



**ATTORNEY-GENERAL
THE HON ROBERT McCLELLAND MP**

NEWS RELEASE

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NEW JUDGE APPOINTED TO FEDERAL COURT

Attorney-General Robert McClelland today announced that the Hon Justice Michael Barker has been appointed to the Perth registry of the Federal Court of Australia.

“It is with great pleasure that I announce the appointment of the Hon Justice Michael Barker, a judge of the Supreme Court of Western Australia and President of the State Administrative Tribunal, as a judge of the Federal Court. I am confident Justice Barker will continue to make an outstanding contribution to the law in his new capacity,” Mr McClelland said.

“Justice Barker is a highly respected judicial officer and former barrister with experience across many areas of law. Justice Barker will replace the Hon Chief Justice Robert French, following his appointment to the High Court of Australia.”

Mr McClelland said Justice Barker was chosen as a result of a new process for judicial appointments put in place by the Rudd Government.

“There was great interest in this position with 15 nominations and 16 expressions of interest received. I would like to publicly thank all those who participated in this process.”

Justice Barker will take up appointment to the Federal Court on 9 February 2009. A short biography of Justice Barker is attached.

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Hon Justice Michael Barker

Justice Barker holds a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Western Australia and a Master of Laws from York University, Toronto. He was admitted to practice by the Supreme Court of Western Australia as a barrister and solicitor in 1973. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1996, and worked as a barrister in Perth from 1993 to 2002, until taking up appointment as a judge of the Supreme Court of Western Australia. In 2004, Justice Barker was appointed as President of the State Administrative Tribunal.

As a barrister, Justice Barker engaged in broad civil law practice, specialising in public law and litigation, including environmental, planning and local government law, land valuation and compensation, mining and resources law, property law, medical negligence law, native title hearings and public inquiries. He is an accredited mediator and has acted as mediator in a wide range of civil and commercial disputes.