

## Media Release

# Two Local Court magistrates elevated to the District Court of New South Wales

**Thursday 27 February 2025**

Two highly respected Local Court magistrates have today been appointed as judges of the District Court of New South Wales.

Magistrate and Deputy State Coroner Elizabeth Ryan, and Magistrate Imad Abdul-Karim, have a combined 24 years' experience on the Local Court bench.

Magistrate Ryan has worked as a Deputy State Coroner for the NSW Coroner's Court since 2017, presiding over high-profile inquests including the disappearance of Melissa Caddick and death of Roger Rogerson.

Magistrate Ryan was appointed to the Local Court in 2009, presiding at Sydney Downing Centre, Penrith and Parramatta Local Courts. Magistrate Ryan also worked as a Children's Court magistrate between 2014 and 2017.

Prior to joining the bench, Magistrate Ryan was Senior Assistant Director of the Tax and Economic Crime Branch of the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions. Magistrate Ryan has also been a presenter, nationally and internationally, at many anti-money laundering conferences and workshops.

Magistrate Abdul-Karim was appointed to the Local Court in 2017 and worked at Liverpool Local Court as the coordinating magistrate until December 2024. In January 2025 Magistrate Abdul-Karim commenced working at Sutherland Local Court as the coordinating magistrate.

Magistrate Abdul-Karim has presided over complex matters including interpretation of the Native Title Act 1993 and Fisheries Management Act 1994, and intricate fraud matters involving more than 20 defendants. Prior to joining the bench, Magistrate Abdul-Karim was Principal Federal Prosecutor for the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions.

Magistrate Ryan and Magistrate Abdul-Karim will be sworn in on 17 March 2025.

**Attorney General Michael Daley said:**

"I am thrilled to announce the appointments of Magistrates Elizabeth Ryan and Imad Abdul-Karim to the District Court.

"As magistrates they hold almost a quarter-century of combined experience on the bench of Australia's busiest court, and their elevation to the District Court is a well-deserved testament to their skill and dedication. These appointments also send a clear message to all magistrates that their work on the Local Court is valued and that for individuals with skills that suit appointment to the District Court is a definite possibility.

"Magistrate Ryan's appointment comes ahead of International Day of Women Judges on March 10, and boosts the number of female judges on the NSW District Court full-time bench to 36."

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