



13 November 2018

MEDIA STATEMENT – SENIOR COUNSEL APPOINTMENTS 2018

The Chief Justice of Western Australia, the Hon Justice Peter Quinlan, today announced the appointment of eight Senior Counsel for 2018, after 32 applications were received.

The appointments are Mr John Ley, Mr John Hedges, Mr Steven Penglis, Ms Carolyn Thatcher, Mr Gary Cobby, Mr Alain Musikanth, Mr Michael Feutrill and Ms Mara Barone.

Seven of the appointees practise as barristers, with one counsel employed by the State Solicitor's Office.

Appointment as Senior Counsel is based on eminence in the practice of law, especially in advocacy, unquestioned integrity, availability and independence. A Committee advises the Chief Justice on applications for appointment.

The Committee, chaired by Chief Justice Quinlan, comprised the President of the Court of Appeal, the Senior Judge of the Supreme Court, Senior Female Judge of the Supreme Court, the Senior Female Judge of the Court of Appeal, the President of the State Administrative Tribunal, the Senior Judge of the Federal Court resident in Perth, the Chief Judge of the Family Court and the Chief Judge of the District Court.

Mr John Ley

Mr Ley was admitted to practice in Western Australia in 1975. Prior to joining the Independent Bar in 1996, Mr Ley was a partner of the national law firm, Freehill, Hollingdale & Page.

As a barrister, Mr Ley has practised principally in the field of common law, including acting for plaintiffs and regulatory authorities, and defending medical and other health practitioners in negligence and disciplinary proceedings. In 1999, Mr Ley was President of the Law Society of Western Australia and a Director of the Law Council of Australia. He has been a member of the Legal Profession Complaints Committee since 2006 and is currently the Chair of that Committee.

Mr John Hedges

Mr Hedges was admitted to practice in Western Australia in 1981. He has also practised in the United Kingdom and Sydney. Since his return to Perth from Sydney in 1992, he has practised exclusively as a Barrister at the Independent Bar.

Mr Hedges practises primarily in the area of family law, although he also accepts instructions in criminal law and general litigation.

Mr Steven Penglis

Mr Penglis was first admitted to practice in New South Wales in 1982 and was admitted to practice in Western Australia in 1984. Prior to joining the Independent Bar in 2012, Mr Penglis was a partner of the national law firm, Freehills.

Mr Penglis practises in the area of commercial litigation. He has served as a member of the Legal Practice Board and the Legal Profession Complaints Committee, including as Chair of the Legal Practice Board from 2002 to 2007.

Ms Carolyn Thatcher

Ms Thatcher was admitted to practice in Western Australia in 1986. She commenced practice with the Crown Law Department. She has held various positions within the Crown Law Department, the Crown Solicitor's Office and the State Solicitor's Office. She is currently Senior Assistant State Counsel.

Ms Thatcher represents the State of Western Australia and a wide range of public authorities in a range of jurisdictions, including administrative law, negligence claims and coronial inquests.

Mr Gary Cobby

Mr Cobby was admitted to practice in Western Australia in 1990. Prior to joining the Independent Bar in 2008, Mr Cobby practised at a number commercial law firms in Western Australia.

Mr Cobby practises in commercial law, corporations, consumer protection, equity, banking and insolvency.

Mr Alain Musikanth

Mr Musikanth was first admitted to practice in South Africa in 1994. He moved to Western Australia in 2001 joining the law firm Corrs Chambers Westgarth. He was admitted to practice in Western Australia in 2002 and joined the Independent Bar in 2007.

Mr Musikanth practises in commercial litigation with a primary emphasis on professional liability and regulation, insurance and taxation. He is the immediate past President of the Law Society of Western Australia.

Mr Michael Feutrill

Mr Feutrill was admitted to practice in Western Australia in 1997. Prior to joining the Independent Bar in 2002, Mr Feutrill practised at a number commercial law firms in

Western Australia. Between 2007 and 2009 he was engaged as an advocate with Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer's international arbitration group in Paris.

Mr Feutrill practises mainly in the areas of energy and resources, infrastructure, corporations, insolvency and insurance.

Ms Mara Barone

Ms Barone was admitted to practice in Western Australia in 2001. She commenced practice at the Legal Aid Commission of Western Australia and, following eight years at the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia, commenced her own firm in 2011. She has practised at the Independent Bar since May 2018.

Ms Barone practises widely in criminal law, including in relation to matters under the *Dangerous Sexual Offenders Act 2006*, in relation to which she was awarded a Master of Laws in 2011.

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