



Mark Speakman
Attorney General

MEDIA RELEASE

FAREWELLS FOR STATE'S LONGEST SERVING MAGISTRATES

Attorney General Mark Speakman has paid tribute to NSW's two longest serving magistrates as they prepare to retire after presiding over a combined total of approximately half a million matters.

Magistrate Peter Miszalski will be 'sworn out' at a ceremony at Fairfield Local Court today while Magistrate Darryl Pearce has chosen a more low-key departure from the bench at the end of the month.

Then Governor Sir Roden Cutler appointed both men Stipendiary Magistrates on the same day in 1980. Magistrate Pearce took his full time appointment to the bench in 1981 and Magistrate Miszalski in 1982.

"Both men served with distinction during a period of significant change within the Local Court. They were on the bench when magistrates gained judicial independence in 1985, and have managed substantial workloads as the Local Court's jurisdiction expanded in the decades that followed."

Mr Speakman said, "Magistrate Miszalski's stellar career sprang from the humblest of beginnings. He was born towards the end of World War II in a German concentration camp, coming to Australia with his parents as displaced persons five years later. He has now sat at courts across NSW, from Deniliquin to the Downing Centre and from Wollongong to Woy Woy after beginning his career as a clerk at Bankstown Court in 1964."

The Local Court will tomorrow farewell Magistrate Daryl Pearce, who has also sat in courts across the state and for the last 20 years has served in a relieving role.

Mr Speakman said, "Magistrate Pearce has shown unstinting commitment to administering the law over 37 years, often by stepping into the breach at short notice to sit at local courts in Western NSW when no one else was available. He will farewell the bench from the Liverpool Local Court, the very court centre at which he commenced duty as a clerk in February 1963."

Both men are expected to take up positions as Acting Magistrates, continuing their distinguished service to the State. This will still leave Magistrate Miszalski sufficient extra time to dedicate to his other judicial career as a judge in orchid shows. Magistrate Pearce is looking forward to spending time with his wife Audette.

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