



**SENATOR THE HON GEORGE BRANDIS QC
ATTORNEY-GENERAL
LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SENATE**

MEDIA RELEASE

APPOINTMENTS TO THE FEDERAL COURTS

Today I announce six judicial appointments to the federal courts bringing to the Bench a wealth of experience across a wide range of practice areas.

Appointments to Federal Court of Australia

- Mr Robert Bromwich SC will commence in the Sydney registry on 29 February 2016, and
- Ms Natalie Charlesworth will commence in the Adelaide registry on 1 March 2016.

Mr Bromwich and Ms Charlesworth fill the vacancies left by the retirements of the Hon Justice Richard Edmonds and the Hon Justice John Mansfield AM.

Appointments to Family Court of Australia

- Ms Catherine Carew QC will commence in the Brisbane registry on 7 March 2015 2016, and
- Mr Richard O'Brien will commence in Perth on 8 March 2016.

Ms Carew and Mr O'Brien fill the vacancies left by the retirements of the Hon Graham Bell and the Hon Justice Jane Crisford.

Mr O'Brien will also commence as a judge of the Family Court of Western Australia on 7 March 2016. It has been established practice since 1987 for judges of the Family Court of Western Australia to hold dual commissions as judges of the Family Court of Australia.

Appointments to Federal Circuit Court of Australia

- Ms Elizabeth Boyle will commence in the Sydney registry on 29 February 2016, and
- Ms Jillian Williams will commence in the Melbourne registry on 29 February 2016.

Ms Boyle and Ms Williams fill the vacancies left by the retirements of Judge Denys Simpson and Judge Daniel O'Dwyer.

On behalf of the Government, I congratulate the six new federal judges and thank them for their willingness to serve the people of Australia.

I also thank the retiring judges for their distinguished service, and wish them well for the future.

Biographies for the appointees are below.

25 February 2016

Federal Court of Australia

Mr Robert Bromwich SC

Mr Bromwich graduated from Macquarie University with a Bachelor of Economics and Bachelor of Laws in 1984 and the University of Sydney with a Masters of Laws in 1993.

Mr Bromwich commenced his legal career as a solicitor with Baker & McKenzie in 1985 prior to commencing in a legal role with the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions, where he held numerous positions including senior legal officer, principal legal officer, branch head, in-house counsel and senior assistant director. He commenced practising as a barrister in 1998 and was appointed Senior Counsel in 2009. Mr Bromwich was appointed Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions in December 2012.

Ms Natalie Charlesworth

Ms Charlesworth graduated from the University of South Australia with a Bachelor of Arts (Journalism) in 1991, the University of Adelaide with a Bachelor of Laws with First Class Honours in 2001 and the Australian National University with a Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice in 2002.

Ms Charlesworth commenced her legal career in 2002 as an associate to the Hon Justice John Mansfield AM of the Federal Court. She has been a solicitor and senior solicitor in the South Australian Crown Solicitor's Office, a solicitor and researcher to the then South Australian Solicitor-General, Mr Christopher Kourakis SC, and a senior associate with Kelly & Co Lawyers prior to signing the Bar roll in 2007 and entering into private practice as a barrister at Victoria Square Chambers.

Family Court of Australia

Ms Catherine Carew QC

Ms Carew graduated with a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Queensland in 1981. She was admitted to practice as a solicitor in Queensland in 1981 and as a solicitor and barrister in Victoria in 1983. She was called to the Bar in Queensland in 1992, and appointed Queen's Counsel in 2013.

Ms Carew has practiced as a family law specialist and contributed to the wider legal profession through her membership of various boards. Ms Carew is currently a member of the Board of the Family Law Practitioners Association of Queensland. She has previously been a board member of the Australian Institute of Family Law Arbitrators and Mediators and an elected member of the Bar Council of the Bar Association of Queensland.

Mr Richard O'Brien

Mr O'Brien graduated with a Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Jurisprudence from the University of Western Australia in 1981. He was admitted to practice as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of Western Australia and the High Court of Australia in 1983.

Mr O'Brien has practised primarily in family law and is currently a partner in O'Sullivan Davies, a boutique family law practice. He also currently chairs the Family Law Section of the Law Council of Australia, and has previously been President of the Family Law Practitioners' Association of WA.

Federal Circuit Court of Australia

Ms Elizabeth Boyle

Ms Boyle graduated with a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws from the University of Sydney in 1988.

Ms Boyle was a volunteer at the Inner City Legal Centre in 1985. Since completing her degrees, she worked as a solicitor with the Legal Aid Commission of New South Wales in their Family Litigation Section from 1990 to 1999 and became the Senior Executive Service Registrar of the Family Court in 1999. In 2001, Ms Boyle commenced practicing as a barrister at the Frederick Jordan Chambers specialising in family law and children's care and protection.

Ms Jillian Williams

Ms Williams graduated with a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws from the University of Melbourne in 1982.

Ms Williams commenced as a solicitor in private practice in 1983 and was a Registrar of the Family Court and Federal Circuit Court from 2005 to 2008.

Ms Williams signed the Victorian Bar Roll in 2008 and has practiced as a barrister since then. Her areas of practice are criminal law, family law and guardianship and alternative dispute resolution.