



Percy Valentine Storkey – the Sydney law student who won a Victoria Cross



This year marks the 100th anniversary of the award of the Victoria Cross to University of Sydney Law School student [Percy Valentine Storkey](#) (V.C., LL.B), upon graduation after World War 1 he became a member of the New South Wales Bar and Bench. He received Australia's highest military award for action he took on the battlefield in France on 7 April 1918. He was one of only two Australian lawyers to receive Victoria crosses in World War 1.

In recognition of this historic occasion, Sydney Law School will host a special centenary commemorative address given by [Rear Admiral the Hon. Justice M.J. Slattery RANR](#) in his honour on Wednesday 11 April 2018.

When

WEDNESDAY 11 APRIL

5.30 - 6.30pm

Registration from 5.15pm

Welcome:

[Professor Joellen Riley](#),
Head of School and Dean,
Sydney Law School

Address: [Rear Admiral the Hon. Justice M.J. Slattery RANR](#)

Where

[Common Room, level 4](#)

Sydney Law School

New Law Building (F10)

Eastern Avenue, Camperdown

Registration

Free, however registration is essential. [REGISTER HERE](#) or visit sydney.edu.au/law/events

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[About His Honour Judge Storkey VC](#)

Percy Valentine Storkey was born on 9 September 1893 in Napier, New Zealand, but moved to Sydney, Australia in 1911. In 1912 he joined the administrative staff of the University of Sydney and next year enrolled as a law student at Sydney Law School. His legal studies were disrupted by the First World War. He enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force in May 1915 and was sent with the 19th Battalion to the Western Front where he was wounded twice, including at Passchendaele. Lieutenant Storkey was awarded his Victoria Cross for his actions on 7 April 1918 at Hangard Wood, near Villers-Bretonneux.

When he returned to Australia, Storkey resumed his legal studies and qualified as a lawyer in 1921. After working in private practice, he became a crown prosecutor for the New South Wales Department of Justice for several years. Shortly before the Second World War, he

was appointed a district court judge. In 1955 he retired, and moved to England with his English-born wife, whom he had married in 1922. He died on 3 October 1969.

[About Rear Admiral the Hon. Justice M.J. Slattery RANR](#)

Rear Admiral Slattery was appointed Judge Advocate General of the Australian Defence Force in July 2014. As Judge Advocate General – ADF he exercises defined functions under the Defence Force Discipline Act 1982 in relation to the operation of ADF discipline, upon which he reports annually to each House of Parliament. Justice Slattery graduated from the University of Sydney in Arts in 1975 and in Law in 1977. He was admitted as a barrister in 1978, made a Queen's Counsel in 1992 and appointed a Justice of the Supreme Court of New South Wales in 2009.