

## **Mr Michael McHugh AC**

### **1. Personal Background**

Mr Michael McHugh is a citizen of Australia. He was born in Australia on 1 November 1935, is married and has three children.

### **2. Education**

Mr McHugh was educated at various schools in Queensland and New South Wales. He qualified for admission to the New South Wales Bar by completing the New South Wales Barristers Admission Board examinations.

### **3. Legal Experience**

Mr McHugh was called to the New South Wales Bar in 1961. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1973. He practised extensively as a trial and appellate counsel in all fields of law, but particularly in common law, criminal law, industrial law and constitutional law matters. He was counsel for the Australian Government in the *Royal Commission on Australia's Security and Intelligence Agencies* in 1983.

### **4. Judicial Experience**

Mr McHugh has served as a Judge for almost 21 years. His judicial experience has covered all areas of Australian law. He was appointed to the Court of Appeal of the Supreme Court of New South Wales in 1984 and served there until February 1989 when he was appointed to the High Court of Australia. He has been a Justice of the High Court from 1989 until his retirement. In accordance with the *Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act* 1900, he retired from the High Court on 1 November 2005 when he turned 70. He has served as Acting Chief Justice of Australia on a number of occasions during the absence of the Chief Justice.

### **5. Services and Activities related to the Legal Field**

Mr McHugh served as Chairman of the Ethics Committee of the New South Wales Bar (1977-1981). He was also President of the New South Wales Bar Association (1981-1983) after being Vice-President of that Association (1977-1981). He was a member of the Law Council of

Australia (1981-1983) and President of the Australian Bar Association (1983-1984). He was President of the Media Law Association of Australia (1983-1984).

**6. Awards**

Mr McHugh was awarded the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws by the University of Newcastle in 1998. He was made a Companion of the Order of Australia in 1989 for services to the law and was awarded the Centenary Medal of Australia in 2003.

**7. Publications**

Mr McHugh is the co-author of *The Liability of Employers for Personal Injury* (1965) (with H.H. Glass); 2<sup>nd</sup> ed (1979) (with H.H. Glass and F.M. Douglas). Other publications include -

- (a) *The Law-Making Function of the Judicial Process* (1987);
- (b) *Democracy in the Law, "The Judicial Method"* (1998);
- (c) *Tensions Between the Executive and the Judiciary* (2002);  
and
- (d) *The Strengths of the Weakest Arm* (2004).

In 2004, Mr McHugh gave The Inaugural Sir Anthony Mason Lecture on Constitutional Law at the University of Sydney on "The Constitutional Jurisprudence of the High Court of Australia (1989-2004)".

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