



27 November 2019

MEDIA STATEMENT – SENIOR COUNSEL APPOINTMENTS 2019

The Chief Justice of Western Australia, the Hon Justice Peter Quinlan, today announced the appointment of six Senior Counsel for 2019, after 22 applications were received.

The appointments are Mr Jason Maclaurin, Mr Joseph Garas, Mr Henry Jackson, Ms Laura Christian, Ms Julie Taylor and Mr Justin Whalley.

Six of the appointees practise as barristers, with two counsel employed by the Office of the Director of Prosecutions.

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 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 Jason Maclaurin

Mr Maclaurin was admitted to practice in Western Australia in 1994. He has practised as an independent barrister from Francis Burt Chambers since 2006, prior to which he practised at the Crown Solicitor's Office and private law firms in Western Australia.

Mr Maclaurin practices in commercial litigation, with a particular emphasis on defamation and media law. Mr Maclaurin has served as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Notre Dame and in a variety of other teaching and mentoring roles.

Mr Joseph Garas

Mr Garas was admitted to practice in Western Australia in 1997. Prior to joining the Independent Bar in 2008, Mr Garas practised at a number of commercial law firms in Western Australia.

Mr Garas practises in commercial litigation and arbitration, including in the areas of mining and resources, construction, banking and insolvency, professional liability and consumer law. He was a founding member of Quayside Chambers.

Mr Henry Jackson

Mr Jackson was admitted to practice in Western Australia in 1998. He practised in Melbourne from 1999 to 2010, both as a solicitor and at the Victorian Bar. He joined the Western Australian Bar Association in 2010 and practises from Francis Burt Chambers.

Mr Jackson practises predominantly in public law, including planning and environment, land compensation and local government. In addition to a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Western Australia, Mr Jackson holds a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Masters of Public International Law from Melbourne University.

Ms Laura Christian

Ms Christian was admitted to practice in Western Australia in 1999. She is a Consultant State Prosecutor in the Office of the Director of Prosecutions. Prior to commencing as a State Prosecutor in 2006, she was a Legal Officer in the State Solicitor's Office.

In addition to a Bachelor of Laws (Hons) from the University of Western Australia, Ms Christian holds a Bachelor of Science Degree and a Postgraduate Diploma of Forensic Science. Ms Christian has contributed for many years to the training and professional development program of the Office of the Director of Prosecutions, in addition to providing training and mentoring in the wider legal profession.

Ms Julie Taylor

Ms Taylor was admitted to practice in Western Australia in 2005. Following practise as a solicitor at the State Solicitor's Office, Ms Taylor was called to the New South Wales Bar in 2007. She joined the Western Australian Bar Association in 2016, practising from Francis Burt Chambers.

Ms Taylor maintains a practice in commercial litigation in many jurisdictions throughout Australia, principally in Western Australia, New South Wales and Queensland. Ms Taylor holds degrees in Arts and Law from the University of Western Australia and both a Bachelor of Civil Laws and Master of Philosophy from the University of Oxford.

Mr Justin Whalley

Mr Whalley was admitted to practice in Western Australia in 2006 and is a Consultant State Prosecutor in the Office of the Director of Prosecutions. Prior to coming to Western Australia in 2006, Mr Whalley held a variety of positions as a prosecutor in Queensland from 2000.

Mr Whalley graduated with a Bachelor of Laws (Hons) from Southampton University in England and is actively involved in providing training both within the Office of the Director of Prosecutions and to external agencies.

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