



# **Brad Hazzard MP**

## **Attorney General Minister for Justice**

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Friday 10 October 2014

## **BENCH CALLS FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL**

Attorney General Brad Hazzard today announced former Attorney General and long standing barrister John Hatzistergos had been appointed as a judge of the District Court of NSW.

Mr Hazzard said Mr Hatzistergos had played an impressive role in the legal life of NSW for decades and his experience would be invaluable.

“NSW leads the country in the calibre of our legal profession and it is a testament to the strength of our judiciary that the NSW Government is able to recommend such a high calibre and experienced legal luminary as Mr Hatzistergos for appointment,” Mr Hazzard said.

Mr Hatzistergos served as Attorney General and Minister for Justice under the previous state Labor government, as well as holding other ministerial portfolios from 2003-2011.

He implemented major reforms to freedom of information and privacy through new legislation and the establishment of the Information and Privacy Commission.

Other achievements include the establishment of the Australian International Disputes Centre in Sydney and Uniform Domestic Arbitration Laws, Intensive Correction Orders and Forum Sentencing.

He also implemented major reforms to the Childrens Court following the Wood Special Commission of Inquiry.

Prior to entering the NSW Parliament Mr Hatzistergos was a solicitor and barrister in private practice, a senior legal officer with the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions and a District Court Arbitrator.

He is currently an adjunct professor at UTS law school and an examiner with the Australian Crime Commission.

In July Mr Hatzistergos was asked by the NSW Government to assist in the review the Bail Act 2013.

Mr Hazzard noted that the Chief Judge of the District Court, Justice Derek Price, has agreed to allow Mr Hatzistergos to fulfill that obligation.

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