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MEDIA RELEASE

CHIEF Justice Wayne Martin has announced that there will not be any appointments of Senior Counsel this year.

The Chief Justice said the procedure to consider applications for the appointment of Senior Counsel had been modified.

“A Committee was established this year to advise me on applications for appointment,” he said. “That Committee, which I chair, comprises the President of the Court of Appeal, the Senior Judge of the Supreme Court, 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.”

“I reported to the Committee the views which had been expressed to me in the course of an extensive process of consultation relating to each application. The Committee did not recommend any applicant for appointment, and I have accepted that recommendation.”

The Chief Justice said the Committee had identified a number of applicants who had the potential to be appointed at some time in the future, but thought those applicants should be given more time to clearly demonstrate that they meet the criteria for appointment which are eminence in the practice of law, especially in advocacy, unquestioned integrity, availability and independence.

Applications for appointment will again be invited in the latter part of 2007.

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