



**SENATOR THE HON GEORGE BRANDIS QC  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**APPOINTMENTS TO THE FEDERAL COURT  
AND THE FEDERAL CIRCUIT COURT**

The Administrator of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Hon Paul de Jersey AC QC, on advice of the Cabinet, has today made a number of judicial appointments to the Federal Court of Australia and Federal Circuit Court of Australia.

Mr Mark Kranz Moshinsky QC will fill the vacancy left in the Melbourne registry of the Federal Court following the appointment of the Hon Justice Michelle Gordon to the High Court of Australia. His appointment will commence on 2 November 2015.

Mr Moshinsky is one of the most respected leaders of the Victorian Bar. He is a former Chairman of the Victorian Bar Council and has enjoyed a stellar academic and professional career. He has appeared in many leading cases across a range of areas including constitutional and administrative law, commercial law, taxation, superannuation, competition law, private international law and human rights.

The following four experienced barristers have been appointed as judges of the Federal Circuit Court:

- Dr Joshua Douglas Wilson QC, commencing in the Melbourne registry on 2 November 2015;
- Mr Timothy James Heffernan, commencing in the Adelaide registry on 23 November 2015;
- Mr Steven Charles Arnold Middleton, commencing in the Newcastle registry on 9 November 2015; and
- Mr Philip Dowdy, commencing in the Sydney registry on 7 December 2015.

These appointees bring to the Bench a wealth of experience across a wide range of expertise and will significantly strengthen the Federal Circuit Court.

Dr Wilson and Messrs Heffernan, Middleton and Dowdy will fill the vacancies left by the resignations and retirements of, Judge Jeffrey Turner, Judge Stuart Lindsay, Judge Giles Coakes and Judge Michael Lloyd-Jones respectively.

On behalf of the Government, I congratulate all five of the new Federal judges and thank them for their willingness to serve the people of Australia.

Biographies for the appointees are attached.

29 October 2015

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## **Federal Court**

### *Mr Mark Kranz Moshinsky QC*

Mr Moshinsky graduated from the University of Melbourne with a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Laws (First Class Honours) in 1988 and the University of Oxford with a Bachelor of Civil Law (First Class Honours) in 1991. He was enrolled as a legal practitioner in the Supreme Court of Victoria in 1992 and signed the Victorian Bar Roll in 1995. Mr Moshinsky was appointed Senior Counsel in 2007 and Queens' Counsel in 2014.

Mr Moshinsky commenced as an article clerk, then solicitor with Arthur Robinson & Hedderwicks (now Allens) in 1989. He was an independent lecturer with the Law School in the University of Melbourne, a reporter for the Commonwealth Law Reports and a Senior Fellow of the Melbourne Law School.

## **Federal Circuit Court**

### *Dr Joshua Douglas Wilson QC*

Dr Wilson completed a course for Articled Clerks at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology in 1982, a Master of Law from the University of Melbourne in 2006 and a Doctor of Philosophy from Deakin University in 2008. He was admitted to practice as a barrister and solicitor in the Supreme Court of Victoria in 1983, and enrolled as a practitioner in the High Court of Australia in that same year. Since then Dr Wilson has been admitted to practice as a barrister and solicitor in the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory (1987), as a barrister in the Supreme Court of Tasmania (1988), as a barrister and solicitor in the Supreme Court of Western Australia (1994), and as a barrister in the Supreme Court of Queensland (1995). Dr Wilson was appointed Senior Counsel in Victoria in 2008 and became Queen's Counsel in Victoria in 2014.

Dr Wilson commenced as a solicitor with Arthur Robinson & Co in 1983 prior to being the Associate to the late Hon Justice Kenneth Henry Marks in the Supreme Court of Victoria. He read with Mr Ross Robson QC, prior to commencing work as a barrister in private practice from 1987. Dr Wilson's primary areas of practice are commercial law, including bankruptcy, building and construction, competition, corporate insolvency, corporations law, real property and securities and investments.

### *Mr Timothy James Heffernan*

Mr Heffernan graduated with a Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Adelaide in 1990 and a Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice in 1991 from the University of South Australia. Mr Heffernan was admitted to practice as a solicitor in the Supreme Court of South Australia in 1990 and enrolled as a practitioner in the High Court of Australia in 1991.

Mr Heffernan commenced his career as a solicitor with Fisher Jeffries in 1990. He served as a solicitor with Ward and Partners (1991 to 1993) and Reilly Basheer Downs & Humphries (1993 to 1996). Mr Heffernan then served as a solicitor and prosecutor with the South Australian Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions until 2010, when he commenced in private practice at the Bar.

*Mr Steven Charles Arnold Middleton*

Mr Middleton graduated with a Diploma of Laws from the Legal Practitioners Admission Board, New South Wales in 1995 and a Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice from the College of Law, New South Wales in 1996. He was admitted to practice as a solicitor in the Supreme Court of New South Wales and High Court of Australia in 1996, and the Supreme Court of Queensland in 1999. In 2007, Mr Middleton was admitted to practice as a Barrister in the Supreme Court of Queensland and High Court of Australia.

Mr Middleton commenced with Sutton and Bryne Solicitors in 1995, specialising in litigation, crime and family law. He was an associate at Fishburn Watson O'Brien (1998 to 1999). He served first as an associate and then as a Senior Associate with Griffiths Parry Lawyers, before he was made partner in 2003 and managing partner in 2004. From 2007, he has been a Barrister in private practice, where his primary areas of practice have been family law, child protection crime, domestic violence and alternative dispute resolution.

Mr Middleton has also been a lecturer and tutor at the University of Sunshine Coast and a mentor for law students at the Queensland University of Technology.

*Mr Philip Dowdy*

Mr Dowdy graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in 1973 and a Bachelor of Laws in 1975 from the University of Sydney. Mr Dowdy was admitted to practice as a barrister and solicitor in the Supreme Court of New South Wales in 1978.

Mr Dowdy was an Articled Clerk for Clayton Utz from 1976 to 1978, prior to being called to the New South Wales bar in 1978. He has practiced at the Bar for over thirty years and his primary areas of practice are banking, equity and commercial law.