



**Hon. Robert McClelland MP**  
**Attorney-General**

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Monday, 20 June 2011

### **APPOINTMENT TO THE FAMILY COURT OF AUSTRALIA**

Attorney-General Robert McClelland today announced the appointment of Michael Kent SC as a Judge of the Family Court of Australia.

Mr McClelland said Mr Kent has extensive experience in family law practice.

“Mr Kent has experience as a mediator in a wide variety of disputes including commercial/corporate, partnerships, wills and estates, insurance and personal injuries, as well as family law and de facto property disputes,” Mr McClelland said.

“Mr Kent was selected from a number of applications following public notices for expressions of interest for the position.

“He will take up his appointment next month in the Brisbane registry of the Family Court.

“I congratulate Mr Kent on his appointment and look forward to the contribution he will make to the law in his new capacity.”

A short professional biography of Mr Kent is below.

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#### **Biography - Michael Kent SC**

Mr Kent holds a Bachelor of Laws from the Queensland University of Technology and was admitted as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of Queensland in 1983.

From 1977 to 1988 Mr Kent worked at Lyons Solicitors (formerly MG Lyons & Co.) initially as an articled clerk and then as a solicitor, associate and partner. During this time he worked in the area of litigation and then in the corporate and commercial areas. In 1989, Mr Kent spent 12 months assisting a client with its operations restructure in Australia and overseas before returning to the partnership of Lyons Solicitors.

In 1991, Mr Kent was admitted as a Barrister of the Supreme Court of Queensland. His practice has included company law, insurance, medical negligence, common law and a substantial component of family law. From 1992 to 1996, Mr Kent also lectured on company law for directors on a part time basis at the Australian Institute of Company Directors. He was appointed Senior Counsel in 2007.

Mr Kent is Chair of the Australian Institute of Family Law Arbitrators and Mediators. He is also a member of the Executive of the Family Law Section of the Law Council of Australia, and a member of the Alternate Dispute Resolution Committee of the Law Council of Australia.