



6 December, 2010

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **SENIOR COUNSEL APPOINTMENTS**

The Chief Justice of Western Australia, the Hon Wayne Martin, today announced the appointment of three barristers as Senior Counsel after 20 applications were received. The appointments are Mr Kanaga Dharmananda, Mr Sam Vandongen, and Mr Peter Quinlan.

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.

#### **Mr Kanaga Dharmananda**

Mr Dharmananda was born in December 1965. He was awarded a Bachelor of Jurisprudence (Honours) in 1986 and a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) in 1987 from the University of Western Australia. He completed a Bachelor of Civil Law (First Class Honours) from Oxford University in 1990, winning the Rupert Cross Prize, and a Master of Laws from the Harvard Law School in 1992.

He was admitted to practice in Western Australia in 1989 and began his career at Mallesons Stephen Jaques in 1988. He joined Corrs Chambers Westgarth in 1993, becoming a partner in 1995. From 1997 to 2002, Mr Dharmananda worked in various roles, including counsel to the United Nations in Geneva, counsel to Mitsubishi Corporation in Tokyo, and working for law firms in Singapore and Malaysia. He rejoined Corrs as a partner in 2002 before joining the Independent Bar in 2006.

#### **Mr Sam Vandongen**

Mr Vandongen was born in March 1969. He was awarded a Bachelor of Laws in 1991 from the University of Western Australia. He was articled to Dwyer Thomas in 1991 and admitted to practice in WA in 1992. Mr Vandongen practised in civil litigation as well as general commercial and property law at Richard Huston & Associates from 1992 – 1994, before becoming research officer for The Commission on Government from 1994 – 1996.

He was a Crown Prosecutor for the Western Australian Director of Public Prosecutions from 1996 – 2004, and a Crown Prosecutor in NSW from 2004 - 2006. From 2006 – 2008, Mr Vandongen was Consultant State Prosecutor with the WA Director of Public Prosecutions, before joining the Independent Bar in 2008.

### **Mr Peter Quinlan**

Mr Quinlan was born in June 1970. He was awarded a Bachelor of Commerce in 1992 and a Bachelor of Laws (First Class Honours) in 1995 from the University of Western Australia, winning the HCF Keall Prize. He was admitted to practice in WA in 1996.

Mr Quinlan joined the Crown Solicitor's Office in 1993 as Professional Assistant to the Solicitor General, before working as Associate to the Hon Justice Parker AO at the Supreme Court of Western Australia in 1995. He returned to the Crown Solicitor's Office in 1996, working in the areas of constitutional and administrative law, and was later appointed as Assistant Crown Counsel. He has practised as a barrister since 2001.

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