



23 November, 2007

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **APPOINTMENT OF SENIOR COUNSEL**

The Chief Justice of Western Australia, the Hon Wayne Martin, today announced the appointment of four barristers and a senior Government officer as Senior Counsel. Some 22 applications were received.

The appointments are: Mr Theo Lampropoulos, Mr Peter van Hattem, Mr Jeremy Allanson, Ms Gail Archer and Mr Robert Mitchell.

A Committee was established last year to advise 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.

Appointment as Senior Counsel is based on eminence in the practice of law, especially in advocacy, unquestioned integrity, availability and independence.

#### **Mr Theo Lampropoulos**

Mr Lampropoulos was born in Greece in January 1956. He obtained the degrees of Bachelor of Jurisprudence (B. Juris) in 1976 and Bachelor of Laws (LLB) with Honours in 1978 at the University of Western Australia, taking the HCF Keall Prize for best final year law student in 1978. He was admitted to practice in Western Australia on 21 December 1979, having completed his articles with the State Crown Solicitor.

He was a legal officer and then Assistant Crown Counsel with the State Crown Solicitor from 1979 - 1987, and was in-house Counsel at Downing & Downing from 1987 – 1988. He joined the Independent Bar in 1988, where his main current areas of practice include insurance law, medical negligence, products liability, occupier's and employer's liability, motor vehicle claims, disability insurance, disciplinary tribunals, commercial disputes and wills/inheritance issues.

#### **Mr Peter van Hattem**

Mr van Hattem was born in Western Australia in August 1957. He obtained a B. Juris (Hons) in 1979 and LLB (Hons) in 1980 at the University of Western Australia, and was awarded the Frank Edward Parsons Memorial Prize for Law in 1979. He then obtained his Master of Laws (LLM) in 1992 from UWA. He was admitted to practice in Western Australia in 1980, in the High Court in 1984, New South Wales in 1985, the Northern Territory in 1990 and Queensland in 1993.

Mr van Hattem completed articles with Muir Williams Nicholson & Co and was a solicitor with the firm from 1981 - 1982, before working as an associate to the Hon Justice Sir Ronald Wilson in the High Court of Australia from 1982 - 1984.

He joined Freehill Hollingdale & Page in 1984, becoming a partner in 1985 where he remained till he joined the Independent Bar in 2003. His principle areas of law have included general commercial dispute resolution, public law, resources law and native title and Aboriginal heritage matters.

### **Mr Jeremy Allanson**

Mr Allanson was born in Western Australia in May 1953. He obtained a B. Juris (Hons) in 1975 and LLB (Hons) in 1980 at the University of Western Australia. He also obtained his Master of Laws from UWA. He was admitted to practice in the High Court and Western Australia in 1981. He was a senior tutor in Law at UWA in 1978 – 1979, before working as an associate to the Hon Justice Sir Ronald Wilson in the High Court of Australia.

From 1981 – 1994, Mr Allanson was a legal officer with the Crown Law Department, attaining the role as Senior Assistant Crown Solicitor. He joined the Independent Bar in 1994, practising in a range of areas, but specialising in administrative law and taxation.

### **Ms Gail Archer**

Ms Archer obtained a B. Juris (1987) and LLB (1988) at the University of Western Australia, being awarded the Jurisprudence Prize in 1988. She then obtained an LLM from UWA in 1997. She was admitted to practice in 1990.

She completed articles with the Crown Solicitor's Office and joined the state Director of Public Prosecutions office in 1993, remaining there until 2002. From January 2002 till mid 2004, Ms Archer was Principal Counsel of Legal Aid WA, before joining the Bar in 2004. The majority of her work involves commercial and civil litigation, vocational regulation and industrial relations.

She has sat as a Commissioner of the District Court in 2005 and 2006, and in 2007 was appointed to the Medical Board of Western Australia.

### **Mr Robert Mitchell**

Mr Mitchell was born in March 1967, and obtained a B. Juris (1<sup>st</sup> class Hons) in 1989 and LLB in 1991 at the University of Western Australia. He completed a LLM with distinction at UWA in 1997. He was admitted to practice in Western Australia in 1991 and the High Court of Australia in 1992.

He completed articles with the Crown Solicitor, was appointed Assistant Crown Counsel in 1997, and Senior Assistant Crown Counsel in 2000. Mr Mitchell is currently a Senior Assistant State Counsel, providing advice in matters of constitutional, administrative, environmental, planning and resources law. He regularly appears as counsel for the State, its officers and agencies.

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