



Gabrielle Upton
Attorney General

MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW JUDGES APPOINTED TO SUPREME COURT

Two new judges have been appointed to the Supreme Court, Attorney General Gabrielle Upton today announced.

Crown Advocate Natalie Adams SC and barrister Anthony Payne SC will join the Supreme Court bench, and Mr Payne will also sit as a Judge of Appeal.

“Ms Adams’s and Mr Payne’s well deserved appointments will fill the retirement vacancies of the Honorable Justice Hidden AM and Honorable Justice Emmett,” Ms Upton said.

“Ms Adams brings criminal law expertise to the bench, having served as a Crown Prosecutor for almost a decade, and now as the State’s Crown Advocate.

“Mr Payne’s professional experience in high profile commercial litigation will ensure civil justice continues to be served in the NSW Supreme Court.”

Ms Adams grew up in Narrandera and has practiced mainly in the criminal law field for the past 27 years. She commenced as a solicitor in 1989 and a barrister in 2001. She was appointed as the Crown Advocate in 2011 and took silk in 2012.

Ms Adams appeared in the High Court, Supreme Court and District Court in criminal and other public law matters. As Crown Advocate, she has represented the State of NSW in criminal proceedings of special significance.

Mr Payne appeared in most courts in Australia during his 20 year career as a barrister. He represented and advised high profile commercial clients on high stakes commercial litigation, and government on international commercial law matters.

Mr Payne became a barrister in 1995 and was appointed as Senior Counsel in 2008. He served as Commonwealth Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions and was elected to the NSW Bar Council, and served as Chairman of the Finance Investment and Audit, and Education committees.

Ms Adams’s appointment will take effect on and from 5 April 2016, and Mr Payne’s appointment will take effect on and from 30 March 2016.

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