



# MEDIA RELEASE

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

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## JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS FOR NSW SUPREME COURT

NSW Attorney General John Hatzistergos today announced the appointments of Justice Anthony Whealy as a Judge of Appeal and of barrister John Sackar, QC as a Supreme Court judge.

“Justice Whealy and Mr Sackar are highly respected within the NSW legal system and I anticipate they will serve with distinction in their new roles,” Mr Hatzistergos said.

Justice Whealy has sat on the bench of the Supreme Court for a decade, presiding over a range of complex and significant criminal trials including:

- the two-year trial of five men convicted and jailed over a terrorism plot;
- the trial of Faheem Lodhi, who became the first person in NSW convicted under counter-terrorism laws;
- the insider trading trial of stockbroker Rene Rivkin;
- the 12-month trial of members of the Ronen family for a \$15 million tax fraud; and,
- a civil case in which Irish man, Garry Mulligan unsuccessfully sued Coffs Harbour City Council and the State of NSW after he struck his head on a sandbar and became a quadriplegic.

Prior to taking public office, Justice Whealy practised as a barrister for almost 30 years, specialising in liquor licensing law. He was appointed a Queens Counsel in 1984.

Justice Whealy was as an Acting Judge of the District Court between 1988 and 1991 and served as a member of the Legal Services Tribunal in 1995, 1997 and 1998.

Mr Sackar has been practising law for 37 years, primarily in general commercial law including trade practices, banking and insurance law and media law.

He was admitted as a barrister in 1975 and appointed a Queens Counsel in NSW in 1987. He has also attained the title of Queens Counsel in Victoria, ACT, South Australia, Queensland and the Northern Territory.

Mr Sackar has appeared in all courts in Australia and regularly appears before the NSW Court of Appeal and the High Court of Australia. He has also appeared as junior and leading counsel in the Privy Council of the United Kingdom in appeals from Australia and Brunei.

Justice Whealy’s appointment as a Judge of Appeal commences on January 31, 2011, while Mr Sackar will be sworn in as a judge of the Supreme Court on February 1, 2011.

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