

ATTORNEY-GENERAL ROBERT McCLELLAND MP

23 October 2009

FEDERAL COURT APPOINTMENTS

Attorney-General, Robert McClelland, today announced the appointment of five new judges to the Federal Court of Australia.

The Hon Justice Julie Dodds-Streeton and Mr Mordy Bromberg SC have been appointed as judges of the Federal Court in Melbourne and Ms Anna Katzmann SC, Mr John Nicholas SC and Mr David Yates SC have been appointed as judges of the Federal Court in Sydney.

“All five appointees are highly respected and talented legal practitioners with broad legal experience, which will bring greater diversity to the Federal Court,” Mr McClelland said.

Justice Dodds-Streeton and Mr Nicholas have practised principally in commercial law, and Mr Yates also has experience in commercial law, including intellectual property law, trade practices and competition law. Mr Bromberg has specific workplace relations experience and Ms Katzmann has experience across a range of areas including administrative law, common law, criminal and industrial law.

This announcement follows a broad and transparent judicial appointment process, including:

- public advertisements seeking expressions of interest and nominations;
- extensive consultation with individuals and professional bodies; and
- a standing panel to assess all candidates against published criteria and provide recommendations to the Attorney-General.

The panel comprised former High Court Chief Justice Sir Gerard Brennan AC KBE, Federal Court Chief Justice Michael Black AC, Acting NSW Supreme Court Justice Jane Mathews AO and a senior official of the Attorney-General’s Department.

“I am pleased that more than 200 nominations and expressions of interest were received and I would like to thank all of those who participated in the process.”

A short biography of each appointee is below.

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Mr Mordecai (Mordy) Bromberg SC

Mr Bromberg holds a Bachelor of Economics and a Bachelor of Laws from Monash University and was admitted as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of Victoria and the Supreme Court of New South Wales in 1984. Mr Bromberg was called to the Bar in 1988 and practised extensively in the field of industrial and employment law. Mr Bromberg also appeared in constitutional, trade practices, administrative law and discrimination law cases. He was appointed Senior Counsel in 2003 and has been President of the Australian Institute of Employment Rights since 2005.

Mr Bromberg's appointment to the Melbourne registry commences in December 2009.

The Hon Justice Julie Dodds-Streeton

Justice Dodds-Streeton holds a Bachelor of Laws (Hons) and a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) from the University of Melbourne and a Master of Arts from Monash University. She was admitted as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of Victoria in 1981. Justice Dodds-Streeton's early career was as an academic, teaching intellectual property, corporate law, equity and property as Senior Lecturer at Melbourne University. She was called to the Bar in 1988 and practised mainly in the areas of corporations and commercial law, insolvency, property and equity. In 2001 Justice Dodds-Streeton was appointed Senior Counsel. In 2002 she was appointed to the Supreme Court of Victoria. Justice Dodds-Streeton was appointed to the Victorian Court of Appeal in 2007. Justice Dodds-Streeton's appointment to the Melbourne registry commences in February 2010.

Ms Anna Katzman SC

Ms Katzman holds a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of New South Wales. She was admitted as a Barrister of the Supreme Court of New South Wales in 1979 and has practised at the New South Wales Bar since 1980. Ms Katzman was also admitted as a practitioner in the Supreme Courts of the ACT, Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia. During her time at the Bar, she undertook a number of additional roles including lecturer in law at the NSW Institute of Technology (now University of Technology, Sydney), Chair of the Mental Health Tribunal for Cumberland Hospital, Acting Commissioner of the NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption, Arbitrator within the Supreme Court of NSW, and Mediator and Contributions Assessor within the Dust Diseases Tribunal of NSW. Ms Katzman was appointed Senior Counsel in 1997 and is currently President of the New South Wales Bar Association. Ms Katzman's appointment to the Sydney registry commences in February 2010.

Mr John Nicholas SC

Mr Nicholas holds a Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of New South Wales and was admitted as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of New South Wales in 1982. He was called to the New South Wales Bar in 1987 and appointed Senior Counsel in 2001. Mr Nicholas has a particular interest and expertise in intellectual property law including patents, copyright and trade marks and has appeared in a number of significant cases in those fields. He also has extensive experience in other areas of commercial law including trade practices, contract, equity, product liability and professional indemnity. Mr Nicholas's appointment to the Sydney registry commences in November 2009.

Mr David Yates SC

Mr Yates holds a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Sydney and was admitted as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of New South Wales in 1977. He was called to the New South Wales Bar in 1982. His areas of practice include administrative, commercial, equity, intellectual property, trade practices and competition law. Mr Yates was a member of the Intellectual Property Committee of the Law Council of Australia between 1990 and 1992 and was part of a working party formed to review trade marks legislation. He served as Section Head, Intellectual Property Section of the New South Wales Bar Association for four years and later as a member of the New South Wales Committee of the Intellectual Property Society of Australia and New Zealand. Mr Yates was appointed Senior Counsel in 1997. Mr Yates's appointment to the Sydney registry commences in November 2009.