
Book Launch of *'The Law of Co-offending in Australia'* by Peter Lowe

5pm on Friday, 18 November 2022

Matt Laffan Room

I would like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land we meet on today, the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation. I pay my respects to their Elders past and present, and I extend my respects to all First Nations Peoples here today. I also express my support for the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

Good evening. It is my pleasure to welcome you all here today to celebrate the launch of Peter's fantastic new book *'The Law of Co-offending in Australia'*.

This book, however, is just one of Peter's many achievements throughout a distinguished legal career.

Peter commenced practice as a solicitor with the Commonwealth DPP in 1990. Whilst there, he took a secondment with the Environmental Protection Authority where he worked on some significant environmental prosecutions, including prosecuting BHP (twice), McConnell Dowell, and Sydney Water. He was called to the bar in 1999 and has enjoyed 23 years of experience and success at the Bar in criminal and administrative law. I am very pleased to say that after prosecuting for this Office as a private barrister, Peter was recently appointed as a statutory Crown Prosecutor. Within the last year, he has already made a substantial contribution to our Office, appearing in countless jury trials and appeals, whilst also building up and mentoring our Gosford team.

Despite what is clearly a very busy trial schedule – Peter has also found the time to write a book! And not just any book, but a scholarly legal text, indeed the first Australian text on the topical issue of co-accused trials.

As many of you here will agree, trials with multiple co-accused persons are often the most procedurally delicate and complex matters which come before the courts. *'The Law of Co-Offending in Australia'* takes the reader through the intricacies inherent in prosecuting or defending a co-accused trial – spanning all the way from pre-trial applications, through the trial, and finally to sentencing.

It highlights how co-accused trials differ in important respects from trials of sole accused, with an emphasis on the ultimate need for fairness in the trial process.

I have no doubt that this book will be a comprehensive resource used by barristers, solicitors, judges and law students – and that it will have lasting significance and value both in day-to-day practice, but also in the broader, holistic sense of promoting fairness in the criminal justice system.

The Law of Co-Offending in Australia is meticulously researched, well written, and insightful and Peter's years of experience as a jury and appellate advocate, shine through.

Please join me this evening in congratulating Peter on this wonderful achievement.

I will now hand it over to Peter to share a few words.

Thank you.