



SUPREME COURT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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MEDIA STATEMENT

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Western Australia's Chief Justice Announces Retirement

Western Australia's Chief Justice, the Hon Wayne Martin AC, has today announced his retirement.

Chief Justice Martin, who took up his appointment on 1 May 2006, will leave his role on 27 July 2018.

The Chief Justice said it had been an extraordinary honour and a great pleasure to serve the State and people of Western Australia.

"It has been a demanding and challenging role, but also an extremely rewarding one – one that has reinforced my faith in our strong and independent justice system," he said.

"I have especially enjoyed the opportunity of meeting members of the community around our great State and hearing their views about how our justice system might be improved.

"I have always held the view that the administration of justice in this State is best served by regular renewal of the occupants of senior offices within that system, and so now is the time for me to put that view into effect."

The Chief Justice has overseen significant developments in the State's highest court during his tenure, including:

- Introducing the Commercial and Managed Cases (CMC) List to speed up, reduce costs and simplify civil cases;
- Modernising the more significant Rules of the Supreme Court – those relating to case management, public access and mortgage foreclosures;
- Promoting the use of mediation in both civil and criminal cases;

- Discontinuing the wearing of wigs from 1 January 2010, and extending the use of modern black judicial robes to all areas of the Supreme Court's work;
- Introducing criminal case management through the creation of the Stirling Gardens Magistrate Court;
- Publishing sentencing remarks on the Court's website to allow greater transparency of sentencing;
- Reducing delays in judgments being delivered;
- Overseeing the Supreme Court General Division's move into a modern court building with state-of-the-art technology;
- Overseeing the introduction of electronic filing of all documents in the Supreme Court's civil jurisdiction, in a move towards a paperless court;
- Assisting people not represented by lawyers to lodge probate applications through the computer-based "Probate Wizard";
- Modernising the management structures relating to all areas of the Supreme Court's work;
- The creation of a judicial committee to advise on the appointment of Senior Counsel; and,
- The introduction of regular meetings between the heads of WA's courts and agencies engaged in the criminal justice system so as to improve the efficiency of that system.

A ceremonial sitting of the Full Bench of the Supreme Court of Western Australia will be held on 20 July in the David Malcolm Justice Centre to farewell the Chief Justice.

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