



Mark Speakman
Attorney General

MEDIA RELEASE

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LEADER IN JUDICIAL EDUCATION APPOINTED AS A MAGISTRATE

The Judicial Commission of NSW's Director of Research and Sentencing, Hugh Donnelly, has been appointed as a magistrate of the Local Court of NSW, Attorney General Mark Speakman announced today.

"Mr Donnelly is a solicitor who will bring an exceptional depth of knowledge in criminal law to the bench of the Local Court, having been at the forefront of legal research and education in NSW for 22 years," Mr Speakman said.

During his 14 years at the Judicial Commission, Mr Donnelly has written key publications that provide guidance to the judiciary, including the Sentencing Bench Book. For more than a decade, he has convened the Criminal Trial Courts Bench Book Committee and made contributions to the book.

"Bench books play a critical role in the criminal justice system, explaining complex laws and minimising the risk of errors being made during trials and sentencing," Mr Speakman said.

Mr Donnelly has also represented the Judicial Commission on a research committee convened by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. He co-authored a detailed national analysis of sentencing for current and historic child sexual assault offences.

From 1995 to 2003, Mr Donnelly worked at the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (NSW) as a principal research lawyer and a High Court research lawyer. In the latter role, he instructed Crown Prosecutors in special leave applications and appeal matters. He also appeared as a solicitor for the Crown in sentencing and appeal matters before the District Court.

Mr Donnelly holds a Bachelor of Laws from the University of NSW, a Masters of Laws from the University of Sydney and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Melbourne.

He will be sworn in as a magistrate on 16 October 2017.

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