



Hon Greg Smith SC MP

Attorney General
Minister for Justice

MEDIA RELEASE

10 May 2012

LEADING CRIMINAL LAWYER APPOINTED JUDGE

The Attorney General, Greg Smith SC, today announced the appointment of a Deputy Senior Public Defender, Richard Button SC, as a judge of the Supreme Court of NSW.

“Mr Button is a leading practitioner of criminal law in NSW who has appeared in many significant jury trials, sentencing hearings and appeals against convictions and sentences,” Mr Smith said.

Mr Button was admitted as a solicitor in 1984 and was called to the Bar in 1989. After two years in private practice, Mr Button was appointed a Public Defender and has retained that appointment until now.

From 1996 until 1998, he was seconded as Director of the Criminal Law Review Division of the NSW Attorney General’s Department, where he was involved in state and federal law reform.

Mr Button was appointed Senior Counsel in 2005 and was appointed one of two Deputy Senior Public Defenders in 2010.

This came after he led a defence team in the Supreme Court terrorism trial at Parramatta in 2008 and 2009.

During his 28-year legal career, Mr Button has sat on many law committees, including the Bar Association Criminal Law Committee. He represented the Senior Public Defender on the NSW Government’s DNA Review Panel.

Mr Button will be sworn in as a judge of the Supreme Court on 12 June 2012.