



SUPREME COURT OF VICTORIA

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APPOINTMENT PROCESS OF SENIOR COUNSEL 2007

Applications for appointment of Senior Counsel in Victoria had now closed with more than 90 applications received, Chief Justice Marilyn Warren, said today.

Chief Justice Warren said the task of consideration had started, with each applicant being thoroughly considered and reviewed, in a process involving lengthy, wide-ranging and comprehensive consultations.

“The key to the process is firstly, the width and depth of consultation and secondly, the degree of confidentiality which allows for candour in the consultation process,” Chief Justice Warren emphasised.

“Over the coming weeks I will meet extensively with the Supreme Court Silks Advisory Committee, and seek confidential written frank and candid advice from referees.

“Members of the Committee change each year to spread the workload and to keep the advice fresh because sometimes unsuccessful applicants reapply in subsequent years.

“Then I personally consult the heads of jurisdiction, leaders of the Bar, Solicitor-General, State and Commonwealth Directors of Public Prosecutions, the Chairs of various Bar committees, President of the Law Institute and all those who I believe may assist me.

“Importantly, when I meet the heads of jurisdiction they have consulted with judges in their respective courts, which facilitates them in providing informed advice,” she said.

“The key to the process is its confidentiality. Those I consult are able to speak to me about their assessment of a candidate with full frankness and candour.

“Every year I ask those people I consult as to whether the process should be altered, and so far, all those consulted, including the Victorian Bar, have stated satisfaction and support for the process.

“In the end, the process leads to a list of individuals who are recognised and supported across the legal profession and the judiciary as worthy appointments as Senior Counsel for the State of Victoria,” Chief Justice Warren said.

The list of Senior Counsel for 2007 is expected to be announced late November.

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