

BALANCE

LAW SOCIETY NORTHERN TERRITORY

ORDER OF AUSTRALIA FOR JUSTICE SALLY THOMAS

Justice Sally Thomas of the Northern Territory Supreme Court has been made a Member of the Order of Australia in this year's Queens's Birthday honours for service to the community, particularly through the NT Winston Churchill Memorial Fellowship Committee, tertiary education and the law.

The judge told ABC TV that the honour bestowed on her reflects the positive role of the judicial system in the community.

Her Honour's wisdom, experience and commitment to justice has been recognised and greatly appreciated by the Northern Territory legal community over the past two decades.

During that time Justice Thomas has become an inspiration for women in the Northern Territory.

According to Law Society Councillor Ms Elizabeth Morris, Justice Sally Thomas is always willing to use her knowledge and skills to help people in the Territory.

"She never says no — whether it's launching a book, chairing a meeting or being patron of an organisation. She will always do whatever is asked, above and beyond her work obligations. She has a genuine interest in justice for all people."

President of the Women Lawyers Association Ms Melanie Little told *Balance* that Justice Thomas, who is the Association's Patron, has told her that her door is open for the Women Lawyers to come and talk to her.

"We have taken that offer up a number of times and always been welcomed," said Ms Little.

Her Honour was appointed as the first female Stipendiary Magistrate of the Northern Territory in 1978, and appointed as Chief Stipendiary Magistrate in 1986. She was then appointed as the first female Judge of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory on 10 August 1992.

Her Honour has been tireless in her support of a myriad of organisations and projects.

She is patron of the Northern Territory Women Lawyer's Association, patron of the NT Aids Council and patron of the NT Ex-Servicewomen. All three organisations speak of her interest, practical involvement and willingness to participate.

In April 1989 Her Honour was appointed as a member of the University Council of the Northern Territory University and has consistently maintained her support for the University and legal education in general.

Her Honour was appointed as an Honorary Colonel for the Australian Army Cadet Corp in 1993 and as a Council Member of the Australian Institute of Judicial Administration.

Justice Thomas is renowned for her wit and public speaking abilities. Her Honour is frequently called to address functions and attend ceremonies.

Justice Thomas was one of 18 Territorians receiving Queens Birthday honours this year.

The Law Society congratulates Justice Thomas on her award.



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