



AUSTRALIAN
LAWYERS
FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS

PO Box A147, Sydney South NSW 1235
info@alhr.org.au alhr.org.au

15 February 2017

The Hon James Edelman
Justice of the High Court of Australia
Parkes Place
PARKES ACT 2600

By registered post

Dear Judge,

Congratulations on your appointment to the High Court of Australia

Australian Lawyers for Human Rights' (**ALHR**) warmly congratulates you on your appointment to the High Court of Australia.

Your Honour's appointment is historic by virtue of Your Honour's status as one of the youngest appointments to the Court, and because of Your Honour's exceptional academic and professional career, an inspiring rise to the highest court in our lucky and beautiful country. You are a great inspiration to many lawyers and non-lawyers alike.

The High Court represents many things to many groups of people in Australia and abroad.

To Australian society, the Court represents an independent arm of government, free of influence, full of integrity, and representative of the liberal democracy that Australian citizens so proudly respect and hold dear. The Court is charged to protect the citizenry from excesses of the executive and parliamentary arms of government and thereby hold a solemn guardianship over the basic building blocks of our democratic Australian way of life, whether they be basic common law rights and freedoms or those rights found in legislation

To the international community and Australia's regional neighbours, the Court symbolises nationhood, sovereignty, a reverence for the rule of law, all of which maintains a stable and secure system of government and geopolitical region.

The High Court presides over a national system of courts for all Australians, and it must promote the just and fearless protection of the essential legal rights of all Australians. As the indispensable third pillar of our constitutional democracy, the judiciary requires as much health, vitality, courage and ingenuity as the other arms of government, perhaps even more, in order to keep the other arms properly in check. ALHR believes that now, more than ever, this is of high importance, as a wave of nationalistic and authoritarian leaders vie for power across the world. It is a wonderful and cherished fact, that the fundamental rule of law, for the most part, holds strong in Australia.

The legal community respects you enormously and shares a deep appreciation of the honour and duty of your appointment.

We wish you an illustrious career as judge of the High Court of Australia and look forward to your dutiful work for our great judicial institution.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'BC', is written over a light grey rectangular background.

Benedict Coyne
President

[Australian Lawyers for Human Rights \(ALHR\)](#)

On behalf of the ALHR National Committee

ALHR was established in 1993 and is a national organisation of Australian solicitors, barristers, academics, judicial officers and law students who practise and promote international human rights law in Australia. ALHR has active and engaged National, State and Territory committees and a secretariat at La Trobe University Law School in Melbourne. Through advocacy, media engagement, education, networking, research and training, ALHR promotes, practices and protects universally accepted standards of human rights throughout Australia and overseas.