**THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE D M PRICE AO**

**CHIEF JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT OF NEW SOUTH WALES**

**Silk Bows Ceremony Monday 30 October 2023 at 9:00am**

1. **Richard O'KEEFE SC,** since your admission to the Bar in 1999, you have made your reputation in personal injury litigation, with a special interest in medical negligence. You are a contributing editor to the Australian Professional Liability in Australia. You are also a voluntary member of the NSW/ACT Australian Rules Football Tribunal.
2. **Avni DJEMAL SC,** since your admission to the Bar in 2003, you have made your reputation in criminal law where you dealt with highly complex and large-scale criminal matters. You were a solicitor advocate for the Aboriginal Legal Service in the South Western and Sydney regions and mentored young lawyers and continued to act pro bono in matters throughout your career.
3. **Simon MEEHAN SC,** since your admission to the Bar in 2003, you have made your reputation in workplace relations, employment, work health and safety law and commercial law. You are a member of the Law Council of Australia Federal Circuit Court Liaison Committee and have regularly presented CPD seminars.
4. **Mark SEYMOUR SC,** since your admission to the Bar in 2002, you have made your reputation in environmental and planning law, administrative law and mediation. You have been an author of the LexisNexis Loose-Leaf service Local Government Planning and Environment New South Wales for fifteen years and an editor to the Environmental Law Reporter for many years.
5. **Sean DOCKER SC,** since your admission to the Bar in 2004, you have made your reputation in property law, contracts, building and construction, equity and trusts and succession law. You are an advocacy coach at the Bar Practice Course and since 2001 you have served on the Basketball Australia’s Integrity Panel.

8 **Nicholas EASTMAN SC,** since your admission to the Bar in 2006, you have made your reputation in environmental, planning and administrative law. You are a contributor to The Law Handbook and the Lawyers Practice Manual and have a pro bono practice in environmental law including aboriginal heritage issues, and housing and tenancy law.

9 **Benjamin KREMER SC,** since your admission to the Bar in 2006, you have made your reputation in commercial law, intellectual property, building and construction and administrative law. You have been awarded a Doctorate of Philosophy in Law by the University of Oxford, and you are Deputy Chair of the Media and Information Law and Technology Committee.

10 **Gillian MAHONY SC,** since your admission to the Bar in 2006, you have made your reputation in administrative law, estate and family, torts, and appellate law. You were the Course Director of the NSW Bar Practice Course from 2016 to 2023 and in recognition of this contribution, you were made a life member for “exceptional service to the Bar Association and to the profession of the law”.

12 **Gerald NG SC,** since your admission to the Bar in 2008, you have made your reputation in constitutional law, administrative law, electoral law, professional negligence, and competition law. You are on the NSW Branch of the Asian Australian Lawyers Association and have authored numerous articles for law journals.

13 **Angela COOK SC,** since your admission to the Bar in 2008, you have made your reputation in criminal law with an extensive trial and appellate practice. You are a founding member of the Criminal Defence Lawyers Association and have been involved in organising and presenting at various CPD talks and conferences.

14 **Kirsten EDWARDS SC,** since your admission to the Bar in 2009, you have made your reputation in environmental crime, occupational health and safety, and corporate crime. You are a lecturer at University of NSW, Sydney University, and University of Technology Sydney. You have contributed to the CPD sessions at the Bar, judged moots, and undertaken pro bono work.

15 **Henry EL-HAGE SC,** since your admission to the Bar in 2009, you have made your reputation in public and administrative law, planning and environmental law, and native title matters. You are a mentor in the Bar Association’s mentoring program and a regular presenter of CPD seminars. You have also provided advice and appeared for clients of the Public Advocacy Centre.

16 **Declan ROCHE SC,** since your admission to the Bar in 2009, you have made your reputation in competition law, commercial law and consumer law. You were admitted to the New York Bar and worked there as an attorney. You worked in the field of restorative justice and contributed to important initiatives including the establishment of a survivor-based policy for historical abuse claims.

17 **David BARROW SC,** since your admission to the Bar in 2009, you have made your reputation in criminal law, appellate criminal law, and commissions of inquiry and inquests. You have demonstrated a commitment to disadvantaged people in the criminal justice system by continuing to take on legally aided cases each year, both at first instance and on appeal.

18 **Catherine GLEESON SC,** since your admission to the Bar in 2009, you have made your reputation in commercial law, inquests and inquiries, and shipping and transport law. You are the Deputy Chair of the Bar News Committee, have lectured on the Bar Practice Course, and presented CPD seminars for the Bar.

19 **Imtiaz AHMED SC,** since your admission to the Bar in 2010, you have made your reputation in corporations and competition law, and class action proceedings. You are a lecturer at the University of New South Wales and the University of Sydney and contributed to publications on corporations law, insurance law, and intellectual property.

23 **Robert YEZERSKI SC,** since your admission to the Bar in 2010, you have made your reputation in competition law, class actions, corporations law, and consumer law. You have lectured at the University of NSW in Conflict of Laws, and in the Master of Law Courses at the University of Sydney. You have also regularly assisted with the Bar Practice Course.

24 **Fiona ROUGHLEY SC,** since your admission to the Bar in 2011, you have made your reputation in commercial law, predominantly in large and complex litigation. You have served on the Council of Law Reporting for New South Wales and volunteered at the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency. You were awarded a PhD by the Australian National University and are a regular contributor to Bar News.

25 **David SCULLY SC**, since your admission to the Bar in 2011, you have made your reputation in complex criminal trials as a Deputy Senior Crown Prosecutor at the NSW DPP. You are on the Criminal Law Committee of the Bar Association and have delivered continuing legal education at the Legal Aid Commission and the Aboriginal Legal Service.

26 On behalf of myself and the Judges of the District Court, I congratulate you all upon your appointment as Senior Counsel. When each of you took your bows, announcing your rank and precedence in the order of Senior Counsel, the short recitation by me that followed, demonstrates how well deserved your appointments are.

1. The tradition of the appointment of silk dates back, as you well know, over 400 years. Although the name and method of appointment may have changed, the leadership role you play in upholding the rule of law has in no way diminished.
2. The District Court of New South Wales also has a rich history which I have drawn upon at these ceremonies over the years.
3. This morning, I will talk about Judge Cecil White who was a Judge of the District Court between 1920 and 1939. Judge White was also Chairman of Quarter Sessions and in 1931 became sole Judge of the Transport Appeal Court in terms of the *Transport Act 1930*.
4. In court, one of Judge White’s outstanding attributes was patience. His Honour also had a quiet sense of humour. It appears however that patience has its limits. I will relate the following story.

“The day was hot, and there was a hint of storm in the air. The Sheriff’s Officer slumbered peacefully in his little cubby-hole; the long row of witnesses yawned listlessly; the boys in the Press box were in the last stages of inertia – in fact all was restful. Counsel had been addressing his Honour [Judge White] for nearly two hours. It was one of those long-drawn-out District Court actions concerning the right of way over private land, and was as dull as ditchwater. Suddenly a tremendous crash of thunder rocked the Court. Counsel shied like a startled brumby and the Sheriff’s Officer nearly died with fright. “Ah”, remarked Judge White with a quiet smile, looking at Counsel’. “That must be a warning of some kind”. Counsel took the hint and closed his address.”[[1]](#footnote-1)

1. I am confident that Senior Counsel, notwithstanding how impressive their closing addresses or submissions, will not require supernatural intervention to know when it is time to finish and sit down.
2. I also extend a very warm welcome to the Clerks of the Floor and any family members who are here this morning. On behalf of all Judges of the District Court, I wish Senior Counsel every success in your leadership roles at the Bar.
3. Please join us for morning tea.
1. H T E Holt, *A Court Rises: The Lives and Times of the Judges of the District Court of New South Wales* (Law Foundation of New South Wales, 1976) 173. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)