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Honours for AustLII's Founding Co-Director Professor Andrew Mowbray

At the Justice Awards dinner at NSW Parliament House last night, the NSW Law and Justice Foundation awarded its highest annual award, the Justice Medal, to Professor Andrew Mowbray, Co-Director and Co-Founder of AustLII. He was selected by the panel of judges to receive the award from a distinguished field of nine nominees.

In announcing the award, the Law & Justice Foundation noted that Professor Mowbray had received the Justice Medal for his 25-year commitment to making legal information available online for free through AustLII. The award was presented by Sir Anthony Mason AC KBE, patron of the Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales, at the 16th annual Justice Awards dinner held at Parliament House in Sydney. In presenting the award, Sir Anthony Mason stressed that Professor Mowbray's work had made a profound difference to access to legal information globally, not only in Australia.

The Justice Awards recognise individuals and groups who have made an outstanding contribution to improving access to justice, especially for socially and economically disadvantaged people in NSW. Director of the Law and Justice Foundation of NSW Geoff Mulherin said, 'Andrew Mowbray has been recognised for his work in revolutionising the way Australians access legal information. AustLII was established in 1995, giving people free access to the laws governing Australia. Access to legal information and access to justice go "hand-in-hand." See: [http://www.lawfoundation.net.au/ljf/site/templates/justiceawards/\\$file/MR_2014_JusticeAwards_Winners.pdf](http://www.lawfoundation.net.au/ljf/site/templates/justiceawards/$file/MR_2014_JusticeAwards_Winners.pdf)

This is the second significant recognition that Professor Mowbray has recently received for his career achievements developing free access to legal information via the internet and for his commitment to social justice. Earlier this month his work was recognised by the Council for Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (CHASS). His achievement in developing the LawCite citator was short-listed and received a Highly Commended award in the 2014 CHASS Australia Prize for Distinctive Work in the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (HASS) field. See: <http://chass.org.au/media/pdf/MED20141020.pdf>

AustLII is Australia's largest and most popular online legal research facility. AustLII's 628 Australasian legal databases include current and historical case law, legislation, law reform reports, law journals and the largest national treaties collection on the Internet. AustLII receives over 600,000 accesses per day, and is regularly rated by HitWise as Australia's most used legal website. Since its inception AustLII has provided free access for the Australian public to the essential legal information needed for the rule of law and democracy to function effectively. AustLII's broad public policy agenda is to improve access to justice through better access to information.

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