



Hon Greg Smith SC MP

Attorney General
Minister for Justice

MEDIA RELEASE

13 May 2011

TOM BATHURST QC TO BE CHIEF JUSTICE

Attorney-General Greg Smith SC today said he would be recommending to Her Excellency, Governor Marie Bashir, the appointment of Tom Bathurst QC as the next Chief Justice of NSW.

Mr Bathurst will replace the Honourable James Spigelman AC QC and become the State's 17th Chief Justice.

Mr Smith said Mr Bathurst had been a Queen's Counsel since 1987 and had a nationwide practice which included extensive work in the High Court, the Federal Court and state appeal courts.

He has also appeared in Hong Kong and given expert evidence in New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

"Mr Bathurst is an outstanding lawyer, who is renowned for his expertise in commercial law," Mr Smith said.

"I am confident he will serve the State with distinction," Mr Smith said.

Mr Bathurst, 63, is a former president of the Australian Bar Association and the current president of the NSW Bar Association.

The Attorney-General thanked Chief Justice Spigelman, who leaves office on May 31, for his remarkable contribution over the past 13 years.

A short biography of Mr Bathurst is attached.

Media Contact: Michael Pelly 0467 737 920

Name: Tom Bathurst QC

Date of birth: 17 March 1948

Qualifications:

Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Laws, University of Sydney: 1971

Admitted as solicitor in NSW: 1972

Admitted as barrister in NSW: 1977

Appointed Queens Counsel: 1987

Offices:

President Australian Bar Association: 2008-2009

President NSW Bar Association, 2010- 2011

Member Commonwealth Takeovers Panel 2008-2011

Family: Wife Robyn and two daughters.

Interests: Rugby, tennis opera, and travel.