

# A series of legal appointments in the NT

Over recent months there has been a series of appointments from the Northern Territory legal profession. The Law Society would like to congratulate all of these people and wish them well in their new positions.

## JENNY BLOKLAND NAMED CHIEF MAGISTRATE

Jenny Blokland took up her appointment as Chief Magistrate of the Northern Territory in July.

During her three years Ms Blokland has already spent as a Magistrate, she has regularly presided over bush courts and been involved in initiatives such as the Drug Court and the Community Court.

Attorney-General Dr Peter Toyne said Ms Blokland has an outstanding reputation as a fair and compassionate magistrate.

“Jenny is enthusiastic, committed to new ideas and has demonstrated significant leadership qualities. She will be an excellent Chief Magistrate,” Dr Toyne said.

Ms Blokland has been a member of the Northern Territory legal profession for 25 years, including experience in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, as the Director of Policy at the Department of Justice and at the private bar.

## OLIVER AND BORCHERS WELCOMED TO THE BENCH

In August the Attorney-General, Dr Peter Toyne, announced the appointment of Sue Oliver and Greg Borchers as Stipendiary Magistrates.

Ms Oliver took up her appointment immediately, filling Jenny Blokland’s position on the Bench.

Mr Borchers is expected to be sworn-in in late November and will be based in Alice Springs.

“They bring with them a range and depth of experience that I’m sure will add to the quality of the Territory’s judicial system, therefore continuing to ensure better justice outcomes for all Territorians,” Dr Toyne said.

Ms Oliver has a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Adelaide and a Master of Laws from the College of William and Mary in the US.

She began her professional career as a legal adviser to the Territory Government before moving to the



North Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service. She is a past NT Legal Aid Commissioner and has practised law in the private and public sectors.

Ms Oliver was the first Dean of the faculty of Law, Business and Arts at the (then) Northern Territory University. Her most recent position was as the acting Executive Director for Legal Services and the Director of Legal Policy in the Territory’s Department of Justice.

Ms Oliver is also a member of the NT Legal Aid Commission Review Committee, the Council of Australian Law Deans and the South-East Asian Law Advisory Committee.

Mr Borchers holds a Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Commerce from Melbourne University.

His most recent position was as the principal legal adviser to the Central Land Council. Mr Borchers has also been the principal legal adviser to the Pitjantjatjara Council, spent several years in private practice as a solicitor and barrister in Melbourne, as well as half a dozen years with North Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid.

These appointments bring the total number of Magistrates in the Territory to 13.

## DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE CEO NAMED

Greg Shanahan has been officially named the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Justice after Acting in the position for several months.

“He is an extremely competent, hard-working, professional and dedicated senior officer,” Attorney-General Dr Peter Toyne said.

Mr Shanahan joined the NT Public Sector in 1989 as an industrial officer, and studied law part-time, graduating in 1994 with a degree from the University of Queensland.

He joined the NT Attorney-General’s department in 1995 as an articulated clerk.

In 1998, Mr Shanahan was appointed Registrar-General, and Public Trustee in 1999. He has been Deputy CEO for the Department of Justice since

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2002, as well as Executive Director for Court Support Services.

Mr Shanahan is also a member of Strehlow Research Centre board and sits on the Police Arbitral Tribunal.

### **A TERRITORIAN APPOINTED AS THE FIRST DIRECTOR OF MILITARY PROSECUTIONS**

Darwin-based Barrister, Lyn McDade has been appointed as the first Director of Military Prosecutions (DMP) ahead of an impressive field of candidates.

Lieutenant Colonel McDade will be promoted to the rank of Brigadier and will transfer from the Army Reserve to full-time service. The appointment is for five years.

"This appointment will enhance the rigour, fairness and timeliness of military justice by removing perceptions of command influence. It will also promote confidence among Australian Defence Force personnel regarding the independence and impartiality of the appointee and the functions of the Office," Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence, Bruce Billson, said.

"The statutory appointment of the DMP is a significant change which concentrates the prosecution powers once vested in 33 command-based convening authorities into a single independent authority," Mr Billson said.

The position was created in response to a Senate Report on *'The Effectiveness of Australia's Military Justice System'*.

Ms McDade has been a member of the Territory legal profession for many years and has previously worked as a Police Prosecutor, Barrister, Deputy Coroner and Relieving Magistrate.

### **NEW CHAIRMAN OF DEVELOPMENT CONSENT AUTHORITY**

Peter McQueen has been appointed as the new chairman of the Development Consent Authority. Taking up the two-year contract on the 1 August, Mr McQueen will follow on from previous Chairman John Pinney, who held the position for over four years.

Mr McQueen will chair the seven divisions of the Development Consent Authority in determining development applications.

"After nearly 30 years of legal experience in both Alice Springs and Darwin, Mr McQueen has a thorough knowledge of procedural fairness," Minister for Planning and Lands Dr Chris Burns said.

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If you would like to be added to either of these lists, please contact Christine at the Secretariat on (08) 8981 5104 or via email at [ceopersonalassist@lawsocnt.asn.au](mailto:ceopersonalassist@lawsocnt.asn.au).

#### **PLEASE NOTE:**

The Alice Springs CPD seminar venue  
has moved to:  
Central Australian Division of Primary  
Health Care  
5 Skinner St (next to the Centre for  
Remote Health)

**Date for your diary**  
**Law Society Northern  
Territory**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL  
MEETING**  
**Wednesday 11  
October from 4.30pm  
in Darwin**