



**SENATOR THE HON GEORGE BRANDIS QC
ATTORNEY-GENERAL
LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SENATE**

MEDIA RELEASE

APPOINTMENTS TO THE FEDERAL COURTS

Today I announce a number of appointments to the federal courts, bringing a wealth of experience across a range of practice areas to the Federal Court of Australia, the Family Court of Australia and Federal Circuit Court of Australia.

On behalf of the Government, I congratulate all new federal court judges on their appointments and thank them for their willingness to serve the people of Australia. I wish each of them well in their judicial service.

Appointment of Deputy Chief Justice of the Family Court of Australia

The Chief Judge of the Federal Circuit Court of Australia, the Hon William Alstergren, has also been appointed Deputy Chief Justice of the Family Court. He will continue to hold a dual commission as Chief Judge of the Federal Circuit Court. Chief Judge Alstergren completed a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Melbourne in 1989. He practised as a barrister in Melbourne from 1991, and took silk in 2012. During this time he was also elected President of the Australian Bar Association and Chairman of the Victorian Bar.

Appointments to the Federal Court of Australia

Perth Registry

The Hon Justice Katrina Banks-Smith and Mr Craig Colvin SC will commence in the Perth Registry on 12 and 13 February 2018, respectively.

The Hon Justice Katrina Banks-Smith is currently a Judge of the Supreme Court of Western Australia. She completed a Bachelor of Laws at the University of Tasmania in 1988 and a Master of Laws from Cambridge in 1993. Her Honour signed the Bar Roll in 2009 and was appointed as Senior Counsel in 2013.

Mr Colvin completed a Bachelor of Jurisprudence in 1982 and a Bachelor of Laws in 1983 at the University of Western Australia. He signed the Bar Roll in 1995 and was appointed as Senior Counsel in 2001. He is widely regarded as one of the leaders of the Perth Bar. Mr Colvin's principal areas of practice include administrative law, competition law, mining and petroleum, corporations law, equity and property.

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Sydney Registry

Mr Thomas Thawley SC will commence in the Sydney Registry on 14 February 2018. Mr Thawley completed a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Arts at the Australian National University in 1995 and a Master of Laws at the University of Sydney in 2015. He signed the Bar Roll in 1998 and was appointed as Senior Counsel in 2012. He is a leading commercial silk, specialising in revenue law. Mr Thawley's principal areas of practice include banking and financial services, bankruptcy and insolvency, commercial law, taxation and revenue, equity, trusts, administrative law and corporations law.

Appointments to the Family Court of Australia

Brisbane Registry

Judge Michael Baumann, who is currently a Judge of the Federal Circuit Court, has been promoted to the position of Judge at the Family Court, based in Brisbane. Judge Baumann was admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of Queensland in 1979 after completing Articles at the Solicitors Board Queensland. He completed a Master of Laws from the Queensland University of Technology in 2000.

Appointments to the Federal Circuit Court of Australia

Perth Registry

Dr Christopher Kendall will commence in the Perth Registry on 29 January 2018. Dr Kendall completed a Bachelor of Arts (Political Studies) (Honours) in 1988 and a Bachelor of Laws in 1991 from Queen's University, Ontario, Canada. He signed the Bar Roll in Australia in 2001 and completed his Doctorate of Law at the University of Michigan that same year. Dr Kendall was appointed the Deputy President of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal in 2015. Dr Kendall's principal areas of practice include administrative law, intellectual property law, trade practices law, immigration law, and constitutional law.

Melbourne Registry

Ms Caroline Kirton QC will commence in the Melbourne Registry on 29 January 2018. Ms Kirton completed a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) and Bachelor of Laws in 1986 from the University of Melbourne, and a Master of Law from Monash University in 1994. She commenced as a barrister in 1990 and was appointed Senior Counsel in 2011. Ms Kirton's principal areas of practice include family law, construction law, arbitration, criminal law, property law, banking and finance law, equity and trusts, trade practices law and commercial litigation.

Sydney Registry

Ms Julia Baird SC will commence in the Sydney Registry on 20 February 2018. Ms Baird completed a Bachelor of Arts in 1981 and Bachelor of Laws (Honours) in 1983 from the University of Sydney. Ms Baird commenced as a barrister in 1992 and was appointed Senior Counsel in 2008. Ms Baird's principal areas of practice include commercial law, competition and consumer law, trade practices law, contract law, equity and intellectual property law.

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Brisbane Registry

Mr Gregory Egan will commence in the Brisbane Registry on 18 December 2017. Mr Egan completed a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Queensland in 1980 and signed the Bar Roll in 1984. He has had an extensive practice at the Bar in both Queensland and New Guinea, where he has appeared as Counsel in many significant constitutional cases. He has also appeared in court martial proceedings in his capacity as a Commissioned Officer in the Royal Australian Air Force. Mr Egan's principal areas of practice include commercial law, maritime law, mining and mineral exploration and company law.

Appointment of Chief Executive and Principal Registrar of the High Court of Australia

I also announce the appointment of Ms Philippa Lynch PSM as the Chief Executive and Principal Registrar of the High Court of Australia. Ms Lynch is currently the First Assistant Secretary of Government Division in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. Her term is for five years and commences on 10 February 2018.

14 December 2017

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