

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** AWE5616

## Tate, Pamela Mary

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**Occupation** Barrister, Judge, Lawyer, Senior Counsel, Solicitor, Solicitor-General

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### Summary

The Honourable Justice Pamela Tate was appointed as a Judge of the Court of Appeal of the Supreme Court of Victoria on 14 September 2010. She was appointed to the role of Solicitor-General for Victoria in 2003, the first woman to receive the appointment, and served in the role until 2010, representing the State of Victoria in constitutional challenges in the High Court of Australia. During her tenure, she was appointed Special Counsel to the Human Rights Consultation Committee that recommended the enactment in Victoria of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities. She is a Foundation Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law and was the Winner, Women Lawyers Achievement Awards (Victoria) in 2010. In June 2007 she was a Visiting Fellow, Centre for the Study of Human Rights, at the London School of Economics.

### Details

Pamela Tate was born in Dunedin, New Zealand, and graduated from Otago University in 1979 with first class Honours in Philosophy. She received a three-year Commonwealth scholarship from the British Council and undertook postgraduate study in Philosophy under the supervision of Professor Michael Dummett at Oxford University, United Kingdom, graduating with a B.Phil. Pamela returned to New Zealand and taught Philosophy at Otago University before moving to Australia to live. While teaching Philosophy at Monash University, she graduated with a first class Honours degree in Law from Monash University in 1988.

She joined the Victorian Bar in 1991, having served as an associate to Sir Daryl Dawson of the High Court of Australia for two years. At the private Bar she specialized in Constitutional law, Administrative law, and the law of trade practices. She appeared regularly in constitutional law cases before the High Court and in constitutional and public law cases before the Supreme Court. In 1999-2000 she was Convenor of the Women Barristers' Association. She was appointed Senior Counsel in 2002.

She is a judicial representative on the External Professional Advisory Committee of the Faculty of Law of Monash University. She is a member of the Judicial Conference of Australia; the Australian Association of Constitutional Law; the Australian Institute of Administrative Law; the Australian Association of Women Judges; the Australian Institute of Judicial Administration; and the International Commission of Jurists. She is a Fellow of Monash University and the Patron of the Australasian Association of Philosophy.

Justice Tate retired from the Court of Appeal in 2021 and in May 2021 became adjunct professor of law at Monash University. She was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 2023 for significant service to the judiciary, to the law, and to legal education.

### Published resources

#### Resource

The Honourable Justice Pamela Tate (LLB(Hons) 1988), Monash University, 2016,  
<https://www.monash.edu/alumni/news/awards/fellows/pamela-tate.html>

#### Site Exhibition

Australian Women Lawyers as Active Citizens, Trailblazing Women Lawyers Project Team, 2016,  
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/lawyers>

### Author Details

Justice Tate

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## Digital resources



**Title:** Pamela Tate  
**Type:** Image  
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