



SUPREME COURT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

David Malcolm Justice Centre
28 Barrack Street
Perth WA 6000

26 October 2022

MEDIA STATEMENT – SENIOR COUNSEL APPOINTMENTS 2022

The Chief Justice of Western Australia, the Hon Justice Peter Quinlan, today announced the appointment of seven Senior Counsel for 2022, after 23 applications were received.

The appointments are Mr Leigh Warnick, Ms Bettina Mangan, Mr Craig Bydder, Mr Timothy Hammond, Ms Fiona Seaward, Mr Eric Heenan and Ms Rachael Young.

Five of the appointees practise as barristers, and two are counsel within 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 Hon Justice Buss), the Senior Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court (the Hon Justice Kenneth Martin), the President of the State Administrative Tribunal (the Hon Justice Pritchard), a judge of the Federal Court (the Hon Justice Banks-Smith), the Chief Judge of the Family Court (the Hon Justice Sutherland) and the Chief Judge of the District Court (Chief Judge Wager).

The consultation process conducted by the Chief Justice incorporated the opinion of in excess of a hundred members of the legal profession and the judiciary. In that regard, in addition to the opinions of all of the superior court judges communicated by the Committee, the Chief Justice met with:

- a committee of six currently practising Senior Counsel in Western Australia, who communicated the opinions of practising Senior Counsel;
- the President of the Law Society, who communicated the opinions of a committee of seven members of the Law Society;
- the President of the WA Bar Association, who communicated the opinions of a committee of 11 members of the Association;
- representatives of Women Lawyers of Western Australia;

- the President of the Family Law Practitioners Association, who communicated the opinions of a committee of five members of the Association;
- a representative of both the Australian Lawyers Alliance and Australian Insurance Law Association, who communicated the opinions of the committees of those Associations;
- the President of the Criminal Lawyers' Association;
- the Chief Commissioner of the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission;
- the Solicitor General; and
- the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

The Senior Counsel appointed are as follows.

Mr Leigh Warnick SC

Mr Warnick was admitted to practice in Melbourne in 1975 and has practised as an independent barrister since 2013 from Francis Burt Chambers. Prior to joining the Bar, he practised, including as a partner and managing partner, at law firms throughout Australia, including Mallesons Stephen Jaques and Blake Dawson.

Mr Warnick is a nationally recognised leader in providing advice on corporations law, corporate governance and mining law. He also conducts litigation before State courts at all levels, with a focus on pro bono or low fee work. Mr Warnick is a co-author of *Commercial Contract Clauses – Principles and Interpretation* and has undertaken a number of governance roles in public companies and non-profit organisations.

Ms Bettina Mangan SC

Ms Mangan was admitted to practice in 1983 and has practised as an independent barrister since 2009 from Francis Burt Chambers. Prior to joining the Bar, she practised, including as a partner, in the law firm now known as Lavan.

Ms Mangan practises extensively in insurance law, negligence (including public liability and professional negligence), workplace discrimination and disciplinary matters. She is a qualified mediator and Board Member of Francis Burt Chambers.

Mr Craig Bydder SC

Mr Bydder was admitted to practice in 1999. He has worked with the State Solicitor's Office since that time and was appointed as Deputy State Solicitor in 2017.

Mr Bydder leads and supervises the Civil Litigation section of the State Solicitor's Office and has practised extensively as counsel in all courts and tribunals, including in the Court of Appeal and the High Court of Australia. From 2019 to 2021, Mr Bydder was responsible for advising the executive government on the management of the COVID-19 pandemic, before returning to counsel work.

Mr Timothy Hammond SC

Mr Hammond was admitted to practice in Western Australia in 2000. He has practised as an independent barrister since 2010 (save for a brief interregnum as the Member for Perth in the Federal Parliament from 2016 to 2018). He currently practises from Central Law Chambers. Prior to joining the Bar, he practised, including as a partner, at a private law firm throughout Australia specialising in asbestos litigation and major class actions.

Mr Hammond practises principally in personal injuries law, with a particular focus on historical child sexual abuse claims, asbestos litigation and motor vehicle accident liability. In the latter field he has, since 2013, conducted a wide practice for Aboriginal people living in remote communities, where new and innovative procedures have been developed. He is a Director and Treasurer of the Western Australian Bar Association Inc and a Board Member of the Fathering Project.

Ms Fiona Seaward SC

Ms Seaward was admitted to practice in 2001. She has worked with the State Solicitor's Office since that time and is currently Senior Assistant State Counsel and Acting Deputy State Solicitor – Public and General Litigation.

Ms Seaward practises as counsel in a broad range of matters, with a particular emphasis on public law and constitutional law, in which she has appeared in a number of significant matters in the High Court of Australia. She has served as a Commissioner of the Law Reform Commission of Western Australia and on Expert Ministerial Panels on matters of law reform.

Mr Eric Heenan SC

Mr Heenan was admitted to practice in 2007 and has practised as an independent barrister since 2012 from Francis Burt Chambers. He was previously Assistant State Solicitor at the State Solicitor's Office and a lecturer and unit co-ordinator at the University of Western Australia. Prior to entering law, Mr Heenan was awarded a Doctor of Philosophy in high-energy physics.

Mr Heenan practises broadly in commercial litigation, equity, corporations and insolvency, and administrative and public law. He has served in leadership roles with the Law Society of Western Australia, the Western Australian Bar Association Inc and Francis Burt Chambers.

Ms Rachael Young SC

Ms Young was admitted to practice in Western Australia in 2008 and has practised as an independent barrister since 2017 from Fourth Floor Chambers. She was previously Assistant State Solicitor at the State Solicitors Office and served as an assistant to prosecutors at the United Nations Assistance to the Khmer Rouge Trials in 2012.

Ms Young practises extensively in commercial litigation, together with administrative and constitutional law and civil matters generally. She also conducts an extensive pro bono practice. Ms Young teaches advocacy at the Australian Bar Association's Essential Trial Advocacy Course and is a mentor for young lawyers and law students as part of the Asian Australian Lawyers Association.

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