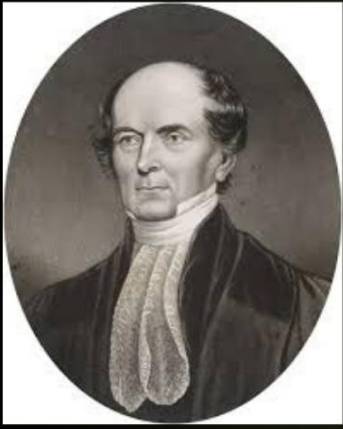


# CHIEF JUSTICE SIR FRANCIS FORBES ANNUAL LAW LECTURE



**7 MAY, 2025. 7-9 PM**

**INCO INNOVATION CENTRE LECTURE THEATRE 2001**

**FREE PARKING IN ADJACENT LOT 17**

**MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY CAMPUS**

**Dr Bernadette McSherry**  
**Emeritus Professor of Law**  
**University of Melbourne**



## **PREVENTIVE JUSTICE: THE QUEST FOR CERTAINTY IN PREDICTING FUTURE HARM**

The term "preventive justice" was first used in the 18th century and linked to laws aimed at preventing future crime. In many jurisdictions based on the common law, the past few decades have seen preventive justice schemes reinvigorated in association with a focus on risk assessment tools aimed at predicting the risk of future harmful behaviour. Recently, predictive machine learning algorithms have been used to inform judicial decision-making, including sentencing. Using case studies, this lecture will explore some of the legal and ethical issues raised by preventive justice schemes and will consider whether the quest for certainty in predicting future harm is any closer to being fulfilled.



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