



Greg Smith SC MP

Attorney General
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MEDIA RELEASE

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ATTORNEY ANNOUNCES SUPREME COURT APPOINTMENTS

Two Supreme Court judges have been appointed to new roles and a Federal Court judge will join the bench of the Supreme Court, Attorney General Greg Smith SC announced today.

The Chief Judge at Common Law, Justice Peter McClellan QC, AM has been appointed a Judge of Appeal, Justice Clifton Hoeben AM RFD will be the new Chief Judge at Common Law, while Federal Court Justice Arthur Emmett will become a Supreme Court judge and a Judge of Appeal.

Mr Smith said it had been an eventful start to the year for Justice McClellan, who was last month appointed as Chair of the Commonwealth Royal Commission into institutional responses to child sexual abuse.

“In practical terms, Justice McClellan will not sit as a Judge of Appeal until he has completed his duties at the Royal Commission,” Mr Smith said.

Justice McClellan has more than a decade of experience on the bench of the Supreme Court and has been Chief Judge at Common Law since 2005.

He has also served as Chief Judge of the Land and Environment Court, an Assistant Commissioner of the Independent Commission Against Corruption and Chairman of the Inquiry into Sydney Water.

Justice Hoeben has been a Supreme Court judge since 2004 and became a Judge of Appeal last year. Prior to joining the judiciary, Justice Hoeben spent around 30 years working as a barrister. He has also served in the Australian Army Reserve, where he attained the position of Major General.

Justice Hoeben’s appointment as Chief Judge at Common Law will begin on 22 February 2013.

Justice Emmett has served as a judge of the Federal Court since 1997 and has been the President of the Copyright Tribunal of Australia since 2007. In a legal career spanning more than 45 years, Justice Emmett has also worked as a barrister, attaining silk in 1985, and as a partner at the law firm Dawson Waldron (now known as Ashurst Australia).

Justice Emmett will begin serving on the bench of the Supreme Court as a Judge of Appeal on 7 March 2013.

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