



# SUPREME COURT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

2 May 2023

### **New appointments to the Supreme Court of Western Australia**

The Supreme Court of Western Australia welcomes the appointment of the Hon Justice Sam Vandongen as a judge of appeal and the appointment of Judges Natalie Whitby and Stephen Lemonis as judges of the Court.

Justice Vandongen was appointed as a judge of the Court on 2 November 2022, after 30 years in the legal profession in Western Australia and New South Wales. His Honour's commission as a judge of appeal will commence on 22 May 2023.

Justice Whitby has held a number of judicial offices over the past 13 years. Her Honour was a Registrar of the Supreme Court for 11 years, during which time she served as Principal Registrar and Master of the Court. Since 9 June 2021 she served as a judge of the District Court of Western Australia. Her Honour will commence at the Court on 22 May 2023.

Justice Lemonis has served as a judge of the District Court since 1 February 2019. Prior to his appointment as a judge, his Honour practised extensively in civil and commercial law and white-collar crime over a 30-year career in the law. His Honour will commence at the Court on 26 June 2023.

Chief Justice Peter Quinlan, on behalf of the Court, congratulated Justices Vandongen, Whitby and Lemonis on their appointments.

'The Court has great pleasure in welcoming Justice Vandongen's appointment to the Court of Appeal and the appointment of Justice Whitby and Justice Lemonis to the Court,' Chief Justice Quinlan said. 'Justice Vandongen's appointment to the Court of Appeal fills a vacancy left by the retirement of Justice Graeme Murphy. On behalf of the Court, I record our sincere gratitude for Justice Murphy's 14 years of outstanding service to the community as a judge of the Court. We are grateful that Justice Vandongen has accepted an appointment to continue his service to the Court and the administration of justice as a judge of appeal. Justice Whitby and Justice Lemonis have served with great distinction as judges of the District Court and the community of the Court is delighted to have them join us in the work and life of the Court.'

Justice Whitby and Justice Lemonis will be formally welcomed to the Court at ceremonial sittings on dates to be announced.

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