



NEW SOUTH WALES
BAR ASSOCIATION

MEDIA RELEASE
2 October 2014

Senior Counsel Appointments for 2014

The President of The New South Wales Bar Association, Jane Needham SC, today announced the names of 18 barristers who have been appointed as Senior Counsel (SC).

The successful applicants for 2014, in order of their length of service at the Bar, are:

Peter John McGRATH
Ian David BOURKE
Rashda Parveen RANA
Jonathon James PRIESTLEY
Jeremy Mearns MORRIS
Nicholas Joseph POLIN
Justin Dupont SMITH
Belinda Jane RIGG
Michael Roland HALL
Timothy Michael FAULKNER
Peter Anthony CAMPTON
Kevin Leo ANDRONOS
Gabrielle Antoinette BASHIR
Craig John Gordon SMITH
Christian DIMITRIADIS
Matthew John DARKE
Jeffery Mark McLENNAN
Angus Morkel STEWART

The designation of certain barristers as Senior Counsel by the President of the Bar Association is in accordance with published principles and intended to serve the public interest.

The appointment of Senior Counsel provides a public identification of barristers whose standing and competence justify an expectation, on the part of those who may need their services, as well as on the part of the judiciary, that they will provide outstanding service as advocates and advisers, to the good of the administration of justice.

Each July, barristers wishing to be appointed Senior Counsel apply to the President of the Bar Association for consideration. Their applications are then considered by the Selection Committee, who take into account the views of a large number of barristers, solicitors and members of the state and federal judiciary.

Profiles of the successful applicants can be viewed [here](#) and statistics on Senior Counsel appointments for 2012-14 can be viewed [here](#).

The Senior Counsel Protocol is available on The New South Wales Bar Association web site at http://www.nswbar.asn.au/docs/webdocs/silk_protocol_052014.pdf.

Practice information concerning each of the new Senior Counsel is available through the Bar Association's 'Find a barrister' database at <http://find-a-barrister.nswbar.asn.au/>.

Contact: Alastair McConnachie 9229 1756 or 0420314462



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Senior Counsel Appointments 2014

Peter John McGRATH

Crown Prosecutors Chambers – Sydney

Peter commenced his legal practice as a solicitor in October 1984 before coming to the NSW Bar in August 1990. He was appointed a Crown Prosecutor for the State of NSW in January 2012, having acted in that position since September 2010. Peter practises principally in the areas of criminal law, commissions of inquiry and coronial inquests. He also runs serious and complex criminal trials and sentence proceedings before judges and juries in the NSW District and Supreme Courts. Whilst at the Bar, he has overseen the criminal reading component of the Readers Programme. He has also participated in the mentoring and advice scheme run by the Aboriginal Legal Service. [BA LLB (University of Sydney)]

Ian David BOURKE

Frederick Jordan Chambers

Ian has been practising as a lawyer since 1985 and came to the NSW Bar in 1993. He has developed a broad practice in a variety of areas, focusing in particular on criminal prosecutions, administrative law appeals in the Supreme Court, coronial inquests, commissions of inquiry, disciplinary proceedings and care proceedings/appeals concerning children. His practice involves a significant proportion of appellate work, in the Supreme Court and also in the Court of Criminal Appeal and Court of Appeal. He is a current member of the Bar Association's Criminal Law Committee and the Legal Aid Review Committee [Barristers' Admission Board DipL; LLM (University of Sydney)]

Rashda Parveen RANA

Rashda has been practicing as an advocate for over 20 years in London and also in various states in Australia (primarily in NSW). She came to the NSW Bar in 1994. She has advised on and conducted major commercial, maritime and construction, oil and energy & infrastructure litigation, and arbitrations and mediations. She was formerly an Adjunct Professor at Sydney University Law School, teaching international commercial arbitration. She is a CEDR accredited mediator and has been appointed as arbitrator in a number of Australian domestic arbitrations as well as international arbitrations primarily in the Asia Pacific region, and has been a member of the Association's Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee. [BA (Hons) Philosophy; M.Phil (Cambridge); DipL (City University, London); Barristers' Admission Board DipL]

Jonathon James PRIESTLEY

Nine Wentworth Chambers

Prior to coming to the Bar, Jonathon was an Associate with Dibbs Crowther & Osborne working in the field of insolvency and banking litigation. Jonathon came to the NSW Bar in 1995 and practiced from chambers in Sydney until 2000 before moving to Byron Bay and practicing from Lismore Chambers. Jonathon's areas of practice include disciplinary proceedings, equity, *Succession Act* matters, building disputes, family law and common law. Jonathon is a member of the Family Law Section of the Law Council of Australia. He is a past member of the NSW Bar Council and served as the North Coast representative for the New South Wales Bar Association from 2008 to 2013. [BA LLB (University of NSW)]

Jeremy Mearns MORRIS

13th Floor St James Hall Chambers

Prior to his admission to the Bar, Jeremy was a commercial litigation solicitor at Abbott Tout Russell Kennedy. Jeremy came to the NSW Bar in 1995. His areas of practice include commercial litigation, trade practices, criminal law, common law, professional indemnity, inquests and equity matters, both in NSW and interstate. He is a member of Bar Council, a former member of a Professional Conduct Committee and regularly assists with the NSW Bar Practice Course. He has published and delivered papers on topics such as Professional Ethics and Case Management, Professional Ethics and Advocacy, Contracts Review Act, and Insurance. [BA LLB (University of NSW); Masters Tax Law (University of Sydney)]

Nicholas Joseph POLIN

4th Floor Wentworth Chambers

Nicholas was admitted as a solicitor in July 1983 and commenced working for the small family legal practice, Creagh & Creagh. He became a Partner of that firm in July 1985. Nicholas came to the NSW Bar in 1995. His primary area of practice is insurance litigation, although he also undertakes some general commercial litigation. He appears regularly in the District and Supreme Courts and in the Court of Appeal. He has also appeared in many coronial inquests and is involved in dispute resolution/mediations. He has, and continues to be, involved as an Instructor in the Advocacy coaching courses held twice a year by the Bar Association. [LLB (University of Sydney)]

Justin Dupont SMITH
7th Floor Selborne Chambers

Justin came to the NSW Bar in 1997. His practice includes administrative law, commercial law and equity, insolvency, succession and regulatory and disciplinary cases. His particular area of expertise is administrative law, where he has advised on and appeared in cases in both State and Federal jurisdictions at every level from tribunals to the High Court. Justin has an extensive trial and appellate practice in this area and appears regularly in the Federal Court and the New South Wales Court of Appeal. [BA LLB (University of Sydney)]

Belinda Jane RIGG
Public Defenders Chambers

Belinda came to the NSW Bar in 1997 and has been a Public Defender since January 2004. Belinda appears in District and Supreme Court trials and sentence proceedings and is instructed by Legal Aid NSW, the Aboriginal Legal Service and private solicitors with a grant of legal aid. She has also appeared in the Court of Appeal on conviction and sentence appeals. Belinda regularly gives presentations on criminal law to bodies such as the Public Defenders' annual seminar, Legal Aid, Aboriginal Legal Service, NSW Young Lawyers, College of Law and the Commonwealth DPP. [BA LLB (University of Sydney)]

Michael Roland HALL
Nigel Bowen Chambers

Michael came to the NSW Bar in 1999 and practises in commercial law, particularly in intellectual property, equity and real property disputes. Michael has worked on many major cases in trade marks and trade practices law. He appears frequently in the Federal Court, Supreme Court and Land & Environment Court, and before the Patents and Trade Marks Office. Michael is a member of the Bar Association's Education Committee and presents the ethics component of the Association's Bar Practice Course. Michael has also worked as a solicitor, as in-house counsel for the BBC World Service and as a university law lecturer. [BA BCL MA (Oxford University)]

Timothy Michael FAULKNER
12 Wentworth/Selborne Chambers

Tim came to the NSW Bar in August 1999. His areas of practice include contractual disputes, misleading or deceptive conduct, companies law, professional negligence, insurance and reinsurance, partnership law, agency, property disputes, guarantees and equitable remedies. He has presented numerous papers at various seminars, including events run by ASIC. [BEc LLB (Hons) (Australian National University); LLM (University of Sydney)]

Peter Anthony CAMPTON

Waratah Chambers

Peter came to the NSW Bar in February 2000, after practising as a solicitor from 1983, almost exclusively in family law disputes and de-facto relationships matters. He has developed a practice focusing on complex family law financial disputes and has extensive experience in forensic financial enquiry and the evaluation of expert evidence. Peter is a member of the New South Wales Bar Association's Family Law Committee and a member of the Family Law Section of the Law Council of Australia. Peter also acts as a mediator, is an Accredited Arbitrator and a member of the Australian Institute of Family Law Arbitrators and Mediators. [LLB (University of Sydney)]

Kevin Leo ANDRONOS

Eleven Wentworth Chambers

Before coming to the NSW Bar in 2000, Kevin was a solicitor from 1990 – 1999 and worked as a Research Assistant/Tipstaff in the Supreme Court of NSW. He has had broad experience in areas including Commonwealth and state administrative law, professional negligence, defamation and claims arising out of failed IT implementations. Kevin has advised and appeared in proceedings in the Supreme Courts of NSW, South Australia, Victoria, the ACT and Western Australia as well as in the Federal Court. He has also advised and appeared in many mediations, private arbitrations and proceedings for urgent interlocutory injunctions. Kevin is a former member of the New South Wales Bar Association Professional Conduct Committee and a former tutor in ethics and occasional advocacy coach for the NSW Bar Association readers' exams and Bar Practice course. [BA LLB (University of Sydney)]

Gabrielle Antoinette BASHIR

Forbes Chambers

Gabrielle came to the NSW Bar in August 2000. She appears regularly in courts at all levels of the criminal justice system and has appeared in many notable trials and appeals. She has appeared in cases raising constitutional challenges to legislation impinging on the criminal trial process and/or the exercise of judicial discretion. She also appears in complex Federal criminal cases on behalf of corporations and individuals and in commissions of inquiry and inquests. She has appeared as counsel assisting in inquests pertaining to deaths in custody, and has represented victims of crime in criminal investigations and commissions of inquiry. Her practice also includes appearances in disciplinary tribunals and administrative proceedings. Gabrielle has been a member of the Criminal Law Committee of the New South Wales Bar Association since 2000. [BA LLB (University of NSW)]

Craig John Gordon SMITH
Public Defenders Chambers

Craig came to the NSW Bar in 2001 and was appointed a Public Defender in 2006. He was appointed Deputy Senior Public Defender in September 2014. Craig appears regularly in criminal matters in the Supreme Court and Court of Criminal Appeal. Before coming to the Bar, Craig practised as a solicitor with the Legal Aid Commission and the Western Aboriginal Legal Service. Craig is a regular participant in Public Defenders' conferences and courses, Bar Association conferences and the Bar Practice Course. [BEc LLB (University of Sydney)]

Christian DIMITRIADIS
Nigel Bowen Chambers

Before coming to the Bar in 2001, Christian was a Senior Associate in a national Australian law firm and was also registered as a patent attorney. He practises in intellectual property law, with a particular focus on patent, copyright and trade mark matters. Christian regularly appears in the Federal Court of Australia, both at first instance and on appeal, and has appeared in intellectual property cases before the High Court of Australia. He also appears in proceedings in the Australian Patent Office, the Copyright Tribunal of Australia, the Australian Trade Marks Office and other administrative tribunals. Christian assists with the Bar Practice Course and is a member of the Law Council of Australia's Intellectual Property Committee. [BSc (Hons) LLB (Hons) (University of Melbourne); Dip IP (Institute of Patent & Trade Mark Attorneys)]

Matthew John DARKE
10th Floor Selborne/Wentworth Chambers

Matthew came to the NSW Bar in August 2001. His principal areas of practice are commercial law, intellectual property, professional negligence and consumer law. Before coming to the Bar, Matthew worked as an Associate in the Federal Court of Australia and then as a solicitor at a large international law firm. Matthew is a member of a Professional Conduct Committee. [BA (Hons) LLB (Hons) (Australian National University)]

Jeffery Mark McLENNAN
Crown Prosecutors Chambers – Lismore

Jeff came to the NSW Bar in 2002 when he was appointed to the position of Crown Prosecutor in Lismore. Prior to that, he had over 20 years' experience in the practice of criminal law in Queensland. From March 1991 to July 1999, Jeff was employed as a Crown Prosecutor in Queensland and headed the Major Crime Section of the Brisbane Committals Project. During this time he was also seconded to the Parliamentary Criminal Justice Commissioner's office as a Principal Legal Officer. Immediately before he came NSW, Jeff was Senior Counsel for the Queensland Legal Aid Commission. In that role, he represented clients in the District or Supreme Courts and before the Mental Health Tribunal. He prosecutes in Sydney and in regional NSW, in both the District and Supreme Courts. [BA LLB (University of Queensland)]

Angus Morkel STEWART

12 Wentworth/Selborne Chambers

Angus came to the NSW Bar in 2011 having practised as an advocate in South Africa for more than 15 years. He took silk in South Africa in 2006 and in 2009 served as an Acting Judge of the Supreme Court in Pietermaritzburg. He appeared regularly in South Africa's highest courts, the Constitutional Court and the Supreme Court of Appeal, and still appears in those courts from time-to-time. His practice in South Africa spanned most areas of civil law, with particular specialisation in transport (road, rail, air and sea), logistics, international trade, private international law, insurance, commercial law, constitutional and administrative law, human rights, land rights and public interest law. In Australia, Angus has developed a practice in shipping and international trade, private international law (including international arbitration) and cross-border insolvency. His practice areas also include insurance, general commercial law (including commercial arbitration) and public law. [BA LLB (University of Natal); BCL (first class and Rhodes Scholar) (University of Oxford)]