



# SUPREME COURT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

David Malcolm Justice Centre  
28 Barrack Street  
Perth WA 6000  
Ph: (08) 9421 5333

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5 November 2024

## **MEDIA STATEMENT – SENIOR COUNSEL APPOINTMENTS 2024**

The Chief Justice of Western Australia, the Hon Justice Peter Quinlan, today announced the appointment of nine Senior Counsel for 2024, after 27 applications were received.

The appointments are Mr Konrad de Kerloy, Mr David Bayly, Mr William Keane, Mr Tim Russell, Ms Jean Shaw, Mr Justin Edwards, Mr Benjamin Stanwix, Mr Anthony Papamatheos and Mr Clinton Russell.

Seven of the appointees practise as barristers, one is a Senior Consultant State Prosecutor, and one is acting State Counsel within the State Solicitor's Office.

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 comprised the President of the Court of Appeal (the Hon Justice Buss), a representative of the General Division of the Supreme Court (the Hon Justice Hill), the President of the State Administrative Tribunal (the Hon Justice Glancy), a judge of the Federal Court (the Hon Justice Banks-Smith), a representative of the Chief Judge of the Family Court (the Hon Justice O'Brien) and the Chief Judge of the District Court (Chief Judge Wager).

The consultation process conducted by the Chief Justice incorporated the opinion of members of the legal profession and the judiciary. In that regard, in addition to the opinions of all of the superior court judges communicated by the Committee, the Chief Justice met with:

- a committee of five of currently practising Senior Counsel in Western Australia, who communicated the opinions of the practising Senior Counsel;
- the President of the Law Society, who communicated the opinions of a committee of five members of the Law Society;
- the President of the WA Bar Association, who communicated the opinions of a committee of 10 members of the Association;
- the President of Women Lawyers of Western Australia;

- the President of the Family Law Practitioners Association, who communicated the opinions of a committee of six members of the Association;
- a representative of both the Australian Lawyers Alliance and the Australian Insurance Law Association, who communicated the opinions of the committees of those Associations;
- the President of the Criminal Lawyers' Association;
- the Solicitor General; and
- the Director of Public Prosecutions.

The Senior Counsel appointed are as follows.

### **Mr Konrad de Kerloy SC**

Mr de Kerloy was admitted to practice in 1983 and has practised as an independent barrister since 2021 from Fourth Floor Chambers. Prior to joining the Bar, he was a partner for over 20 years at the firm now known as Herbert Smith Freehills.

Mr de Kerloy practises predominantly in commercial law, including contractual disputes, company law, corporate insolvency, professional negligence, employment and industrial relations, planning and development and administrative law. He is a former President of the Law Society of Western Australia and has served in a variety of volunteer and *pro bono* roles.

### **Mr David Bayly SC**

Mr Bayly was admitted to practice in 1994 and has practised as an independent barrister since 2019 from Central Law Chambers. Prior to joining the Bar, he practised, including as a partner and legal practitioner director, at Bradley Bayly Legal.

Mr Bayly practises predominantly in personal injuries law, specialising in cases involving catastrophically injured persons. In addition to acting for plaintiffs and defendants in Australia, he has regularly acted in complex litigation for Australians injured overseas, including in Germany and the United States of America. Mr Bayly is currently chair of the Legal Costs Committee and regularly acts on a *pro bono* basis for both lay and professional clients.

### **Mr William Keane SC**

Mr Keane was admitted to practice in 1996 and has practised as an independent barrister since 2011 from Francis Burt Chambers. Prior to joining the Bar, he practised, including as a partner, at Corrs Chambers Westgarth.

Mr Keane practises predominantly in commercial law, including in competition law, consumer law, intellectual property, commercial contracts, and industrial and employment law. He has published in and is a section editor for the Australian Journal of Competition and Consumer Law and is significantly involved in legal education and training. His volunteer work includes serving on the Council of the Royal Agricultural Society of Western Australia.

### **Mr Tim Russell SC**

Mr Tim Russell was admitted to practice in 2001 and has practised as an independent barrister from Quayside Chambers since 2018. Prior to joining the Bar, he was a Senior Assistant State Counsel at the State Solicitor's Office.

Mr Russell practises in public law, civil litigation, commercial matters, regulatory crime including occupational health and safety, and in mining and resources. He is involved in legal education as a lecturer at the University of Western Australia, and his *pro bono* work includes regular work with the Subiaco Justice Centre.

### **Ms Jean Shaw SC**

Ms Shaw was admitted to practice in 2005 and is currently acting in the role of State Counsel, having held a variety of positions within the State Solicitor's Office for over 20 years.

Ms Shaw practises extensively in all areas of public law, appearing in all courts, including the High Court of Australia, and advising government on high level and complex issues across a wide range of matters. Ms Shaw is a Commissioner on the Law Reform Commission of Western Australia and is significantly involved in the training, development and mentoring of junior practitioners.

### **Mr Justin Edwards SC**

Mr Edwards was admitted to practice in 2005 and has practised as an independent barrister from Francis Burt Chambers since 2012. Prior to joining the Bar, he had practised both in Western Australia and Queensland in law firms and at the Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation.

Mr Edwards specialises in native title law, appearing for, and advising clients in all aspects of native title law. He also practises more broadly in public law, including a significant *pro bono* practice in migration law. Mr Edwards also sits as a board member in a number of community organisations.

### **Mr Benjamin Stanwix SC**

Mr Stanwix was admitted to practice in 2007 and is a Senior Consultant State Prosecutor at the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions for Western Australia.

Mr Stanwix's practice has extended to all types of crime, and he appears both as trial counsel and on appeal. He has a significant involvement in legal education, not only within the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, but with external agencies and organisations, including Legal Aid WA and the Western Australian Police Force.

### **Mr Anthony Papamatheos SC**

Mr Papamatheos was admitted to practice in 2007 and has practised as an independent barrister since 2011. He was a founding member of Quayside Chambers and prior to joining the Bar practised at Maxim Litigation Consultants.

Mr Papamatheos conducts a commercial and public law practice, in the areas of mining and energy law, corporations law and general commercial litigation. He is a member of Bar Council, the Course Coordinator of the WA Bar Association's Bar Readers Course and conducts a substantial *pro bono* practice.

**Mr Clinton Russell SC**

Mr Clinton Russell was admitted to practice in 2008 and has practised as an independent barrister from Francis Burt Chambers since 2014. Prior to joining the Bar, he was a Senior Associate at King & Wood Mallesons.

Mr Russell practises predominantly in commercial litigation, with a focus on insurance, building and construction, real property and defamation. He is a member of the WA Bar Association's Pro Bono Coordination Group and a board member and Vice-Chair of Francis Burt Chambers.

**Media Contact:** Emma Sheridan - Manager, Media and Public Liaison  
Tel: (08) 9421 5303