

BU Honorary Graduate Citation - Jean Lang

Chancellor/Pro-Chancellor,

Following a career in family law, Jean Lang has supported the development of BU as a Board Member for the past seven years.

Jean stepped down from the Board in 2022, having served as Deputy Chair, and Chair of the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee, and having helped shape the university's future direction through its 2025 strategic plan.

Jean grew up and attended school in London. Having passed her 11-plus exam, she went to a state grammar school for girls, and recalls feeling empowered to pursue any interests by an almost entirely female teaching staff. She went on to study history at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, where she made lifelong friendships and took up extra-curricular activities ranging from fencing to tiddlywinks.

After graduating, Jean joined the Bank of England, despite confessing that she hadn't passed her O-level maths, before being inspired to retrain as a lawyer by her husband David, who was already qualified. While living and working in London, David and Jean began to spend regular weekends in Dorset and set up their own practice in Blandford in 1981.

A few years into her career, Jean spotted a newspaper article calling on more women under 40 to get involved in organisational boards and committees. Jean joined the Gas Consumer Council, which began a love of contributing to public life. She has since been Chair of two school governing bodies, a Management Committee Member of the Citizen's Advice Bureau, an Independent Member of Dorset Police Authority, a Non-Executive Director of a health trust and hospital and a part-time Tribunal Judge in the Social Entitlement Chamber. She remains the Chair of Dorset Museum Board, a Director of Dorset Opera and a Deputy Lieutenant of Dorset. Jean confesses that she likes a committee, as it satisfies her curiosity about how organisations work.

Her advice to today's law graduates is to make the most of this varied profession. She believes that within the law there is a need for every kind of person and a career that will fit every kind of graduate.

Chancellor/Pro-Chancellor, I have the honour to present Jean Lang, and I ask you to confer upon her the degree of Doctor of Law, *honoris causa*.