



Greg Smith SC MP

Attorney General
Minister for Justice

MEDIA RELEASE

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COMMONWEALTH DPP TO BECOME DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

The Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions, Chris Craigie SC, will be appointed a judge of the District Court of NSW after his five-year term as the nation's top prosecutor ends at midnight.

The NSW Attorney General, Greg Smith SC, today congratulated Mr Craigie on his appointment and paid tribute to his achievements as Commonwealth DPP.

"During Mr Craigie's tenure, the office of the Commonwealth DPP has achieved successful prosecutions in some of the most challenging and complex cases brought before the nation's courts," Mr Smith said.

"These include terrorism trials in NSW and Victoria and the trial of former NSW Crime Commission assistant director Mark Standen for a drug importation conspiracy. "

Mr Craigie will bring 36 years of legal experience to the bench of the District Court. He has specialised in criminal law, regularly appearing as trial and appellate counsel.

In the early stages of his career, Mr Craigie worked in the criminal indictable section of the NSW Public Solicitor's Office (the predecessor to the Legal Aid Commission). He was called to the Bar in 1980 and maintained a successful criminal practice until he became a Public Defender in 1994.

In 2001, Mr Craigie was appointed a Senior Counsel and in the same year was elevated to the position of Deputy Senior Public Defender for NSW. He was Acting Senior Public Defender when selected as Commonwealth DPP in 2007.

Mr Craigie is a member of every state and territory Bar. He has also been a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law, a member of the Council of the Australasian Institute of Judicial Administration and is a member of the University of New South Wales Law School's Dean's Advisory Council.

Mr Craigie will be sworn in as a District Court judge on 15 October 2012.

