



24 November, 2009

MEDIA STATEMENT - APPOINTMENT OF SENIOR COUNSEL

The Chief Justice of Western Australia, the Hon Wayne Martin, today announced the appointment of four barristers as Senior Counsel after 22 applications were received. The appointments are Ms Patricia Cahill, Mr Matthew Howard, Mr Anthony Derrick and Mr Stephen Davies.

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 Martin, 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.

Ms Patricia Cahill

Ms Cahill was born in September 1964. She was awarded a Bachelor of Jurisprudence in 1985 and a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) in 1986 from the University of Western Australia. She completed her articles with Robinson Cox (now Clayton Utz) and was admitted to practice in Western Australia in 1987. In 1988, she was the first Associate to Justice Malcolm Lee of the Federal Court.

From 1990 – 1997, Ms Cahill lived in Adelaide, working initially for a commercial law firm, Finlaysons, before joining the Crown Solicitor's Office. After returning to Perth in 1997, she returned to private practice and commenced as in-house counsel at Jackson McDonald in 2000, becoming a partner in 2002.

Ms Cahill joined the Independent Bar in 2004.

Mr Matthew Howard

Mr Howard was born in June 1966 and was awarded a Bachelor of Jurisprudence (Honours) from the University of Western Australia in 1986 and a Bachelor of Laws from UWA in 1988. He was articled to the (then) Crown Solicitor's Office in 1989 & was admitted to practice in WA in December 1989. He remained as a solicitor in that office until May 1991.

Mr Howard worked with the (then) Australian Securities Commission until 1993, before joining Freehill Hollingdale & Page in Sydney. From June 1994 – December 1996, he was

Senior Associate in commercial litigation with Parker & Parker. He has practised as a barrister since January 1997.

He has been a visiting lecturer (and course controller) in Conflict of Laws at the UWA Law School from 1998 – 2005, and 2007 – 2009.

Mr Anthony Derrick

Mr Derrick was born in January 1967 and was awarded a Bachelor of Jurisprudence (Honours) in 1988 and a Bachelor of Laws in 1989 from the University of Western Australia. Mr Derrick completed a Master of Laws (Distinction) from UWA in 1997.

He was articled to Freehill Hollingdale & Page in 1990, and was admitted to practice in WA in 1991. He left the firm in 1993 to join the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions as a Crown Prosecutor, attaining the position of Assistant Crown Counsel in 2001.

He joined the Independent Bar in 2002. Since 2002, Mr Derrick has been an honorary visiting fellow at the Faculty of Law, UWA.

Mr Stephen Davies

Mr Davies was born in March 1967. He obtained a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Western Australia and a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) from the University of Sydney.

Mr Davies was admitted to practice in WA in December 1991 and worked at Blake Dawson Waldron from 1990 – 1998, before joining the Office of the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions. He has practised as a barrister since October 1999.

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