



MEDIA RELEASE

**Hon. John Hatzistergos MLC
Attorney General
Minister for Justice**

Monday August 4, 2008

FIRST FEMALE SOLICITOR APPOINTED DIRECTLY TO THE SUPREME COURT

NSW Attorney General John Hatzistergos today announced he would recommend to Her Excellency the Governor the appointment of distinguished solicitor Julie Ward to the bench of the Supreme Court of NSW.

Julie Ward is the State's first female solicitor to be appointed directly to the NSW Supreme Court.

"Ms Ward has experience in a range of commercial litigation and arbitration and has acted in matters in most Australian states as well as Hong Kong," Mr Hatzistergos said.

"She is an accomplished mediator and has worked extensively in alternative dispute resolution."

Ms Ward won the prestigious University Medal in Law at Sydney University in 1982 and was admitted as a solicitor in the same year. One of her first professional roles was as the associate to the late Sir Nigel Bowen, the then Chief Judge of the Federal Court.

Ms Ward received first class honours at the University of Oxford in 1986 and two years later became the youngest partner ever appointed at law firm, Mallesons Stephen Jaques. For the past five years, she has been Director of the PricewaterhouseCoopers Charitable Foundation.

Ms Ward will be sworn in as a Supreme Court Judge on 29 September 2008.

"I wish Ms Ward well and if her achievements in private practice are any guide, I am sure she will be a worthy addition to the Supreme Court," Mr Hatzistergos said.

Media Inquiries: Simon Crittle 0400 477 924