

Media Release

Victorian Bar welcomes 20 new silks

27 November 2012

The Victorian Bar today welcomed the appointment of 20 new silks by the Chief Justice, the Hon. Marilyn Warren AC, the first to be appointed under the new model for the silks selection process piloted this year.

“We congratulate all our new Senior Counsel and wish them all the very best at this exciting time” said Fiona McLeod SC, Chair of the Victorian Bar Council.

“The new silks reflect a great diversity of experience and backgrounds and practice across a range jurisdictions,” she said. “Importantly, in their practice to date each has demonstrated excellence in advocacy, integrity, independence and leadership in the profession.”

Victoria’s newest silks are:

Trevor Stanley Monti
Suzanne Bridget McNicol
Peter George Sest
Aileen Mary Ryan
Christopher William Beale
George Anthony Georgiou
Mark Andrew Robins
Benjamin Andrew Shnookal
Philip David Corbett
Michael Grant Roberts

Alistair Neill Murdoch
Nicholas Pane
Nicholas David Hopkins
Carolyn Hayley Sparke
Kevin Joseph Aloysius Lyons
Edvard William Alstergren
Andrew David Clements
Adrian John Finanzio
Bernard Francis Quinn
Saul Conrad Holt

Ms McLeod said the pilot process this year retained the court’s oversight and ultimate decision making, with the Chief Justice centrally involved as the appointor of senior counsel, and implemented a number of improvements to the process to help with the workload.

This included the appointment of a preliminary evaluation committee which reviewed all applications and made recommendations as to those counsel who might be considered for appointment as senior counsel to the Chief Justice. The committee was chaired by the Hon Stephen Charles QC and senior members of the Bar Council, the Bar and solicitors.

As in previous years, the Chief Justice consulted broadly before deciding upon the appointments. The new model was the result of widespread consultation across the profession and the judiciary. It will now be reviewed for 2013.

“The aim of the new model is to provide greater clarity to applicants and help them to put their best possible application forward and to assist the Chief Justice in the heavy workload associated with a rigorous selection process.

“Successive Bar Councils have strongly favoured retaining an appointment process that centrally involves the Chief Justice. This pilot has achieved an excellent outcome and we wholly endorse the continuing involvement of the Chief Justice in this role, with the appropriate support this model has introduced,” Ms McLeod said.

Information about each of the new silks can be found in the member profiles on the Victorian Bar website (www.vicbar.com.au). An outline of the piloted model is available [here](#).

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