



25 November 2014

MEDIA STATEMENT – SENIOR COUNSEL APPOINTMENTS 2014

The Chief Justice of Western Australia, the Hon Wayne Martin AC, today announced the appointment of two Senior Counsel for 2014, after 12 applications were received. The appointments are Mr Martin Cuerden and Mr Michael Berry.

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 Martin Cuerden

Mr Cuerden was awarded a Bachelor of Laws (1st Class Honours) from Murdoch University in 1995 and was admitted to practice in Western Australia on 4 November 1996.

He undertook articles at Fiocco Hopkins Nash, where he worked until moving to Hammond Worthington until late 2001. He commenced practicing as a barrister at Francis Burt Chambers in 2001. Mr Cuerden's main areas of practice are general civil and commercial matters, insurance and personal injuries, professional disciplinary matters, and wills and estates.

Mr Michael Berry

Mr Berry was awarded a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) (Philosophy) in 1992 and a Bachelor of Laws (Graduate programme) in 1995 from the University of Western Australia. He was admitted to practice in Western Australia on 20 December 1996.

Mr Berry has specialised in the field of family law, first practicing at Ilbery Barblett from 1996 – 1998, before joining Kim Wilson & Co from 1998 – 2005. Since November 2005, he has been a Barrister-at-Law in John Toohey Chambers providing advice and advocacy in family law matters.

Mr Berry taught family law in the UWA Faculty of Law from 1996 – 2002. He is currently a council member for the Family Law Practitioners Association of Western Australia, and was Secretary of the WA Bar Association Council in 2007 – 2008.

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