

# PREFACE

*Hon Justice Christine French\**

This special edition of the Victoria University Law Review represents an important initiative in New Zealand legal scholarship.

It was the brain child of Graeme Austin and Jessica Palmer. In February 2016 they invited 16 legal scholars working in the area of private law to gather in Wellington. Then followed an intensive two day workshop on private law issues. Each participant was invited to present a paper which was then the subject of in depth and detailed discussion. The Roundtable exchange of ideas was rigorous but supportive!

The result is a most impressive collection of papers in what are important and constantly developing areas of the law.

There are several stand-out features. The first is the quality of the work. The writing is scholarly, insightful and interesting.

The second stand-out feature is the range of topics which include contract interpretation, damages, constructive trusts, directors' duties, passing off and privacy. A number of papers also examine the interaction between private law topics and statutory regimes.

A third standout feature is the collaborative nature of the work and its New Zealand setting. All of the law schools throughout the country have been involved while the contributors themselves are a mix of senior and junior academics. In times where New Zealand legal scholars are under increasing pressure to publish overseas, it is so pleasing to see New Zealand academic dialogue of this standard on New Zealand issues.

For all these reasons, the special edition is an invaluable contribution to the development of the law and legal scholarship in New Zealand. It will be of benefit to academics, practitioners and judges alike and will, I feel sure, be only the first of many more such initiatives to come. The editors and contributors are to be congratulated.

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\* Member of the Court of Appeal of New Zealand.

