



THE LAW SOCIETY
OF SINGAPORE

25 MAY 2011

MEDIA RELEASE
(For Immediate Release)

LAW SOCIETY BIENNIAL LECTURE
AN EVENING WITH MICHAEL KIRBY

INTRODUCTION

The Law Society Biennial Lecture was inaugurated in 2007 to provide a platform for distinguished advocates from around the world to speak on issues of relevance and interest to our members. It is hoped that the Law Society Biennial Lecture will inspire Singapore lawyers to maintain the independence and integrity of the legal profession, promote the Rule of Law and pursue justice.

For the third Law Society Biennial Lecture to be held on **31 May 2011** at the Supreme Court Auditorium, the Society is honoured to have **The Hon. Michael Kirby AC CMG**, as the guest speaker.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER



When he retired from the High Court of Australia on 2 February 2009, Michael Kirby was Australia's longest serving judge.

In addition to his very distinguished judicial career, Michael Kirby has an international reputation as an eloquent and powerful orator, having given a vast number of speeches and engaged in interesting forums and dialogues on a diverse range of topics.

He was first appointed in 1975 as a Deputy President of the Australian Conciliation & Arbitration Commission. Soon after, he was seconded as inaugural Chairman of the Australian Law Reform Commission (1975-84). Later, he was appointed a judge of the Federal Court of Australia, then President of the New South Wales Court of Appeal and, concurrently, President of the Court of Appeal of Solomon Islands. His appointment to the High Court of Australia came in 1996 and he served thirteen years. In later years, he was Acting Chief Justice of Australia twice.

In addition to his judicial duties, Michael Kirby has served on three university governing bodies being elected Chancellor of Macquarie University in Sydney (1984 - 1993). He also served on many national and international bodies. Amongst the latter have been service as a member of the World Health Organisation's Global Commission on AIDS (1988 - 1992); President of the International Commission of Jurists, Geneva (1995 - 1998); as United Nations Special Representative Human Rights in Cambodia (1993-96); a member of the UNESCO International Bioethics Committee (1995 - 2005); a member of the High Commissioner for Human Rights' Judicial Reference Group (2007-) and a member of the UNAIDS Reference Group on HIV and Human Rights (2004-).

Following his judicial retirement, Michael Kirby was elected President of the Institute of Arbitrators & Mediators Australia from 2009-2010. He serves as a Board Member of the Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration. He also serves as Editor-in-Chief of *The Laws of Australia*. He has been appointed Honorary Visiting Professor by 12 universities and he participates regularly in many local and international conferences and meetings. He has been awarded 19 honorary doctorates at home and abroad.

In 2010, he was awarded the Gruber Justice Prize. He is also presently a member of the Eminent Persons Group which is investigating the future of the Commonwealth of Nations; and has been appointed to the UNDP Global Commission of HIV and the Law. In 2010, he was appointed to the Australian Panel of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (World Bank). In 2010, he was appointed to the Gruber Foundation Advisory Board of the Justice Prize. In March 2011, he was appointed to the Advisory Council of Transparency International, based in Berlin.

ABOUT THE TOPIC

At this Biennial Lecture, Michael Kirby will share his diverse experience on some of the issues he is particularly passionate about and which are close to his heart. As Michael Kirby's expertise and interests extend over a wide range of subjects, the Lecture will not be confined to one particular topic, but will take the form of an interactive format of Questions and Answers which will make for an engaging and enjoyable evening of discourse.

MEDIA INVITATION

Members of the media interested to attend and cover the lecture on 31 May 2011 may send your name, the media organisation you are representing and your contact details to communications@lawsoc.org.sg no later than **27 May 2011**. Details of Lecture are set out below:

Date: Tuesday, 31 May 2011
Time: 6:00pm
Venue: Supreme Court's Auditorium
Level Basement 2, Supreme Court of Singapore
1 Supreme Court Lane
Singapore 178879

Please also state in your reply email whether you are bringing with you any camera or recording devices as these devices are generally prohibited and prior permission from the Supreme Court is required.

ABOUT THE LAW SOCIETY

Established in 1967, the Law Society of Singapore is a body established under the Legal Profession Act. It carries out various statutory functions prescribed under the Legal Profession Act, including maintaining and improving the standards of conduct and learning of the legal profession in Singapore, the facilitation of the acquisition of legal knowledge by members of the legal profession, and protecting and assisting the public in all matters ancillary or incidental to the law.

For media queries, please contact:

Shawn Toh
Senior Assistant Director
Communications & Membership Interests
The Law Society of Singapore
Tel 6530 0232
Fax 6533 5700
Email communications@lawsoc.org.sg