



The Place To Be

Media release

From the Deputy Premier and Attorney-General

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NEW APPOINTMENTS TO SUPREME AND MAGISTRATES' COURTS

Deputy Premier and Attorney-General Rob Hulls today announced five appointments to the Supreme Court and Magistrates' Court of Victoria.

Barristers Terry Forrest, QC, and Dr Karin Emerton have been appointed as judges of the Supreme Court, and Susan Armour, Julie O'Donnell and Jack Vandersteen as Magistrates.

"The Brumby Labor Government is taking action to appoint the best and brightest from a broad range of backgrounds to our benches," Mr Hulls said.

Mr Hulls said Mr Forrest, who was appointed Queens Counsel in 1999, was well qualified for appointment to the Supreme Court.

"Mr Forrest brings 30 years' experience to the court, having specialised in criminal law, intervention and compensation matters, licensing and disciplinary tribunals, personal injury and professional negligence matters in an outstanding career," Mr Hulls said.

"He has appeared in many of Victoria's most high-profile criminal and civil cases."

Mr Hulls said Dr Emerton also brought a vast amount of legal knowledge and experience to the Supreme Court after 20 years in the legal profession.

"Dr Emerton studied at the universities of Sydney and New South Wales, and obtained her doctorate from the Sorbonne," he said.

"She began her career at Blake Dawson Waldron and also worked for the former Attorney-General's Department. Dr Emerton practised as a barrister until 2007, when she was appointed to her current position of Crown Counsel (Advisings)."

Mr Hulls also welcomed the appointments of Ms Armour, Ms O'Donnell and Mr Vandersteen.

"Ms Armour comes to the court with an extensive background in criminal law practice. She has worked with the Office of the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions for more than 25 years and will be a valuable asset to the Court," Mr Hulls said.

Julie O'Donnell was admitted to practice in 1989 and has worked as a senior lawyer with Victoria Legal Aid for nine years, most recently as a managing lawyer and duty lawyer based at the Moorabbin Justice Centre.

"Ms O'Donnell has extensive experience in criminal law practice, family court matters and the Children's Court," Mr Hulls said.

Mr Vandersteen comes to the Magistrates' Court from the Office of Public Prosecutions, which he joined in 1999.

"Mr Vandersteen has worked across the OPP, rising to become the first manager of the Specialist Sex Offences Unit," Mr Hulls said.

"I congratulate all of these appointees and look forward to the significant contribution they will make to Victoria's justice system in the years ahead."

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