SUPREME COURT
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Stirling Gardens
Barrack Street
Perth WA 6000

3 December 2013

MEDIA STATEMENT –

SENIOR COUNSEL APPOINTMENTS 2013

The Chief Justice of Western Australia, the Hon Wayne Martin AC, today announced the appointment of five Senior Counsel for 2013, after 15 applications were received. The appointments are Ms Karen Farley, Ms Katrina Banks-Smith, Mr Marcus Solomon, Mr John Vaughan, and Ms Linda Petrusa.

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.

Ms Karen Farley

Ms Farley was awarded a Bachelor of Jurisprudence and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Western Australia. She was admitted to practice in Western Australia on 23 December 1982.

Ms Farley joined Phillips Fox where she held positions as an Articled Clerk, Solicitor and Senior Associate. She has held numerous positions at the Legal Aid Commission of Western Australia since first joining in 1987, including Solicitor in Charge of the Criminal Law Section and Senior Practitioner in the Youth Law Unit. Her current role with Legal Aid WA is Senior Appeals Consultant.

Ms Farley was also the Supervising Solicitor for the Unrepresented Criminal Appellants Programme at the University of WA Law School (1999 – 2002), and later at the University of Notre Dame (2004 – 2006). She is currently a member of the Racing Penalties Appeals Tribunal, and a local government councillor.

Ms Katrina Banks-Smith

Ms Banks-Smith graduated from the University of Tasmania with a Bachelor of Laws (1st Class Honours) in 1988, winning the Butterworths Prize for Jurisprudence and the Shri Dutt Sharma Memorial Prize for Administrative Law. She was awarded a Commonwealth Scholarship to attend Cambridge University from 1992 - 1993, graduating with a Master of Laws (1st Class).

Ms Banks-Smith joined Parker & Parker in Perth in 1990, and was admitted to practice in WA in 1991. She became a Partner in 1996, and a Partner of Freehills upon its merger in

1997, heading the Perth litigation group until 2009. She joined Francis Burt Chambers in July 2009 where her practice consists largely of complex civil litigation.

Ms Banks-Smith has tutored in civil practice and lectured in insolvency law at the University of Western Australia. She was named as the Senior Woman Lawyer of the Year by the Women Lawyers of WA in 2009.

Mr Marcus Solomon

Mr Solomon was awarded a Bachelor of Laws (1st Class Honours) from UWA in 1990 and was admitted to practice in Western Australia in 1991.

He completed articles at Dwyer Durack in 1991, becoming Partner in 1995. From 2000 – 2006, Mr Solomon was Managing Partner and Senior Property Litigation Partner at Gadens Lawyers. He joined Francis Burt Chambers in 2006, where he practises in the fields of commercial disputes, including disputes relating to contracts, construction matters, Corporations Act matters and trade practices.

Mr Solomon was ordained as a Rabbi in 1985 after studies at the Rabbinical College, New York. He was a teacher and Rabbi at Carmel School till 1990, and from 1996 – 2011, was the school's Senior Vice-President. Since 2011, he has been its Governor. In 1993, Mr Solomon established the Beit Midrash of WA, a Jewish educational institution and synagogue, and serves as Honorary Senior Rabbi. In 2006, he established WA's first tertiary institution of Jewish studies and Talmudic law, the Perth Yeshivah.

Mr John Vaughan

Mr Vaughan was awarded a Bachelor of Laws (1st Class Honours) and a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Western Australia in 1992. He was admitted to practice in Western Australia on 23 December 1992.

He was an Articled Clerk at Sly & Weigall in 1992, becoming Senior Associate in July 1994. From December 1995 till April 1997, Mr Vaughan was Senior Associate at Phillips Fox, before joining Deacons in late 1997, where he became a Partner in July 1998. From 2003- 2007, he was a Partner at Christensen Vaughan, and joined Francis Burt Chambers in April 2007. He practises in the areas of insolvency, both corporate insolvency and bankruptcy, commercial law, corporations, equity, taxation and trade practices.

Ms Linda Petrusa

Ms Petrusa completed a Bachelor of Laws at the University of Queensland in 1988, and was admitted to practice in Western Australia in February 2001. She was an Articled Clerk then Solicitor at Clayton Utz, in Brisbane, from 1990 – 1993 before joining the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions in Queensland where she became Crown Prosecutor in 1998.

Ms Petrusa joined the WA DPP in 2001, becoming Senior State Prosecutor in 2006. Since October 2009, she has been Consultant State Prosecutor, prosecuting the most complex criminal trials in WA involving murders, serious sexual and violent crimes, complex technical and expert evidence, and lengthy investigations.

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