



Dr Ruth Higgins SC

On her retirement as President of the NSW Bar Association, I wish publicly to acknowledge the outstanding service of Dr Ruth Higgins SC over the past 18 months.

Dr Higgins' tenure overlapped with the swearing-in of Chief Justice Gageler and Justice Beech-Jones to the High Court, the appointment of judges of the NSW Court of Appeal, Supreme and District Courts and, of course, the Bicentenary of the Supreme Court of New South Wales. These were all significant public and institutional occasions. The President's speeches over the past 18 months have been a highlight in terms of their composition, eloquence and execution.

Beyond the public side of the office, many other tasks fall to the President of the Bar Association which require vast commitments of time and energy, including in relation to the Bar's regulatory responsibilities, readers' program, continuing legal education and policy work. Dr Higgins has attended to all of these matters with consummate skill and intelligence, close care and attention, manifesting at all times an extremely strong commitment to institutional integrity and continuity, to the rule of law and the best interests of the Bar and wider legal profession. During her tenure, the Bar Association has moved premises and a new CEO has been appointed following the excellent work of Andreas Heger.

I congratulate Dr Higgins on her term as President and thank her for her outstanding service.

Andrew Bell
Chief Justice of New South Wales

14 May 2025