

**CITATION DELIVERED BY PROFESSOR K. R. MCKINNON, VICE-CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG, ON THE OCCASION OF THE ADMISSION OF JANE HAMILTON MATHEWS TO THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF LAWS, HONORIS CAUSA, ON 8 OCTOBER 1993.**

Chancellor, I present Jane Hamilton Mathews.

Justice Mathews was born in Wollongong in 1940 and educated at Frensham School, Mittagong. She graduated from Sydney University in 1961 with an honours degree in Law and, after three years as an articled clerk in Sydney, returned to Wollongong as a solicitor with the local firm of Beale and Geddes. She was called to the bar in 1969 and was appointed Crown Prosecutor in 1977.

Justice Mathews anticipated and participated in the sea-change towards greater tolerance and equality in Australian society and in the law itself. In the 1970s, largely under the impetus of Attorney-General Lionel Murphy, the law in Australia at last began to shed what Robert Hughes has called its "disembodied", god-like image with the judge as its priest. Jane Mathews served as Counsel Assisting the Royal Commission into Human Relationships which looked into fundamental changes in Australian society and sought for ways of addressing issues such as de facto relationships, abortion and homosexuality.

In 1980, she was appointed to the bench of the New South Wales District Court, thus becoming the first woman to be appointed to judicial office in this state. She became a member of the NSW Law Reform Commission and also the Senior Judicial Member of the Equal Opportunity Tribunal, presiding over the making of "ground-breaking" decisions in the new field of discrimination law. In 1987, she rose to become a Justice of the Supreme Court of New South Wales. She was the second woman in Australia to hold such a position and remained, until 1992, the only woman judge in New South Wales.

Justice Mathews currently presides over the Defamation list and sits regularly in civil and criminal matters and in the Court of Criminal Appeal. She is renowned

for the efficient administration of her courts and is the Australian Director of the International Association of Women Judges.

On this superlative record in the law alone, Justice Jane Mathews is worthy of the highest accolade. However, there are other dimensions to her generous character, many of which show the influence of wise and public-spirited parents. Her father, Mr F M Mathews, was instrumental in the establishment of Wollongong TAFE and the Wollongong University College. His daughter was one of the first to teach law on the campus that he helped set aside for the development of the University. She was a key member of the Committee that planned the formation of our Faculty of Law and has chaired the Faculty Visiting Committee since its inception in 1990. She is also a member of the Board of Governors of the NSW College of Law and, since 1992, Deputy Chancellor of the University of New South Wales.

Like her mother before her, Jane Mathews is actively concerned with the condition of Aboriginal people and is looking at the effects of the legal system on their culture and welfare. She is involved in environmental causes and is Trustee of the AIDS Trust of Australia.

Jane Mathews is a lover of music and a collector of Australian art. She is currently the Chair of the Arts-Law Centre which provides Australian-wide legal assistance to people in the visual and performing arts.

Chancellor, for all of us in this University, Jane Mathews is an example of the importance of loyalty, commitment and intellectual honesty in making our society and its institutions more tolerant and open to change. Her career is, especially, an exemplary one for any woman aspiring to a profession. Her achievements, at a time when real barriers to the professional advancement of women were still unashamedly in place, are outstanding.

Jane Mathews is, above all, a warm-humoured and trusted friend, colleague and adviser. We are delighted to honour, today, this remarkable woman of the law, of education and of our city.

Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present to you Jane Hamilton Mathews for admission to the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*.