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# Gadfly

## Smiles and stares

To the Federal Court for the jam-packed launch of journalist **Michael Pelly**'s biography of former chief justice **Murray "The Smiler" Gleeson**.

Every old trout in the Sydney legal establishment turned up. Wheelchairs and Zimmer frames crammed the passageways.

Smiler's daughter Justice **Jacqueline Gleeson** welcomed us to the court, saying the book "peers into the vortex that Murray would call his soul".

ABC chairman **Jim Spigelman** did the launch speech, in which he referred to Gleeson's blood-chilling stare.

"The Stare" was so powerful that counsel would withdraw questions or abstain from objections, simply by being stared at. It cut down the appeal points no end.

However, if you think The Smiler is the master of demolition, you haven't met his wife, **Robyn Gleeson**.

When Murray was appointed to the High Court, her reaction wasn't enthusiastic: "I know that he kind of thought, 'I've had enough of being Chief Justice of NSW', and I had had enough of it. My only encounter with the High Court was in Melbourne [in 1963] and I thought I had never come across such rude people."

## No beer for bigots

The show trial season, aka senate estimates, has been under way in Canberra.

One of the main attractions was the appearance of "Freedom Boy", Human Rights Commissioner **Tim Wilson**, at the legal affairs committee.

Senator **Lisa Singh** (ALP, Tas) asked the wordy Wilson whether people