

*MORE THAN A RULE BOOK:  
Identity and the Australian  
Constitution*

– HIGH COURT PUBLIC LECTURE 2022

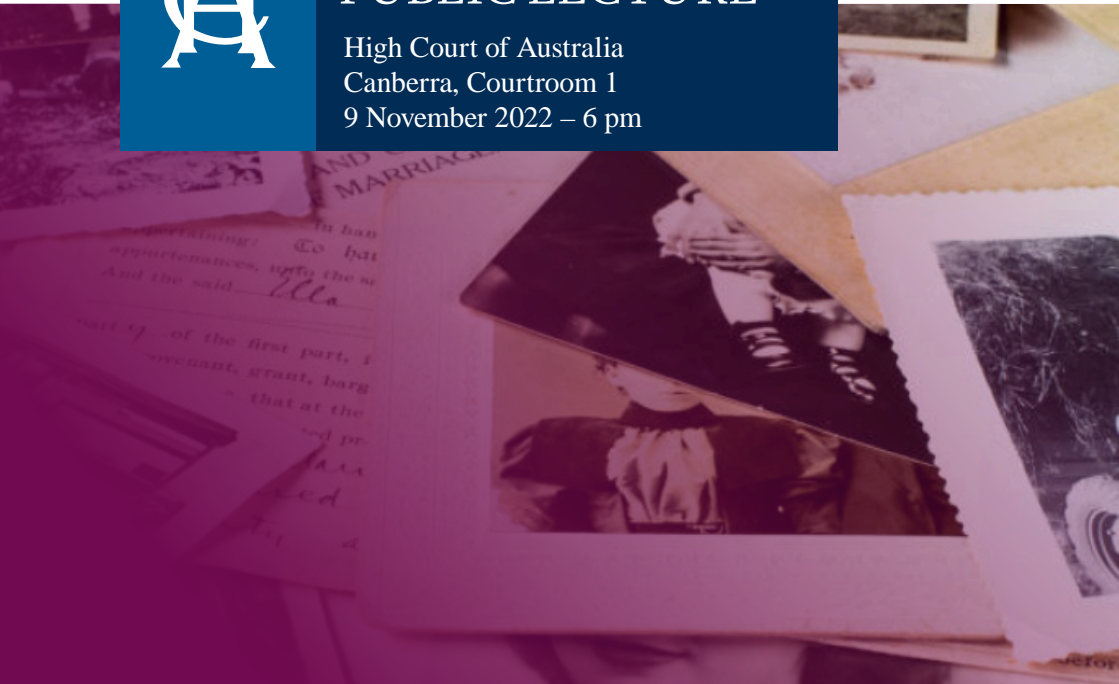
PROFESSOR ADRIENNE STONE,  
DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRE FOR  
COMPARATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL  
STUDIES AT MELBOURNE LAW SCHOOL

*Introduced by Hon Justice Stephen Gageler AC*



HIGH COURT  
OF AUSTRALIA  
PUBLIC LECTURE

High Court of Australia  
Canberra, Courtroom 1  
9 November 2022 – 6 pm



Adrienne Stone is Melbourne Laureate Professor and Director of the Centre for Comparative Constitutional Studies at Melbourne Law School. Professor Stone researches in the areas of constitutional law and constitutional theory and has particular expertise in freedom of expression and academic freedom.

Among her recent works are the Oxford Handbook on the Australian Constitution (co-edited with Cheryl Saunders) and Open Minds: Academic Freedom and



Freedom of Speech (2021)(co-authored with Carolyn Evans). Professor Stone is the current President of the International Association of Constitutional Law.

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SYNOPSIS

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## *MORE THAN A RULE BOOK: Identity and the Australian Constitution*

The Australian Constitution is often described in notably prosaic terms as a pragmatic set of rules for governing the country or even as a ‘rule book’. These portrayals emphasise the functional nature of the Constitution and seek to distinguish it from other constitutions that have a more prominent role in the political culture of their polity. The purpose of this lecture is to dispel this picture. It will argue that these conventional accounts of the Australian Constitution underestimate its complexity and its significance. It will identify a distinctively Australian set of constitutional ideas, practices, and values that (for good or ill) animate our Constitution and in turn influence our political culture.



HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA

**All welcome**  
**Refreshments to follow**

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