

the justices of the assignments made by the most senior justice in the majority. The Chief Justice speaks and votes first on the result of a case, the junior justice speaks and votes last.

Her Honour described her own (admirable) approach to writing opinions as follows: 'I prefer and continue to aim for opinions that get it right and keep it tight, without undue digressions or decorations or distracting denunciations of colleagues who hold different views.'

Her Honour concluded her address as follows:

Most impressive, I think, despite sharp differences on certain issues – the Court's disagreement on the recount of votes in Florida is a prime example – we remain good friends, people who respect each other, and genuinely enjoy each other's company. Our mutual respect is only momentarily touched in most instances, by our sometimes strong disagreement on what the law is. The institution we serve is ever so much more important than the particular individuals who compose the Court's bench at any given time.

A transcript of Her Honour's remarks is held in the Bar Association Library. Her Honour had spoken to an audience in Melbourne the week before she came to Sydney. Justice Hayne of the High Court of Australia then responded with remarks that can be found on the High Court's web site.³

- 1 After Justice O'Connor
- 2 Her Honour also noted that on occasion important cases appear so clear to the court that it will decide the matter summarily based on the petition for review and the brief in opposition, without further briefing or oral argument.
- 3 [Http://www.hcourt.gov.au/speeches/haynej/haynej_ruthbad.htm](http://www.hcourt.gov.au/speeches/haynej/haynej_ruthbad.htm) 'Reply to The Honourable Ruth Bader Ginsburg: Remarks on judicial independence: The situation of the US federal judiciary'.



Left to right: Richard L Greene, US Consul-General, Ruth McColl S.C., Associate Justice Ginsburg and Professor Martin Ginsburg.

ADDRESSES

Law and literature

On 20 April 2001 the Bar Association hosted a breakfast seminar on 'Law and literature', presented by The Hon. Justice I D Callinan of the High Court.

The seminar, presented as part of the Continuing Legal Education Programme, will be published in the forthcoming edition of *Australian Bar Review*.



Justice Callinan.
Illustration by Poulos QC.