

EDITORIAL

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Welcome to the 10th volume of the *Victoria University Law and Justice Journal* ('*VULJ*'). It is with pleasure that we present this collection of publications by distinguished legal academics and practitioners from around Australia.

Our appointment as editors of *VULJ* for 2021 was an honour and it remains one of the high points of our time at the College of Law & Justice. The experience has been enriching and fulfilling. A highlight for us in this role was the opportunity and privilege to interview Judge John Cain to discuss his duties as the State Coroner and develop an understanding of the court system and his pathway towards attaining a prestigious role. We thank the *VULJ* team for the opportunities and experience.

The issue opens with the edited transcript of the 10th Michael Kirby Justice Oration delivered by Emeritus Professor Rosalind Croucher AM, President of the Australian Human Rights Commission. She reflects on the issues she has been addressing, and is exposed to, in her role. She discusses the rise of importance on political views over human rights awareness, the discussion on COVID-19 and its restrictions, and the changes in detention centres. With confidence and passion, Professor Croucher enforced the concentration of what is current and then what is in the past, intending to make substantial changes to the potential future where all human beings have equitable rights.

Dr Steven Stern reflects on the recent decision of the High Court of Australia regarding the secrecy of correspondence between the Sovereign and the Governor-General. The article considers the Governor-General's actions in the lead up to the dismissal of the Prime Minister in 1975 and the role played by The Queen and her Palace staff in those events. One ramification of the High Court's decision is that it has rekindled dormant discussions on Australia's future as a republic.

Michael Stanton, Julia Kretzenbacher and Martin Radzaj provide an analysis of the legality of protesting in Victoria during the time of a pandemic. For the first time, the Victorian Government has used its powers to restrict the ability of Victorians to protest freely. This article explores what rights are afforded by the *Australian Constitution* and the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* (Vic) and if these have been protected or infringed by the government.

Jacob Rizk discusses regulations on financial technology. While technology continues to advance, regulators need to ensure that their powers and standards keep pace and to ensure consumer protection. This article considers, from a consumer-perspective, the rapidly-growing practice of ‘buy-now, pay-later’ and the lack of regulation concerning this method of payment.

Dr Peter Cashman reflects on law students’ experiences in clinical programs provided by law schools and law firms. The article identifies the contributions of universities in opening the legal world to law students. Though limited, there are opportunities for change and expansion to embed social change that law students were striving for when being involved in the clinical programs. Student contributions to clinical programs is essential in making changes to social justice. However, this is restricted as students’ involvement is limited in both time and scope.

Professor Bruno Zeller focuses on the homeward trend where courts are influenced by domestic laws and legal reasoning. The article specifically explores the application of the *Vienna Convention on the International Sale of Goods* (‘*CISG*’). With the aim to preserve domestic laws while incorporating *CISG*, the article raises a few issues regarding decision-making in the courts in order to provide insight and perspective for future court dealings.

Finally, Professor Emeritus Neil Andrews reviews HS Grow’s and AF Armstrong’s book *Governance and Law: Contemporary Views* (Governance Research Program, Victoria University, 2020). The review considers interdisciplinarity of, and diversity in approaches to, contemporary corporate governance and legal research presented in the book. It also reflects on the contributions of Professor Anona Armstrong AM and the members of the Governance Research Program and its predecessor body, the Centre for International Corporate Governance Research, in the development of corporate governance practices and standards in Australia.

While 2020 has created some uncertainty, we could now say that things are more hopeful now and beginning to return to normal. We would like to thank all journal staff, namely our Managing Academic Editor, Nussen Ainsworth, our College librarians, Murray Greenway and Debra Hutchinson for all their constant support and assistance throughout this entire journey. We hope that you enjoy the insightful articles presented in this issue.