



Mark Speakman
Attorney General
Minister for the Prevention
of Domestic Violence



The Hon. Jill Hennessy
Attorney-General
Minister for the Coordination of
Justice and Community Safety: COVID-19

MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW TEAM TO LEAD LEGAL SERVICES COUNCIL

A new team of high-profile lawyers, including the current head of the NSW Law Reform Commission, has been chosen to lead the body that regulates lawyers in both NSW and Victoria.

NSW Attorney General Mark Speakman and Victorian Attorney-General Jill Hennessy today welcomed the new appointees to the Legal Services Council including new Chairperson Alan Cameron AO.

Mr Speakman thanked the inaugural members including outgoing Chairman, the Hon Michael Black AC QC, who have come to the end of their term.

“The Council has worked hard to build the foundations for a truly national legal system since lawyers in both states started operating from the same rule book in 2015. The work of the Council has benefitted consumers by requiring high standards in the profession including professional conduct and legal costs,” Mr Speakman said.

Ms Hennessy said the new appointees would build on those achievements, continuing to monitor the operation of the Legal Profession Uniform Law.

“The Legal Services Council does a crucial job in regulating the legal industry while increasing protections for consumers. This approach creates a single system to oversee legal practice, cutting red tape for lawyers and therefore benefiting those who rely on lawyers to safeguard their interests,” Ms Hennessy said.

Mr Cameron said his appointment to the role of Chair of the LSC is a great honour.

“Maintaining public confidence in the legal profession lies at the heart of the LSC’s role. I look forward to working with the profession to maintain its high standards and to enhance its reputation in the community,” Mr Cameron said.

The other new appointees are Murray Baird, Elizabeth Harris, Noel Hutley SC and Juliana Warner. All began their terms on 26 October.

The government of Western Australia has introduced legislation in its Parliament to give effect to an intergovernmental agreement it has signed to join the scheme. Western Australia’s representation on the council will be progressed once it formally joins the scheme.

EDITORS NOTE: Brief biographical appointee details attached

Appointees:

Alan Cameron AO

Mr Cameron is the current Chairperson of the NSW Law Reform Commission. He has held a range of senior roles in both the private and public sectors, including: Chairman of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission from 1993 to 2000; Commonwealth and Defence Force Ombudsman; Principal Solicitor of the NSW Aboriginal Legal Service in the mid-1970s; and the first national managing partner of Blake Dawson Waldron (now known as Ashurst Australia) from 1989 to 1991. He was chair of the Tristan Jepson Memorial Foundation, now known as Minds Count, which addresses mental health issues in the legal profession. He has been a company director and involved in regulatory projects, law reform and governance reviews in Australia and overseas. Mr Cameron is currently a non-executive director of the Property Exchange Australia Limited group and .au Domain Administration Ltd.

Murray Baird

Mr Baird was the inaugural Assistant Commissioner General Counsel at the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) from its inception in 2012 until 2019. Prior to that he was Senior Partner and Chair of Melbourne law firm Moores. He now practises in the law, governance and regulation of not for profit organisations.

Elizabeth Harris

Ms Harris is an expert on legal cost and litigation management issues, including in shareholder class actions, and complex commercial litigation. She is co-author of "Quick on Costs" and has specialised in lawyer/client disputes and the application of the Legal Profession Uniform Law. Ms Harris has been a member of the Victorian Legal Service Board since 2018.

Noel Hutley SC

Mr Hutley SC is a practising barrister, specialising in commercial law. He served as President of the New South Wales Bar Association (2015-2017) and President of the Australian Bar Association (2017-2018). He was admitted as a Barrister in 1981, Senior Counsel NSW 1996, and Queen's Counsel WA in 1997.

Juliana Warner

Ms Warner is the managing partner in the Sydney office of Herbert Smith Freehills, a Director of the Law Council of Australia and Senior Vice President of the Law Society of NSW. Ms Warner specialises in litigation, alternative dispute resolution, anti-money laundering, regulatory processes and frameworks as well as complex commercial contracts.