council's Standards for Australian Law Schools.

In 2005, Professor Coper was appointed by the Attorney-General as a member of the Australian Government's International Legal Services Advisory Council (ILSAC), whose mission is to enhance the international presence and improve the international performance of Australia's legal services. In this capacity he has been a member of legal services missions to Singapore, India and Washington DC and has played a key role in the recognition of Australian law degrees in overseas jurisdictions.

Professor Coper was a member of an OLTC funded project, in partnership with ILSAC, which in 2012 published a major report on Internationalising the Australian Law Curriculum for Enhanced Global Legal Practice. He is a Foundation Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law which comprises lawyers of exceptional distinction elected from academia, the judiciary and the legal profession. In 2011 he was selected by the Governing Board of the International Association of Law Schools to be Vice-President of that Association. The membership of the IALS comprises 135 law schools from around the globe.

Along with his formidable record of contribution to legal education, Professor Coper has maintained a distinguished program of research and publication, including the pioneering and monumental 800 page Oxford Companion to the High Court of Australia published in 2001, (co-edited with Professors Tony Blackshield and George Williams).

Professor Coper was a member of the Australasian Law Teachers' Association Executive from 2011-2012, a member of the national Law Admissions Consultative Committee from 2005-2007, and a member of the ANU Council in 2005-2006. His standing in the Australian legal community is further exemplified in his being invited in 2012 to be a member of the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Advisory Panel on Appointments to the Family Court of Australia. Michael Coper has been a wonderful all-rounder, and a very bright star in the ANU firmament.