

Judge James Crawford AC

Citation for conferral of Doctor of Laws (honoris causa) Ceremony 5, Wednesday 29 April 2015, 2:00pm

Chancellor, I present to you His Excellency Judge James Crawford.

James Crawford was elected to the International Court of Justice in November 2014 and took up his position in February 2015.

James Crawford graduated from the University of Adelaide with a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) in 1972.

Following his degrees at the University of Adelaide, he undertook postgraduate study in Oxford where he completed his doctoral studies on the creation of states in international law. Returning to Adelaide in 1974, he took up a position at the Adelaide Law School and was awarded a personal chair in 1982. He was appointed to the Australian Law Reform Commission in the same year and worked on various significant references. He was Commissioner in Charge of the Recognition of Aboriginal Customary Laws which remains a groundbreaking work in the area.

In 1986 James Crawford was appointed to the prestigious Challis Professorship of International Law at the University of Sydney. He served as Dean of the Faculty of Law from 1990 to 1992.

In 1985 James Crawford was elected as an associate of the Institut de Droit International and made a full member in 1991. In 1992 he took up the Whewell Professorship in Cambridge and in the same year was elected to the United Nations International Law Commission. He has served as a Special Rapporteur on State Responsibility from 1997 to 2001 and was responsible for the International Law Commission's Draft Statute for an International Criminal Court.

James Crawford was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 2000.

At Cambridge James Crawford was Director of the prestigious Lauterpacht Centre for Institutional Law (1997-2003 and 2006-2010). He is also a member of the Curatorium of The Hague Academy of International Law. Members of the Curatorium, according to the Academy, 'are highly qualified scholars of international law with a worldwide reputation'.

James Crawford has been recognised for his academic achievement with a Doctor of Laws from Cambridge in 2003. He holds honorary doctorates from the University of Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne and Pazmany Peter Catholic University, Budapest. He was awarded the Nessim Habib World Prize by the University of Geneva in 2010. In 2012 he was awarded by the American Society of International Law the Manley O Hudson Medal.

In 2013 James Crawford was made a Companion of the Order of Australia.

As well as an outstanding academic career, James Crawford is equally accomplished as a practicing lawyer. He was admitted in 1977 as a Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court of Australia and was called to the NSW Bar in 1987. In 1997 he was appointed Senior Counsel. In 1999 he was admitted to the English Bar and was a foundation member of Matrix Chambers, Grays Inn, London.

Prior to his appointment to the International Court of Justice, James Crawford appeared in over 100 cases before the International Court of Justice and other International Tribunals, such the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.

James Crawford is one of the most distinguished alumni of the Adelaide Law School and of the University of Adelaide. He is truly one of the world's leading international lawyers. Moreover, his scholarship and professional practice mark him out as one of the greatest international lawyers of his generation.

I am very pleased and proud to present to you Chancellor, Judge James Crawford, Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Laws, Doctor of Laws, Fellow of the British Academy, Special Counsel, Companion of the Order of Australia, for admission to the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws (honoris causa).