



25 November 2020

MEDIA STATEMENT – SENIOR COUNSEL APPOINTMENTS 2020

The Chief Justice of Western Australia, the Hon Justice Peter Quinlan, today announced the appointment of six Senior Counsel for 2020, after 25 applications were received.

The appointments are Mr Graham Droppert, Ms Penelope Giles, Mr Alan Sefton, Mr Matthew Curwood, Ms Kim Lendich and Mr Lindsay Fox.

Four of the appointees practise as barristers, with two counsel employed by the State Solicitor's Office and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions respectively.

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, comprises the President of the Court of Appeal, the Senior Judge of the Supreme Court, the President of the State Administrative Tribunal, a Judge of the Federal Court resident in Perth, the Chief Judge of the Family Court and the Chief Judge of the District Court.

Mr Graham Droppert

Mr Droppert was admitted to practice in Western Australia in 1982. He has practised as an independent barrister since 1996, most recently from Albert Wolff Chambers. Prior to joining the Bar he practised, including as a partner, at private law firms in Western Australia.

Mr Droppert practises in personal injuries litigation including medical negligence claims, with a particular focus on cases in which plaintiffs have suffered catastrophic injuries. He is the current National President of the Australian Lawyers Alliance as well as having served as State President for the ALA. Mr Droppert is also actively involved in community activities, including serving as the Honorary Consul for the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

Ms Penelope Giles

Ms Giles was admitted to practice in Western Australia in 1987. She has practised as an independent barrister since 1998, most recently from Murray Chambers. Prior to joining the Bar she practised, including as a partner, at private law firms in Western Australia.

Ms Giles practises predominantly in family law, including parenting and financial matters. She also practises in industrial law and equal opportunity and discrimination law. She has previously served as a Commissioner of the District Court and as President of the Equal Opportunity Tribunal.

Mr Alan Sefton

Mr Sefton was admitted to practice in Western Australia in 1993. He currently holds the office of State Counsel within the State Solicitor's Office. He has held various positions within that Office, including Senior Assistant State Counsel and Deputy State Counsel.

Mr Sefton practises in public law and commercial law, having conducted significant litigation on behalf of the State of Western Australia and its agencies in all courts. Mr Sefton has also served as a member of the Western Australian Law Reform Commission and in 2017 was appointed by the Attorney General to conduct an inquiry into the management of operations of the Njamal People's Trust.

Mr Matthew Curwood

Mr Curwood was admitted to practice in Western Australia in 1993. He has practised as an independent barrister since 2013, from Francis Burt Chambers. Prior to joining the Bar Mr Curwood practised as the legal practice director of his own practice Curwood & Co Lawyers.

Mr Curwood practises in commercial litigation, with an emphasis on Wills and Estates and Equity and Trusts. He has served as a member of the Legal Costs Committee of Western Australia and is a contributing author of *Civil Procedure Western Australia*.

Ms Kim Lendich

Ms Lendich was admitted to practice in Western Australia in 2001. She has practised as an independent barrister since 2012, from Francis Burt Chambers. Prior to joining the Bar Ms Lendich practised at a number of national law firms.

Ms Lendich maintains a practice in commercial litigation, torts and insurance and native title. She has also taught advocacy with the Australian Bar Association and has been a director of WA Bar Chambers Ltd since 2012.

Mr Lindsay Fox

Mr Fox was admitted to practice in Western Australia in 2003 and is a Senior State Prosecutor in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, where he has held a variety of positions since 2003.

Mr Fox practises in criminal law, predominantly in appeals before the Court of Appeal. He is actively involved in providing training both within the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and to external agencies.

Media contact: Jamie Freestone, Manager, Media & Public Liaison
Ph: (08) 9421 5303