



Hon Greg Smith SC MP

Attorney General
Minister for Justice

MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW PRESIDENT FOR THE CHILDREN'S COURT OF NSW

The NSW Attorney General, Greg Smith SC, today announced the appointment of District Court Judge Peter Johnstone as President of the Children's Court of NSW.

"Aside from being a well respected member of the judiciary, Judge Johnstone has occupied a number of important legal management positions," Mr Smith said.

"His experience as a leader will prove valuable in his new role as the head of the Children's Court," Mr Smith said.

Judge Johnstone has served on the bench of the District Court since 2006. He has also served as a Deputy Chair of the Medical Tribunal since 2008 and as a part-time Commissioner of the NSW Law Reform Commission since 2010.

"As a judge, he has sat in the criminal and civil jurisdictions of the District Court, in the Medical Tribunal and has presided over a significant number of child care appeals from the Children's Court," Mr Smith said.

Prior to taking public office, Judge Johnstone worked as a solicitor for 33 years. He held a number of senior positions at Blake Dawson Waldron including National Chief Operating Partner and Managing Partner of the law firm's Sydney and Melbourne offices.

Judge Johnstone will begin a five year appointment as President of the Children's Court on 1 June 2012. He replaces Judge Mark Marien, who will return to the District Court.

"I congratulate Judge Johnstone on his appointment and thank Judge Marien for his significant contribution as the state's first president of the Children's Court," Mr Smith said.