



MEDIA RELEASE

**Hon. John Hatzistergos MLC
Attorney General
Minister for Industrial Relations**

Thursday, April 16, 2009

JUDGE APPOINTED PRESIDENT OF CHILDREN'S COURT

The NSW Government has decided to recommend to her Excellency the Governor the appointment of District Court Judge Mark Marien SC to be the first President of the Children's Court of NSW, Attorney General John Hatzistergos announced today.

The proposed appointment is part of the Government's response to the recent Special Commission of Inquiry into Child Protection Services.

"The appointment of an experienced and respected District Court judge to the role highlights the importance of the Children's Court of NSW," Mr Hatzistergos said.

Previously, the Children's Court was headed by the Senior Children's Magistrate.

Judge Marien has been a District Court judge since 2004. In a legal career spanning 30 years, he has also served as a Deputy Senior Crown Prosecutor in NSW and as the Director of the Criminal Law Review Division of the Attorney General's Department of NSW.

In addition, Judge Marien has worked as a barrister in private practice and as a solicitor with the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions and with the Commonwealth Deputy Crown Solicitor's Office. He was appointed as a Senior Counsel in 2003.

Mr Hatzistergos said Judge Marien would take on the role of President of the Children's Court of NSW at a time when the court is undergoing reform arising out of the Special Commission of Inquiry.

It is proposed that Judge Marien will begin his new appointment on June 1, 2009.

Media Contact: Simon Crittle 0400 477 924