

### **Arnold Bloch Leibler hosts luncheon to celebrate the 90th birthday of The Rt Hon Sir Zelman Cowen AK GCMG GCVO QC**

Arnold Bloch Leibler was honoured to host a celebratory luncheon for Sir Zelman Cowen's 90th birthday at the firm's Melbourne office on Wednesday 14 October 2009.

Special guests attending the luncheon included Sir Zelman and Lady Anna Cowen, Sir Ninian and Lady Stephen, as well as guests from the judiciary, the legal profession, academia and the business community.

The event included addresses by The Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG, and His Honour Chief Judge Michael Rozenes QC, Chief Judge of the County Court of Victoria and Chairman of The Jewish Museum of Australia.

In Mark Leibler's welcome speech he said:

*"Throughout all the years I have known Sir Zelman, I have found him to be a person of great intellect, who is moderate and accommodating in his views, and who always offers wise counsel.*

*"The range of guests here today—hailing from the highest levels of judiciary, academia, the bar, the wider legal profession and business—is a testament to the esteem in which Sir Zelman is held. Speaking on everyone's behalf, I am sure we would agree that Sir Zelman is a national treasure."*

In his address, The Hon Michael Kirby reflected on the appointment of Sir Zelman to the position of Governor General following the controversy surrounding the dismissal of the Whitlam Government, saying:

*"Restoring that sense of the unity of the office (of Governor General) and its service to the people of Australia was probably his greatest public gift to the people of this nation.*

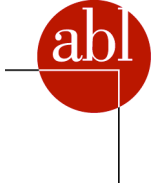
*"He is, nonetheless, a person who has true humanity, humility and approachableness."*

In his vote of thanks, Chief Judge Rozenes announced the Jewish Museum of Australia's dedication of the Australian Jewish History gallery in Sir Zelman's name and reflected on his wide range of interests across the community:

*"If there is a measure of the man, it is not only that he finds the time to contribute to each of these uniquely Australian organisations, but also that he gives his intellectual and spiritual commitment to them."*

To view transcripts of the speeches by Mark Leibler AC, The Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG and His Honour Chief Judge Michael Rozenes QC, please click on the links below:

- [Welcome and introduction by Mark Leibler AC](#)
- [Toast by The Hon Michael Kirby AC CMG](#)
- [Vote of thanks by His Honour Chief Judge Michael Rozenes QC](#)



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For more information, or to arrange an interview, contact **Katie Elston**, Marketing Communications Co-ordinator, (03) 9229 9715.

**About Arnold Bloch Leibler**

Arnold Bloch Leibler is a leading commercial law firm with offices in Melbourne and Sydney. The firm represents a wide range of individuals and corporate clients, including high-net-worth individuals and entrepreneurs, large family businesses and blue-chip corporations. Arnold Bloch Leibler also has a dedicated pro bono practice providing advice on social, environmental and cultural issues to more than 100 charitable and not-for-profit organisations.

Arnold Bloch Leibler is particularly known for its expertise in commercial law, litigation and dispute resolution, taxation and property. The firm also has an expanding presence in trade practices law. In these areas, the firm has been involved in many landmark matters and transactions.