



Hon Greg Smith SC MP

Attorney General
Minister for Justice

MEDIA RELEASE

5 April 2012

NEW JUDGE WELCOMED TO THE DISTRICT COURT

The NSW Attorney General, Greg Smith SC, today announced the appointment of Philip Taylor SC as a judge of the District Court of NSW.

“Mr Taylor is an experienced senior counsel who has appeared in a wide range of legal proceedings at trial and on appeal in superior courts in Australia, and has assisted in significant inquiries in NSW and the ACT,” Mr Smith said.

His legal career includes 24 years as a barrister and nine years as a Senior Counsel, after earlier working with the Constitutional Commission and with the NSW Solicitor-General.

Mr Taylor has practised principally in commercial litigation, but has appeared in a broad range of matters of public interest. He was counsel for former politician Franca Arena in the NSW Legislative Council Inquiry into her conduct and appeared for the president of the Legislative Council in proceedings against a former treasurer.

Mr Taylor has appeared in various constitutional proceedings, including for the Commonwealth against the Tent Embassy and for irrigation farmers against the Commonwealth. He has appeared in environmental litigation, including for an Islamic college against Bankstown Airport. He also represented orphans in a class action in proceedings against the Christian Brothers of Western Australia.

He also acted as Counsel Assisting the Inquiry commissioned by the ACT Legislative Assembly concerning an arrangement between the ACT TAB and a Vanuatu betting company.

Mr Taylor holds a Bachelor of Laws (with honours) and Bachelor of Arts from the Australian National University where he was awarded the University Medal in Law in 1984.

Mr Taylor was born and raised in country NSW, in the Riverina town of Finley. He and his wife Lee have four children and five grandchildren.

Mr Taylor will be sworn in as a District Court judge on 18 April 2012.