



**SUPREME COURT
OF QUEENSLAND**

**Swearing in of Mr David Thomas as a Judge of the Supreme Court
to sit in the Trial Division**

Banco Court

Tuesday, 17 September 2013, 2:15pm

**The Hon Paul de Jersey AC
Chief Justice**

We gather to welcome Justice Thomas as the 115th Judge appointed to the Supreme Court in its 152 year history.

We are naturally pleased, Mr Attorney, that you are with us. Your interest in and support of the courts is greatly appreciated.

We also welcome Ms Donna O'Donaghue representing the Leader of the Opposition, and the Presidents, and other serving and retired Judges and Tribunal members, including Justice Keane of the High Court, the Chief Judge and Judges of the District Court, the Judges of the Federal Court and the Family Court and the Chief Magistrate and his colleagues.

Justice Fryberg who is on leave regrets his inability to be here today, as does Justice Kiefel of the High Court.

We also welcome the Treasurer, The Honourable Tim Nicholls MP, last at the courthouse on the day of the official opening on 3 August 2012. Mr Treasurer, your support is indispensable to the best operation of this branch of government, and it is greatly reassuring we have it. We are honoured by your presence today.

I was privileged earlier in the day to attend at Government House Her Excellency the Governor's investiture of Justice Byrne with his insignia as Officer of the Order of Australia, and we congratulate Justice Byrne on that important recognition.



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The appointment of Justice Thomas anticipates two events.

The first is the retirement next month of our long-serving distinguished colleague Justice Fryberg.

The second is the conclusion of our colleague Justice Alan Wilson's term as President of the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal, QCAT.

Justice Thomas is appointed as QCAT President for the initial three years of his term on this court. After that he will join us here on a full-time basis.

Our new colleague, a graduate in commerce, and law with honours, from the University of Queensland, was admitted to practice as a solicitor in 1979, and enjoys the distinction of having been a partner of a leading Queensland and national firm for as long as 32 years.

His consequent management skills should prove of considerable value at QCAT.

His consequent legal experience and commercial acumen especially, will prove of considerable value at the Supreme Court.

His Honour is only the fourth solicitor to be appointed to the court in its 152 year history.

The others have been Charles Stuart Mein in 1885, Frank Tennison Brennan in 1925, and our currently serving colleague Justice Ann Lyons – appointed in 2006.

His Honour has had extensive community involvement, of which others will no doubt speak, including, with recent topicality, the Presidency of the RNA. Incidentally, Mr Justice Mein served as President of the National Agricultural Association of Queensland, which was the incipient RNA of that era.



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We warmly welcome Justice Thomas to the Supreme Court, and his wife Mrs Jane Thomas to the Supreme Court community.