



Mark Speakman
Attorney General

MEDIA RELEASE

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THREE NEW MAGISTRATES FOR NSW

Attorney General Mark Speakman today announced the appointments of Christopher Halburd, Theresa Hamilton and Brett Shields as magistrates of the Local Court of NSW.

“The three new magistrates have outstanding credentials and bring a total of more than 90 years of diverse legal experience to the bench,” Mr Speakman said.

Mr Halburd has been an Albury-based solicitor for the majority of his 22-year legal career, appearing in more than 1,000 defended criminal hearings in the Local Court.

He has taught and written about the law and is an experienced mediator. Mr Halburd also worked for a law firm in Brussels, Belgium from 2012 to 2014.

Ms Hamilton served as Deputy Commissioner of the NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption from 2007 to 2016 and presided over many examinations and public inquiries.

Her career also included 17 years in senior roles at the then Queensland Crime and Misconduct Commission, seven years as a defence lawyer for Indigenous clients and three years as a prosecutor for the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions.

Mr Shields has been practising in Sydney- for 31 years with the last 22 as a barrister. He has appeared in the High Court, the Federal Court and most NSW courts. He is a published author of a legal textbook.

He has broad experience in general litigation and commercial matters, including insurance, debt and insolvency, professional liability, employment. Mr Shields has substantial experience in occupational health and safety prosecutions and coronial inquests.

Mr Shields will be sworn in as a magistrate on 28 August, while Ms Hamilton and Mr Halburd will join the Local Court bench on 11 September.

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