



**Mark Speakman**  
Attorney General

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Wednesday, 16 May 2018

### **NEW DEPUTY CHIEF MAGISTRATE FOR LOCAL COURT**

Attorney General Mark Speakman today announced the appointment of Magistrate Michael Allen as Deputy Chief Magistrate of the Local Court of NSW.

Mr Speakman said Magistrate Allen was replacing former Deputy Chief Magistrate Chris O'Brien, who was sworn in as a District Court Judge in early April.

“Magistrate Allen is a highly qualified magistrate and former barrister whose legal career spans more than three decades,” Mr Speakman said.

“He joined the bench in 2009 and is currently presiding at Bathurst Local Court circuit, which includes Lithgow, Blayney, Oberon and Rylstone. Before this, he sat at Penrith, Raymond Terrace and the Sydney Downing Centre.”

Magistrate Allen will be one of two Deputy Chief Magistrates in NSW who support the Chief Magistrate in coordinating rosters for 138 magistrates across NSW. He will also assist with managing sitting arrangements and the judicial education program.

Before joining the judiciary, Magistrate Allen worked as a solicitor for the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Legal Aid Commission, as well as working in private practice.

Between 2002 and 2009 he was a barrister based in country NSW representing clients across a range of jurisdictions including the Local Court, Children’s Court, Family Court, District Court, Supreme Court and Court of Criminal Appeal.

Magistrate Allen will begin his new role on 22 May and will be based at the Sydney Downing Centre – the state’s busiest Local Court.

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