

Episode 29: Guest bios

Episode name: The Moment of Decision: How Judges Judge

Guest(s): The Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG

THE HON MICHAEL KIRBY AC CMG

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

He was first appointed in 1975 as a Deputy President of the Australian Conciliation & Arbitration Commission. Soon after, he became 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 (1984-96) and, concurrently, President of the Court of Appeal of Solomon Islands (1995-6). His appointment to the High Court of Australia followed 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 (1984-93). 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 (1988-92); as President of the International Commission of Jurists, Geneva (1995-8); as UN Special Representative for Human Rights in Cambodia (1993-6); as a member of the UNESCO International Bioethics Committee (1995-2005); as a member of the High Commissioner for Human Rights' Judicial Reference Group (2007- 9) and as 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 served as a Board Member of the Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (2009-14). He has been appointed Honorary Visiting Professor by twelve universities. And he participates regularly in many local and international conferences and meetings. He has been awarded a number of honorary doctorates at home and abroad. He also serves as Editor-in-Chief of *The Laws of Australia* (2009 -).

He served 2011-12 as a member of the Eminent Persons Group on the future of the Commonwealth of Nations. He was a Commissioner of the UNDP Global Commission of HIV and the Law 2011-2012. He was appointed to the Advisory Council of Transparency International, based in Berlin in 2012. In 2013- 2014, he was appointed Chair of the UN Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights Violations in North Korea. He a Commissioner of the UNAIDS Lancet Commission on AIDS to the Right to Health (2013-2014); the Global Fund's Equitable Access Panel (2015-16); the UN Secretary-General's High Level Panel on Access to Essential Medicines (2015-16); and UNAIDS/OHCHR's panel on overreach of criminal law (2017); and Co-Chair of the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute (2018 -).

He was awarded the Gruber Justice Prize in 2010 and has been Patron of the Kirby Institute on Blood Borne Diseases in UNSW Sydney, Australia since 2011. In May 2017, he was invested by Japan with the insignia of the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star in Tokyo, with an audience with the Emperor of Japan.

DAVID TURNER

Host

David Turner has a gift for teasing out people's stories, so it's no wonder he is Hearsay's host. With a double Bachelor of Arts and Laws from Macquarie University, he is also an MBA candidate at UNSW's Australian Graduate School of Management.

When he isn't interviewing people on Hearsay, David is a lawyer at Assured Legal Solutions, a boutique financial services law firm located in Sydney's CBD. Prior to joining Assured, he was called to the NSW Bar, and is a former President of NSW Young Lawyers and a former Councillor of the Law Society of NSW.

David spends the little downtime that he has left reading historical fiction and tinkering on home improvement projects.

You can access David's bio on the Assured Legal Solutions website [here](#).