

The Honourable Marilyn Warren, AC **Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Victoria**

The Honourable Marilyn Warren was appointed to the office of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Victoria in November, 2003, after six years as a judge of that court where she presided in all jurisdictions. She was the first woman to have been appointed as a Chief Justice in Australia.

Chief Justice Warren was educated at Kilbreda College and Monash University and began her legal career in the Victorian public service. She was admitted to practice in 1975 and worked in several government legal offices, advising a succession of Attorneys-General and later becoming an assistant parliamentary counsel.

In 1975, Marilyn Warren signed the Victorian Bar Roll, largely practising administrative law, commercial law and town planning. She was a member of the Bar Council's Law Reform Committee from 1986 to 1994 and, in 1997, she was appointed Queen's Counsel.

Monash University recognized the Chief Justice's service to the law by awarding her the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws in 2004. In 1995, she was appointed a Companion of the Order of Australia for service to the judiciary; to the legal profession; to the community in areas affecting the social and economic conditions of women; and to forensic medicine internationally.

The Chief Justice is President of the Victoria Law Foundation; Chair of the Judicial College of Victoria; Chair of the Council of Legal Education; Chair of the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine; patron of Victorian Women Lawyers; and patron of the Victorian Court Network.

Role of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of Victoria

The Chief Justice is the head of the Supreme Court of Victoria, the highest ranking Court in the State.

The judiciary constitutes one of the three arms of power established by the doctrine of Separation of Powers. These also include the Executive (Government) and the Legislative (Parliament) branches. The Constitution states that the power of the Commonwealth will be vested in the respective persons or bodies responsible for the Judicature, the Executive and the Legislative.

The role of Chief Justice is legislated under s.78 of the *Constitution Act 1975*, which states 'The Chief Justice of Victoria shall have rank and precedence above and before all persons whomsoever in Victoria excepting the Governor and Lieutenant-Governor thereof.' The current Chief Justice was appointed Lieutenant-Governor in 2006.

The Chief Justice is responsible for the administration of the Court and matters pertaining to the Courts effective and efficient delivery of justice. As well as these duties the Chief Justice also sits in all divisions of the Court including the Court of Appeal.