

ANU COLLEGE OF LAW

ANU Law Professors Appointed to Cambridge Chair

The University of Cambridge has bestowed a high honour on two ANU College of Law professors, Peter Cane and Jane Stapleton, by electing them to the Arthur Goodhart Visiting Professorship of Legal Science, one of the most prestigious visiting chairs in the common law world. Cane and Stapleton, who are married, will hold the Professorship sequentially during the 2011–12 academic year. This is the first time that the chair has been held jointly.

During their time in Cambridge, Peter Cane will be a Fellow of Corpus Christi College and Jane Stapleton will be a Fellow of St John's College.

'It is a real thrill for a tort lawyer to be elected to a chair once occupied by intellectual giants of the subject such as Roger Traynor (once Chief Justice of California, who held the chair in 1974–75) and Guido Calabresi (Yale Law School and Second Circuit Court of Appeals, 1980–81); Stapleton said. But it is most especially exciting that we will be following in the steps of the great John Fleming (the first Dean of the ANU Law Faculty), who held the chair 1987–88 while on the faculty at UC Berkeley, where he went after a decade teaching in Canberra in the 1950s.'

'In the globalised environment of legal education, links between leading law schools on different continents are increasingly valuable and important,' Cane said. 'This is a great opportunity to strengthen ties between the law schools of two great research universities and to build on the links that ANU already enjoys with Cambridge through the International Alliance of Research Universities.'

In fact, ANU has a remarkably strong and altogether outstanding association with the Goodhart Professorship. Of the seven Australian holders of the chair to date, six (Professor Leslie Zines (1992–93), Sir Anthony Mason (1996–97) and Justice Paul Finn (2010–11) in addition to Fleming, Stapleton and Cane) have deep ANU connections. (The other Australian Goodhart Professor was Professor Cheryl Saunders (2005–06).)

The Visiting Professorship of Legal Science was established in 1971 in honour of Arthur Lehman Goodhart. Goodhart was born in New York but spent most of his adult life in England. He studied law at Yale Law School and arrived in Cambridge in 1912 intending to read economics, but was persuaded to read law instead. After serving in the First World War, he returned to Cambridge in 1919 as a fellow of Corpus Christi College and taught there for a decade, during which time he founded the Cambridge Law Journal and became editor of the Law Quarterly Review (a post he held for fifty years). Although primarily a common lawyer, Goodhart lectured in jurisprudence; and he was elected Professor of Jurisprudence at Oxford University in 1931. In 1951 he became Master of University College, Oxford.



Professor Peter Cane



Professor Jane Stapleton