

Professor Brian Fitzgerald to head new law faculty

Professor Brian Fitzgerald, well-known Intellectual Property and Information Technology lawyer, has been appointed Executive Dean of Australian Catholic University's (ACU) new Faculty of Law.

Professor Fitzgerald joins ACU from Queensland University of Technology (QUT), where he was a specialist Research Professor in Intellectual Property and Innovation, and a pioneer in Internet and Cyber Law.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts from Griffith University, a Bachelor of Law from QUT, and postgraduate degrees in law from Oxford University and Harvard University.

Professor Fitzgerald's scholarly record includes numerous publications, books, seminars and lectures on Intellectual Property and Internet Law. Since 2005 he has been awarded more than \$5 million in research funding, and was part of research teams awarded more than \$10 million.

Professor Fitzgerald is a Chief Investigator and Program Leader for Law in the ARC Centre of Excellence on Creative Industries and Innovation (CCi) and a Project Leader for Creative Commons in Australia.

From 1998 to 2002 he was Head of the School of Law and Justice at Southern Cross University (NSW) and from 2002 to 2007 served as Head of the School of Law at QUT. He practiced as a lawyer with Crown Law (Qld) and was a Research Associate at the High Court of Australia.

In 2009 he was appointed to the Federal Government's *Government 2.0 Taskforce* and in 2010 was appointed as a Commissioner of the Queensland Law Reform Commission.

Professor Fitzgerald said it was an exciting time to be joining a dynamic university.

"ACU is entering an interesting phase of development - student numbers are growing, new buildings are going up, leading academics are coming on board, new faculties and courses are commencing – and all of this is happening on a national scale," he said.

"The core goals of ACU - commitment to human dignity and respect, social justice, ethical practice and public service – are what will make this a tremendous laboratory for legal education. This faculty will be national in focus and internationally respected. I understand the importance of global connections and will work hard to integrate the Faculty into the global network of Catholic law schools including leading law schools such as Georgetown and Fordham."

Professor Fitzgerald will officially commence at ACU in March 2012. Law degrees will commence at the Melbourne Campus in 2013, and in Sydney in 2014.

Photo: Professor Brian Fitzgerald (David T. Kindler CC BY)

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Notes to editors:

- Australian Catholic University (ACU) is a publicly funded university, open to all. It has six campuses – in Brisbane, Melbourne, North Sydney, Strathfield, Canberra and Ballarat.
- Completing a degree at ACU involves learning to think critically and be guided by social justice principles. We give our students the skills to bring about change in their community, profession and industry.
- The University focuses on the delivery of quality programs in specialist areas including education, liberal arts, business, nursing and allied health, social sciences, theology and philosophy and visual and performing arts.
- For more information, visit www.acu.edu.au