



MEDIA RELEASE

Hon. John Hatzistergos MLC
Attorney General
Minister for Industrial Relations

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DEPUTY CHIEF MAGISTRATE GOES TO DISTRICT COURT

Deputy Chief Magistrate Helen Syme has been appointed to the bench of the District Court of NSW, Attorney General John Hatzistergos announced today.

“Magistrate Syme is among the most experienced judicial officers in NSW Local Courts and has acted as Chief Magistrate and Senior Children’s Magistrate in recent years,” said Mr Hatzistergos.

“She is familiar with the demands of the District Court, having served as an Acting Judge on the court last year.”

Magistrate Syme began her legal career in Perth in 1979. In 1987, at the age of 32, she became one of the youngest people to be appointed to the bench of the West Australian Children’s Court.

She was sworn in as a Local Court Magistrate in NSW in 1996 and was elevated to the position of Deputy Chief Magistrate in 2001.

“As Deputy Chief Magistrate, Ms Syme has presided over some of the most serious and complex matters to come before Local Court in recent years.”

“Her extensive experience will place her in good stead to deal with the challenges of District Court cases.”

Magistrate Syme has been involved in a number of diversionary justice projects and community-based programs including Circle Sentencing for Aboriginal offenders, the Domestic Violence Intervention Court Model (DVICM) and the Magistrates Early Referral Into Treatment (MERIT) program for defendants with drug problems.

Deputy Chief Magistrate Syme will be sworn in as a District Court judge on 14 April.