



Brad Hazzard MP
Attorney General
Minister for Justice



The Hon Robert Clark MP
Attorney-General
Minister for Finance
Minister for Industrial Relations

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 5 September 2014

UNIFORM LEGAL SERVICES COMMISSIONER APPOINTED

New South Wales and Victorian Attorneys General Brad Hazzard and Robert Clark today announced the appointment of former head of the Australian Government Solicitor, Dale Boucher, as the inaugural Commissioner for Uniform Legal Services Regulation.

“The Commissioner will play a key role in reducing the complexity of legal services regulation and protecting the rights of consumers,” Mr Hazzard said.

“Mr Boucher will also be Chief Executive of the Legal Services Council, which will draft the uniform standards to apply to all lawyers in NSW and Victoria.

“As Commissioner, he will also oversee the implementation of a system that will ensure complaints against lawyers are investigated rigorously, fairly and efficiently.

The Legal Profession Uniform Law has been passed by NSW and Victorian Parliaments and the new scheme is due to start early next year. The scheme slashes red tape - from 500 to 200 pages of legal regulations - and standardises consumer rights, complaint processes and new consumer remedies across the two states.

Mr Clark said he was buoyed by the recent interest of other states in adopting uniform legal profession reforms.

“By pioneering uniform legal services, Victoria and NSW will demonstrate the benefits of the reforms and continue to advocate for a truly national scheme,” Mr Clark said.

Mr Clark said the new commissioner had a strong background in leadership roles in the law and professional regulation.

“Mr Boucher has 42 years of experience in the law and has served with distinction in senior leadership roles at the Australian Government Solicitor – culminating in being designated Chief Executive Officer and subsequently being awarded a Public Service Medal in 2000,” Mr Clark said.

“He was also the inaugural Chairman of the Tax Practitioners Board between 2009 and 2013 and understands what it takes to lead a new industry regulatory body.”

Mr Boucher has also held senior roles in the private sector and worked as a consultant and legal adviser for a range of bodies including the Australian Taxation Office, Centrelink and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.

MEDIA CONTACTS:

New South Wales AG: Leonie Lamont 0407 591 926
Victorian AG: James Copsey 0419 984 371

DALE BOUCHER

2013 - 2014: Sole legal practitioner/consultant

2009 – 2013: Inaugural full time Chair of the Tax Practitioners Board

2003 – 2009: Sole legal practitioner/consultant; Deputy Chair, Mortgage and Finance Association of Australia Tribunal; Chair of two public sector audit committees; member of other governance committees/boards

2002 – 2003: General Counsel, Minter Ellison Lawyers, Canberra

1999 – 2002: Partner, Minter Ellison Lawyers

1999: Associate Member, Australian Communications Authority

1997 – 1998: Australian Government Solicitor, CEO designate; awarded Public Service Medal for leadership in 2000

1993 – 1997: Held the personal office of Australian Government Solicitor, Attorney General's Department

1982 – 1998: Various Senior Executive Service (SES) positions within the Attorney General's Department

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1971: Bachelor of Laws (University of Melbourne)

Barrister and Solicitor: Admitted Victoria 1972, Northern Territory 1976, Western Australia 1987, ACT 1989

1995: Graduate Management Qualification (UNSW)

1997: Fellow, Australian Institute of Management

1999: Corporate Director's Diploma

2006: Professional Certificate in Arbitration (Adelaide University)

2007: Member, Australian Institute of Company Directors