## Excellence in Government Decision-making

### Course program March 2010 at the Sydney Law School

#### Day 1  
**Monday 22 March**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11.15–11.45 am</td>
<td>Course registration and coffee</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.45 am–12 noon</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 noon–12.30 pm</td>
<td>Introduction to Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.30–1.30 pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.30–3.00 pm</td>
<td>FOI Litigation in the AAT: Policy and Practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.00–3.30 pm</td>
<td>Afternoon tea</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.30–5.00 pm</td>
<td>An Administrative Law Lexicon Brought to Life: A Survey of Recent Australian Administrative Law Decisions</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.00–5.30 pm</td>
<td>Drinks</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.30–6.15 pm</td>
<td>'I see dignified people': Administrative decision making and the human rights lens</td>
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<td>6.15–7.00 pm</td>
<td>Drinks continue</td>
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#### Day 2  
**Tuesday 23 March**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.00–10.15 am</td>
<td>Excess of Power and Abuse of Power</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.15–10.30 am</td>
<td>Morning tea</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.30 am–12.30 pm</td>
<td>Excess of Power and Abuse of Power (cont.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.30–1.30 pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.30–3.00 pm</td>
<td>Justiciability, Standing and Remedies</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.00–3.15 pm</td>
<td>Afternoon tea</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.15–4.45 pm</td>
<td>Justiciability, Standing and Remedies (cont.)</td>
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**Sydney Law School**

Australian Government Solicitor  
the leading lawyers to government
Day 3 | Wednesday 24 March
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**SESSION 7**
9.00–10.15 am | Procedural Fairness  
Professor Margaret Allars  
Faculty of Law, University of Sydney

10.15–10.30 am | Morning tea

10.30 am – 12.30 pm | Procedural Fairness (cont.)  
Professor Margaret Allars

12.30–1.30 pm | Lunch

**SESSION 8**
1.30–3.00 pm | Statutory Interpretation and International Law  
Professor Mary Crock  
Faculty of Law, University of Sydney

3.00–3.15 pm | Afternoon tea

3.15–4.45 pm | Statutory Interpretation and International Law (cont.)  
Professor Mary Crock

4.45–6.00 pm | Pre-dinner break

6.00–9.00 pm | Course dinner, including an after-dinner speech by the Hon. Justice Jeffrey Spender, Federal Court of Australia (subject to other commitments)*

* Please note that the course dinner, and the Thursday and Friday sessions below will concurrently be made available as the ‘AGS Administrative Law Symposium’. For further details on the symposium see: www.ags.gov.au/whatweoffer/training/Uni_of_Sydney_and_AGS.htm

Day 4 | Thursday 25 March
---|---
**SESSION 9**
9.00–9.20 am | Australian Administrative Law  
The Hon. Robert McClelland MP  
Attorney General of the Commonwealth

9.20–10.30 am | Keynote Address  
The Hon. James Spigelman AC  
Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New South Wales

10.30–11.00 am | Morning tea

**SESSION 10**
11.00 am – 12.30 pm | Statutory Interpretation: Setting the Boundaries of Decision-making Power  
A consideration of how the meaning of legislation is ascertained, and the implications for the validity of public sector decisions.  
The Hon. Justice Margaret Stone  
Federal Court of Australia

12.30–1.30 pm | Lunch

**SESSION 11**
1.30–3.00 pm | Administrative Law Litigation in 2010  
A discussion of the current practice, roles and responsibilities of the administrative law advocate.  
Tom Howe QC  
AGS Canberra

3.00–3.30 pm | Afternoon tea

Day 4 continued
---|---
**SESSION 13**
3.30–5.00 pm | A Duty to Consider: The Decision-maker and the Unrepresented Litigant  
A reflection upon the challenges posed for decision-makers where the litigant or affected party is not represented or not sufficiently represented.  
The Hon. Justice Annabelle Bennett AO Federal Court of Australia

5.00–5.30 pm | Drinks

**SESSION 14**
5.30–6.15 pm | An Advocate’s Perspective  
What agencies can do to better understand and assist the administrative law applicant.  
Natasha Case  
Senior Solicitor, Public Interest Advocacy Centre

6.15–7.00 pm | Drinks continue

Day 5 | Friday 26 March
---|---
**SESSION 15**
9.00–10.30 am | The Appeal Panel of the Administrative Decisions Tribunal: FOI and Privacy Appeals  
A discussion of relevant appeals, panel decisions and their precedent value in the FOI and Privacy context.  
The Hon. Justice Kevin O’Connor AM President of the Administrative Decisions Tribunal

10.30–11.00 am | Morning tea

**SESSION 16**
11.00 am – 12.30 pm | The Security Appeals Division: Procedural fairness, hearings and decision-making in the security context  
A consideration of the particular challenges posed by matters heard in the Security Appeals Division.  
The Hon. Justice Garry Downes AM President of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal

12.30–1.30 pm | Lunch

**SESSION 17**
1.30–2.45 pm | Natural Justice: NSW Cases in a Commonwealth Context  
A discussion of common themes and issues, and a consideration of the resonance which exists in terms of natural justice principles across Australian administrative law as a whole.  
The Hon. Justice Margaret Beazley AO Court of Appeal, New South Wales Supreme Court

2.45–3.15 pm | Afternoon tea

**SESSION 18**
3.15–4.30 pm | Rethinking Natural Justice  
This paper ponders the essential nature of natural justice, in particular with reference to possible limitations on provisions designed to exclude or limit it.  
Stephen Lloyd SC  
NSW Bar

**SESSION 19**
4.30–4.50 pm | Closing comments  
Roger Wilkins AO, Secretary, Commonwealth Attorney-General’s Department

4.50 pm | Conference close