

Conference Date Claimer

16th International Criminal Law Congress

Populism, power and privilege: Implications for the criminal justice system

**Byron Bay, NSW
10 to 14 October, 2018**

Various populist movements (worldwide) have swept aside tradition and convention and rejected financial, religious and other established institutions. They have emerged from both sides of conventional politics and have railed against elitism and sought to exploit a perceived institutional disconnect with ‘ordinary people’.

Criminal justice systems are not immune from these radical upheavals, in part because of widely held or expressed views that ‘judges and lawyers are out of touch’, ‘the system is soft on crime’ and that our lawmakers ‘do not listen to us’. In some jurisdictions, lawyers are gaoled for representing ‘enemies of the State’ and the death penalty is promoted as a viable answer to crime management. Many minorities remain on the outer or are excluded altogether. Women remain vulnerable to entrenched disregard. The impact of geopolitics (and of those seeking asylum) also adds a layer of complexity to the system.

This conference will consider how lawyers engaged in the criminal justice system might respond to these beliefs, needs and expectations while promoting the continuing relevance and fundamental importance of ‘the rule of law’ and its tenets.

A focus of this conference will be human diversity – as to race, gender, age, colour, religion, class and sexual identity and preference – within this paradigm.

‘The standard we walk past is the standard we accept’.¹

Speakers:

The Chief Justice of Australia, **Susan Kiefel AC**, the Chief Justice of Queensland, **Catherine Holmes**, Justice **Lucy McCallum** and Judge **Dina Yehia SC** from NSW and New Zealand Court of Appeal President, **Stephen Kos** have confirmed their participation in the 2018 Congress. Other members of the judiciary and an array of leading and notable international and local practitioners will join thought leaders in art, science and literature to present innovating sessions concerning this theme at the Congress. The full list of presenters will be announced in 2017.

The conference venue is expected to be confirmed in December 2016. Expressions of interest and reservations can be made with Vicki Johnston: vjohnston@8pt.com.au or 07 35117169.

¹ Morrison, D, 2016.