



# MEDIA RELEASE

Hon. John Hatzistergos MLC  
Attorney General  
Minister for Citizenship  
Minister for Regulatory Reform

---

Wednesday March 24, 2010

## NEW MAGISTRATE FOR NSW LOCAL COURT

NSW Attorney General John Hatzistergos today announced the appointment of Andrew Eckhold to the bench of the Local Court of NSW.

“Mr Eckhold is a respected member of the NSW legal profession, who has the skills, experience and work ethic necessary to be an outstanding magistrate,” Mr Hatzistergos said.

Specialising in criminal matters, Mr Eckhold has appeared frequently in the Local Court in prosecutorial and defence capacities over the past 17 years.

In his current role as a Solicitor Advocate at the Crown Solicitor’s Office, Mr Eckhold has provided written advice to NSW Government agencies on complex matters and appeared in court on their behalf.

He has also served as Counsel Assisting the Coroner at more than 20 inquests, including a hearing into the death of a teenager who crashed a stolen car while being pursued by police in Wollongong.

Mr Eckhold prosecuted major criminal trials as a barrister in Western Australia between 2006 and 2008, working mainly on cases involving sexual offences against children and adults.

He has also been employed as a prosecutor for the Work Cover Fatalities Unit, a legal and policy officer at the Department of Justice and Attorney General and spent more than nine years working for Legal Aid NSW.

Mr Eckhold holds a Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and is a member of the NSW Law Society Criminal Law Committee. He is also a part-time Legal Officer with the Royal Australian Navy, where he is studying military law.

He will be sworn in as a Magistrate on April 19.

**Media Contact: Adam Bell 0448 302 533**