

THE HON MARY GAUDRON KC

The Supreme Court of Tasmania notes with great sadness the passing of the Honourable Mary Gaudron KC, Australia's first female judge of the High Court of Australia.

Ms Gaudron was born in Moree in 1943 and educated in Armidale. She was awarded a Commonwealth scholarship to the University of Sydney in 1960, from which she graduated with first class honours degrees in arts (1962) and law (1965) and the medal for law, before practising as a barrister at the NSW Bar following her admission in October 1968. She was appointed as a Queen's Counsel in 1981.

Her's was a remarkable life in the law, a life of firsts. She was the first woman member of the NSW Bar Council (1972), and was appointed to the High Court at the age of 44 in 1987. She was part of the Court responsible for the 1992 Mabo decision which has had such a profound impact in this country. After leaving the High Court in 2003 she served on the International Labour Organisation's Administrative Tribunal in Geneva until 2012.

The Governor-General, the Hon Sam Mostyn AC, described the impact of Ms Gaudron's career

“As the first woman appointed to the High Court of Australia, and the only woman Justice in the Court's first century, she broke new ground and inspired generations of Australians to pursue careers in the law and public service.”

Rest peacefully.