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Law Council of Australia Makes Kirby an Honorary Member

Former High Court Justice Michael Kirby will be made an Honorary Member of the Law Council of Australia in recognition of his extraordinary contribution to law, academia and the community.

Law Council President John Corcoran will officially bestow Honorary Membership on Mr Kirby at a ceremony this evening during the 36th Australian Legal Convention in Perth.

Mr Kirby, who retired from the High Court in February, is Australia's longest serving judicial officer. In addition to his distinguished service to the highest court in the land, he has served as the inaugural President of the Australian Law Reform Commission and as President of the New South Wales Court of Appeal, amongst others.

"In that time, he also undoubtedly became one of Australia's best known judges, both here and internationally," Mr Corcoran said.

He said Mr Kirby will be remembered as serving justice with a bold heart, a brilliant mind and respect for the fundamental rights of all citizens.

"Throughout his career, he has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to human rights, the rule of law, and social justice," he said.

Mr Corcoran said Mr Kirby has also been a tremendous ambassador for the Australian profession overseas and was held in high esteem as a great communicator.

"In this regard, Mr Kirby has been a great friend to the Law Council over many years, speaking at numerous conferences and events and always drawing large and appreciative audiences," he said.

"Honorary membership of the Law Council is a rare honour, bestowed on extraordinary individuals for outstanding contributions to the legal profession and society. Michael Kirby, I'm sure you will all agree, richly deserves this honour," Mr Corcoran concluded.

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