



**SENATOR THE HON GEORGE BRANDIS QC  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL  
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**APPOINTMENT OF THE HONOURABLE GEOFFREY NETTLE QC  
TO THE HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA**

This morning, his Excellency the Governor-General accepted the advice of the Government to appoint the Honourable Geoffrey Arthur Akeroyd Nettle QC, a member of the Court of Appeal of the Supreme Court of Victoria, as the next Justice of the High Court of Australia. Justice Nettle will replace the Honourable Justice Susan Crennan AC, who leaves the Court on 3 February 2015.

His Honour has enjoyed a brilliant career in the law.

He holds the degrees of Bachelor of Economics from the Australian National University, Bachelor of Laws (with First Class Honours) from the University of Melbourne and Bachelor of Civil Law (with First Class Honours) from Magdalen College, Oxford.

Justice Nettle began his professional career as a solicitor at Mallesons Stephen Jaques in 1977, becoming a partner of that firm in 1981. He was then called to the bar in 1982 and developed a large practice, specialising in commercial law, equity, taxation, constitutional law and administrative law. He took silk, after only ten years, in 1992.

At the time of his appointment to the Supreme Court of Victoria in 2002, Justice Nettle was one of the leading Queen's Counsel at the Victorian bar. He was promoted to the Court of Appeal in 2004, in which jurisdiction he has since served.

Justice Nettle is regarded, by bench and bar alike, as one of Australia's finest jurists. His judgments are marked by analytical clarity and deep legal scholarship. He will be an outstanding addition to the High Court.

On behalf of the Government, I congratulate Justice Nettle on this well-earned appointment. I also take the opportunity to thank Justice Crennan for her many years of judicial service to the Australian people as a member of the Federal Court and, since November 2005, of the High Court, and wish her well in her retirement.

4 December 2014

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## THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE GEOFFREY NETTLE

<b>Current Office</b>	Judge of Appeal, Court of Appeal, Supreme Court of Victoria
<b>Previous Offices</b>	2002-2004 Judge, Trial Division, Supreme Court of Victoria
	1992-2002 Queens Counsel, Victorian Bar
	1982-1992 Barrister, Victorian Bar
	1981-1982 Partner, Mallesons Stephen Jaques
	1977-1981 Solicitor, Mallesons Stephen Jaques
<b>Degrees</b>	Bachelor of Economics, Australian National University
	Bachelor of Laws (First Class Honours), University of Melbourne
	Bachelor of Civil Law (First Class Honours), University of Oxford