

Friday, 1 December 2017

Legal aid and rule of law champion David Neal wins 2017 President's Award

The Law Council of Australia's 2017 [President's Award](#) has been awarded to legal assistance and rule of law champion, Victorian barrister, Dr David John Neal SC.

The President's Award is awarded to an individual who has been an 'outstanding example to the Australian legal profession and to those who might seek to join its ranks.'

Law Council of Australia President, Fiona McLeod SC, presented the award to Dr Neal at the Law Council's President's Dinner in Canberra last night.

"David Neal has made outstanding contributions to the Law Council, the Victorian Bar and to law reform in this country. He has been influential in the development and improvement of law and the administration of justice," Ms McLeod said.

"He has made a prodigious contribution to the national profession in his very active and substantial service on significant legal policy and access to justice committees.

"David has been a driving force for the Law Council's influential [Legal Aid Matters](#) campaign.

"He has been an active adviser on the Steering Committee of the [Justice Project](#) this year and has, for many years, provided sound advice and leadership on both the Access to Justice Committee and National Criminal Law Committee of the Law Council.

"David has been a great servant both to the public and to the entire profession.

"David's achievements and his contributions as a scholar, researcher, teacher, public servant, and practising barrister are contrasted by his quiet modesty and patient concern for his fellow citizens.

"The President's Award is a very special award to acknowledge and celebrate exceptional achievement in our profession. David Neal is an outstanding example to all Australian lawyers."

Photos of David Neal's President's Award presentation are available [here](#).

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