AGS Administrative Law Symposium:
Commonwealth and New South Wales

24–26 March 2010

This symposium will be opened by the Hon. Robert McClelland MP, Attorney-General of the Commonwealth and closed by Roger Wilkins AO, Secretary, Commonwealth Attorney-General’s Department. The keynote address will be delivered by the Hon. Chief Justice James Spigelman AC.

The symposium brings together eminent members of the Federal Court and New South Wales Supreme Court, the Presidents of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and the Administrative Decisions Tribunal, and leading members of the Bar.

The detailed agenda for the symposium is provided overleaf. The symposium will be useful for all Commonwealth and NSW public servants, including decision-makers, policy-makers and agency legal staff. It is also open to the public and to the private legal profession, for whom the symposium would qualify as continuing legal education. The symposium provides generous session times, with ample opportunity to ask questions of our eminent guests relating to the topics of their presentations.

The symposium is designed to showcase contemporary administrative law in the Commonwealth and NSW, and will focus on major principles of administrative law, and also an array of specific topics such as privacy, FOI and national security.

A registration form is provided with this information. We at AGS, along with the Sydney Law School, sincerely hope that you are able to join us for the Administrative Law Symposium.

You will note that the program overleaf begins, unusually, with a dinner on the evening of 24 March 2010. This will allow attendees to meet informally before formal commencement of the symposium, and to enjoy the anticipated after-dinner speech by the Hon. Justice Jeffrey Spender.

The Symposium will be run concurrently with the longer 5-day Administrative Law Intensive Course, ‘Excellence in Government Decision-making’. Further information on this course is available at: www.ags.gov.au/whatweoffer/training/Uni_of_Sydney_and_AGS.htm
### Day 1: Thursday 25 March

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<th>Time</th>
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<td>8.30–9.00 am</td>
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| 9.00–9.20 am | Australian Administrative Law                                          | The Hon. Robert McClelland MP
Attorney-General of the Commonwealth                                                |
| 9.20–10.30 am | Keynote Address                                                        | The Hon. James Spigelman AC
Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New South Wales                              |
| 10.30–11.00 am | Morning tea                                                            |                                                                                        |
| 11.00 am–12.30 pm | Statutory Interpretation: Setting the Boundaries of Decision-making Power | A consideration of how the meaning of legislation is ascertained, and the implications for the validity of public sector decisions.
The Hon. Justice Margaret Stone
Federal Court of Australia                                                       |
| 12.30–1.30 pm | Lunch                                                                   |                                                                                        |
| 1.30–3.00 pm | Administrative Law Litigation in 2010                                   | A discussion of the current practice, roles and responsibilities of the administrative law advocate.
Tom Howe QC
AGS Canberra                                                                      |
| 3.00–3.30 pm | Afternoon tea                                                           |                                                                                        |
| 3.30–5.00 pm | A Duty to Consider: The Decision-maker and the Unrepresented Litigant   | A reflection upon the challenges posed for decision-makers where the litigant or affected party is not represented or not sufficiently represented.
The Hon. Justice Annabelle Bennett AO
Federal Court of Australia                                                        |
| 5.00–5.30 pm | Drinks                                                                  |                                                                                        |
| 5.30–6.15 pm | An Advocate’s Perspective                                              | What agencies can do to better understand and assist the administrative law applicant.
Natasha Case
Senior Solicitor, Public Interest Advocacy Centre                                  |
| 6.15–7.00 pm | Drinks continue                                                         |                                                                                        |