



MEDIA RELEASE

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The New South Wales Bar Association

Bar Association pays tribute to Chief Justice Spigelman

Tom Bathurst QC, President of the New South Wales Bar Association, this morning paid tribute to Chief Justice James Spigelman AC, who has announced he will retire on 31 May.

Mr Bathurst said that Chief Justice Spigelman's outstanding management of the state's highest court since 1998 has cemented its position as the leading State court in the country.

'Since his appointment the Chief Justice has introduced significant changes which have delivered simpler, faster resolution of disputes. According to most measures, our Supreme Court is the most efficient in Australia', Mr Bathurst said.

'Quite apart from his management skills, His Honour's judicial and extra-judicial contributions have made a significant contribution to the rule of law and legal scholarship in the country.'

Under his leadership, the Supreme Court has engaged with other courts around the world, from Singapore to China and New York, seeking out ways to co-operate in matters such as cross-border litigation and judicial education.

'Most recently, Chief Justice Spigelman has worked tirelessly to make Sydney a regional centre for commercial arbitration.

The Chief Justice has retained strong links with the NSW Bar and has played an active role in the development of practitioners coming to the Bar.

The NSW Bar congratulates the Chief Justice for his outstanding contribution to our system of justice. New South Wales has one of the oldest superior courts in the world and has been guided by some great jurists. Chief Justice Spigelman undoubtedly is one of them.'

For further information, contact Alastair McConnachie at the Bar Association on ph: (02) 9229 1756 or mobile: 0420314462.