



Australian High Commission, Kuala Lumpur

MEDIA RELEASE

8 March 2017

Strengthening our Judicial and Legal Relationship – Australian Chief Justice Kiefel and Justice Gordon’s visit to Malaysia

The Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia, The Honourable Susan Kiefel AC, and The Honourable Justice Michelle Gordon, Justice of the High Court of Australia, visited Malaysia from 6 to 8 March 2018, to mark International Women’s Day and meet with senior Malaysian judicial, government, legal sector and civil society representatives.

Chief Justice Kiefel called on the Chief Justice of Malaysia, Tun Md Raus Sharif, and discussed litigation trends, judicial education, relations between the courts, and other courts in the Asia Pacific, and the interaction between Syariah and civil courts in Malaysia. Chief Justice Tun Raus also hosted a dinner for Chief Justice Kiefel and Justice Gordon with other senior members of the Malaysian judiciary.

Chief Justice Kiefel met with the Malaysian Attorney General, Tan Sri Apandi Ali, to exchange views on the judiciary and legal profession.

Chief Justice Kiefel and Justice Gordon had lunch with leading members of the Malaysian legal profession, including senior representatives of the Malaysian Bar Council, past Presidents and legal academics. Justice Gordon also gave a public lecture on contemporary challenges in maintaining the rule of law.

The public centrepiece of the visit was the High Commission’s annual International Women’s Day luncheon, where Chief Justice Kiefel gave a keynote speech on ‘Women in the Australian Legal Profession; progress and a public voice.’ She spoke about the progress Australia and Malaysia have made in the profession and her optimism that true equality of opportunity will be achieved in the future. Among the guests were senior members of the Malaysian Government, legal fraternity, diplomatic community and representatives from across Malaysian society.

Justice Gordon also conducted a roundtable session with leading members of Malaysian civil society, where participants discussed pathways for victims of domestic violence within the Australian and Malaysian legal systems, as well as implications of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

HE Andrew Goledzinowski, Australia’s High Commissioner to Malaysia said: “It was a privilege to have Chief Justice Kiefel and Justice Gordon, two of the three female justices serving on the High Court of Australia, visit Malaysia, reflecting the Australia’s strong

commitment to supporting gender equality and equal opportunity, and desire to further strengthen the long-standing judicial and legal relationship between Australia and Malaysia.”

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Susan Mary Kiefel AC



Susan Mary Kiefel was appointed to the High Court of Australia in September 2007. At the time of her appointment, she was a judge of the Federal Court of Australia and the Supreme Court of Norfolk Island. She served as a judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland in 1993–94 before joining the Federal Court. She was admitted to the Queensland Bar in 1975 and was appointed Queen’s Counsel in 1987. Justice Kiefel served as a part-time Commissioner of the Australian Law Reform Commission from 2003 to 2007. She has a Masters of Laws degree from Cambridge University. Justice Kiefel was appointed a Companion in the General Division of the Order of Australia in 2011. She was elected a titular member of the International Academy of Comparative Law in June 2013. She was elected an Honorary Bencher of the Honourable Society of Gray's Inn in November 2014.

Michelle Gordon



Michelle Marjorie Gordon was appointed to the High Court of Australia in June 2015. At the time of her appointment, she was a judge of the Federal Court of Australia, to which she was appointed in April 2007.

She graduated in law from the University of Western Australia. She was admitted to practice in Western Australia in 1987 and joined the Victorian Bar in 1992. She was appointed Senior Counsel in 2003. She practised in state and federal courts principally in commercial, equity, taxation and general civil matters. She was appointed a Professorial Fellow of the Melbourne Law School in July 2015.