



Greg Smith SC MP

Attorney General
Minister for Justice

MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW PRESIDENT OF THE NSW COURT OF APPEAL

Attorney General Greg Smith SC today announced the appointment of Justice Margaret Beazley AO as President of the NSW Court of Appeal.

“Justice Beazley is an exceptional jurist and a worthy successor to Justice James Allsop who is leaving the Court of Appeal to serve as Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Australia,” Mr Smith said.

Justice Beazley will become the first female President of the NSW Court of Appeal, 16 years after she was appointed the court’s first female judge.

During a distinguished career, Justice Beazley has also served on the benches of the Federal Court of Australia, the Industrial Relations Court of Australia, the District Court of NSW and the ACT Supreme Court. She has also served as Assistant Commissioner of the Independent Commission Against Corruption.

Justice Beazley graduated from the University of Sydney with a Bachelor of Laws with honours in 1974. She commenced practice as a barrister in 1975 and was appointed Queens Counsel in 1989.

In the 2006 Queen’s Birthday Honours List, Justice Beazley was designated an Officer of the Order of Australia for “service to the judiciary and the law, particularly through contributions to professional and ethical standards, to the advancement of women in the legal profession and the community”. In 2008, she received an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws at the University of Sydney.

Justice Beazley is Chairperson of the NSW Chapter of the Australian Institute of Administrative Law, President of the Arts Law Centre of Australia and is patron of the Toongabbie Legal Centre.

Justice Beazley will be sworn in as President of the Court of Appeal on March 1, 2013.

Premier Barry O’Farrell congratulated Justice Beazley on her appointment: “Justice Beazley has led a distinguished career and this appointment will be well-received by all those who know her or know of her work.”

“While this is first and foremost a merit appointment, it’s also fitting that as someone who has been a fierce advocate for women in the legal profession and the community generally, she should be appointed as the first female to become the President of the Court of Criminal Appeal.”

Mr Smith said: "I congratulate Justice Beazley on her elevation to one of the highest positions in the NSW justice system and wish her every success in the next stage of her remarkable career."