



Hon Greg Smith SC MP

Attorney General
Minister for Justice

MEDIA RELEASE

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JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS FOR NSW

The NSW Attorney General, Greg Smith SC, today announced the appointments of a Judge of Appeal, two Supreme Court Judges and a Commissioner of the Land and Environment Court.

Justice Reginald Barrett has been elevated to the Court of Appeal, barristers Geoffrey Bellew SC and James Stevenson SC will join the bench of the Supreme Court, while architect Susan O'Neill will serve as a full time Commissioner of the Land and Environment Court.

Justice Barrett has sat on the bench of the Supreme Court for 10 years. Prior to taking public office, he worked as a solicitor for 34 years and attained the position of partner at Allen Allen & Hemsley and Mallesons Stephen Jaques.

"In private practice, Justice Barrett was one of Australia's finest corporate and securities lawyers and his professional reputation has only been enhanced since he became a Judge of the Supreme Court," Mr Smith said.

Justice Barrett will begin serving as a Judge of Appeal on 25 January 2012.

Geoffrey Bellew SC was admitted to the Bar in 1991 and was appointed Senior Counsel in 2006. His practice has been divided between the criminal and civil jurisdictions.

"Mr Bellew has appeared on behalf of the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions in matters involving drug importation, revenue fraud, people smuggling and in a number of landmark terrorism cases," Mr Smith said.

Mr Bellew is also a former Director of the National Rugby League Limited and has appeared on behalf of footballers, jockeys and Olympic athletes before disciplinary hearings as well as before the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

Mr Bellew will be sworn in as a Supreme Court Judge on 31 January 2012.

James Stevenson SC was called to the Bar in 1989 after working as a solicitor for 15 years. He was appointed Senior Counsel in 2003.

"Mr Stevenson has practised widely in the Equity Division of the Supreme Court and in the Federal Court," Mr Smith said.

“He has also appeared at the Inquiry into the Glenbrook Train Disaster, at the Royal Commission into the collapse of HIH, at an Independent Commission Against Corruption inquiry into Sydney Water and in subsequent litigation for Sydney Water.”

Mr Stevenson will be sworn in as a Supreme Court Judge on 1 February 2012.

Susan O’Neill has 21 years’ experience in architecture, working primarily as a heritage consultant. In recent years, she has been an associate at Godden Mackay Logan Heritage Consultants and has worked as Strategic Heritage Officer for Woollahra Municipal Council.

“The Land and Environment Court will benefit from Ms O’Neill’s significant expertise in the designing, planning and construction of buildings and her comprehensive understanding of heritage issues,” Mr Smith said.

Ms O’Neill will begin a seven-year term as a full-time Commissioner of the Land and Environment Court on 30 January 2012.