

Media release



THE
VICTORIAN
BAR

Wednesday 28 October 2009

Victorian Bar election results – new chairman and office bearers

Michael Colbran QC has been elected the new chairman of the Victorian Bar Council following elections which saw seven new council members elected to the 21 member Council.

Mr Colbran replaces the retiring chairman, Mr John Digby QC, with Mark Moshinsky SC taking up the position of Senior Vice Chair and Cameron Macaulay SC taking up the position of Junior Vice Chair.

The Council election was held on Wednesday 14 October, and the office bearer positions were finalised by a vote on Thursday 22 October.

Mr Colbran has 27 years experience in the profession – he was admitted to practice in 1981, joined the Bar in 1982 and was appointed Queens Counsel in 1997. His practice includes general commercial, property, trusts and tort litigation.

He acted in one of the first cases in Victoria which recognised a civil right of privacy. Issues related to privacy protection continue to preoccupy the community and legal policy makers.

Mr Colbran has a history of working with the national bodies – the Law Council of Australia, of which he is a director, and the Australian Bar Association – especially on issues related to the development of the national profession and conduct rules and national issues affecting the judicial system

‘Much work has gone into the ‘nationalisation’ of the profession with the idea of a seamless legal profession able to operate across state borders according to consistent rules and regulations. The opportunities for practitioners who see their practice developing beyond their home state or territory have never been greater,’ he said.

However, Mr Colbran says the Bar must also play a greater role closer to home: ‘We owe it to the members of the community to better communicate about the way barristers now serve them and engage constructively in the discussion about further ways in which we can and should serve them.

‘We need to better promote our pro bono activities and access to justice options which assist ordinary people and continue our strong advocacy for greater legal aid funding at both the State and Federal levels.’

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RESULTS OF BAR COUNCIL ELECTION FOR 2009/2010

At the Declaration of the Poll following the Bar Council election on 14 October 2009 the following candidates, in order of seniority, were declared elected:-

CATEGORY A: Eleven counsel who are Queen’s Counsel, Senior Counsel, or junior counsel who are of not less than 15 years’ standing -

Jacob (Jack) Isaac Fajgenbaum QC	
Michael John Colbran QC	Chairman
Brendan Anthony Murphy QC	
Timothy Patrick Tobin SC	
*Melanie Sloss SC	
Cameron Clyde Macaulay SC	Jnr Vice Chairman
*Fiona McLeod SC	
Richard Wallace McGarvie SC	
*Christopher Mark Caleo SC	
Mark Kranz Moshinsky SC	Snr Vice Chairman
Edvard William Alstergren	Hon Treasurer

CATEGORY B: Six counsel who are junior counsel and who are of not more than 15 nor less than 6 years’ standing -

Sara Louise Hinchey	Assistant Treasurer
Matthew Joseph J Walsh	
*Patrick Justin Hannebery	
Paul Xavier Connor	
Kim Joy Knights	
Katharine (Kate) Jane D Anderson	

CATEGORY C: Four counsel who are junior counsel and who are of less than 6 years’ standing -

*Anthony Thomas Strahan
*Simon Thomas Pitt (was Hon Secretary)
*Richard Henry Stanley
Kim Maree Southey

** New to the Victorian Bar Council*