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NEW ONLINE SEARCH TOOL REVAMPS COURT LISTS IN NSW COURTS

People attending the Supreme, District and Local Courts can now use a new online tool to search for listings of court matters.

The new online court list uses a search tool that enables lawyers, parties to a case and members of the public to type in search criteria and find court listing details, including the courtroom where the case will be heard, the time it is listed and the name of the judge or magistrate.

The search tool allows people to check their listing details online at a time that suits them, 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week. The tool will reduce the need for people to contact court registries to check the details of their court appearance.

The new online court list contains listings two weeks in advance, which allows people involved in court cases to keep track of when they need to go to court and enables lawyers to better plan their work.

Paul Wiggins, a Parramatta-based criminal lawyer with 27 years of court experience, said the new online court list enabled him to represent his clients more effectively.

“Most importantly, I have advance notice of what’s going on so I can be properly prepared. When you start acting for a client after a matter has commenced, that’s when it’s very useful,” said Mr Wiggins.

“Lots of clients get their dates mixed up, because they’re usually terrified of the court process. The new court list solves a lot of those problems.”

The new online court list is updated several times a day.

Given the dynamic nature of court proceedings, people are encouraged to check the list the night before, or on the morning of, the court appearance. Last-minute list changes can occur as a result of a case being settled, or as a consequence of trials lasting for periods shorter or longer than expected.

The online court list for the Supreme, District and Local Courts enables searches by name, case number, location, date, court, jurisdiction, the title of the presiding officer and the type of listing. It is accessible via the Online Registry website, a newly created online services site which serves Supreme, District and Local Court users. Users can also access the new online court list from the websites of the Supreme, District and Local Courts.

**To search online court lists, visit: www.onlineregistry.lawlink.nsw.gov.au
Media contact: Angus Huntsdale (02) 8061 9360**