



Greg Smith SC MP

Attorney General
Minister for Justice

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW JUSTICE IN KEY APPOINTMENTS

Attorney General Greg Smith SC today congratulated two senior judges on their new appointments to federal courts.

The current Chief Justice of the Federal Court Patrick Keane has been appointed as a new Justice of the High Court, while James Allsop, the current President of the NSW Court of Appeal will replace Justice Keane to head the Federal Court.

“Justice Allsop is a leading jurist with a great intellect, and his appointment to the position of the Chief Justice of the Federal Court is well deserved,” Mr Smith said.

“He has been a tribute to the state and I welcome his elevation to become the fourth Chief Justice of the Federal Court.”

With this appointment Justice Allsop returns to the Federal Court where he was a judge from 2001 to 2008, before he was appointed to the NSW Court of Appeal.

“His appointment to the NSW Court of Appeal in 2008 had been heralded by many and he was a great success in this position. We regret losing his great legal ability and leadership from the NSW court.”

“I also congratulate Chief Justice Keane – a former judge of the Queensland Court of Appeal - on his elevation to the High Court. He is a lawyer of distinction.”

“Chief Justice Keane replaces Justice Dyson Heydon on the bench of the High Court. Justice Heydon has made a brilliant contribution to the court and I wish him well in his retirement.”

Both new appointments are expected to take effect in March and the Government will name the new President of the Court of Appeal in due course.