



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Hon. John Hatzistergos MLC  
Attorney General  
Minister for Justice**

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**Wednesday December 12 2007**

## **ATTORNEY ANNOUNCES JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS**

NSW Attorney General John Hatzistergos today announced the appointments of Justice Virginia Bell to the Court of Appeal of NSW and Lucy McCallum, SC, to the Supreme Court of NSW.

Justice Bell, who has been a Supreme Court judge since 1999, will replace Justice Kim Santow who is set to retire from the Court of Appeal at the end of the month.

Ms McCallum, a prominent Sydney barrister, will be sworn in as a Supreme Court judge at Common Law, filling the position left by Justice Bell.

Mr Hatzistergos said Ms McCallum would be a welcome addition to the Supreme Court.

“Ms McCallum is perhaps best known for her work assisting the HIH Royal Commission and representing the interests of asbestos victims at the James Hardie inquiry, She has also served with distinction as a prosecutor with the Queensland and Commonwealth Directors of Public Prosecutions,” Mr Hatzistergos said.

Ms McCallum is a member of the NSW Bar Council.

Mr Hatzistergos said Justice Bell was an exceptional judge, who had excelled throughout her 30-year career in law.

“Justice Bell is renowned for her intelligence, fairness and ability to find the truth. In the 1990s, she helped expose corrupt police officers in her role as Counsel Assisting the Wood Royal Commission. More recently she has served as a part-time Commissioner of the NSW Law Reform Commission and is currently president of the Australasian Institute of Judicial Administration,” Mr Hatzistergos said.

Mr Hatzistergos said Justice Bell and Ms McCallum were role models for young women considering a career in law.

Justice Bell and Ms McCallum will be sworn in in January 2008.

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