



Gabrielle Upton
Attorney General

MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT COURT

Respected barrister Gregory Farmer SC has been appointed as a judge of the District Court of NSW, Attorney General Gabrielle Upton today announced.

Ms Upton said Mr Farmer will replace Judge Colin Charteris who is retiring on 3 September after 12 years on the Bench.

"Mr Farmer is an accomplished legal practitioner with a career spanning more than three decades including 25 years as a barrister and four years as Senior Counsel," Ms Upton said.

Since being called to the Bar in 1990, Mr Farmer has appeared in all NSW courts,, including in criminal and civil jury trials, sentences, conviction and severity appeals, and a wide range of civil proceedings. He has also appeared at inquests, commissions of inquiry, statutory tribunals and occupational health and safety prosecutions.

Mr Farmer began his career as a clerk with the Magistrates' Courts Administration before commencing with the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions where he spent six years as a solicitor and in-house counsel.

Since then, Mr Farmer has had conduct of prosecutions on behalf of the Commonwealth, NSW and ACT Directors' of Public Prosecutions. He has also appeared on behalf of many accused.

"Mr Farmer had carriage of a diverse criminal and civil practice of matters involving murder, sexual assault, large scale drug offences, taxation, dust diseases, medical negligence claims and health practitioner disciplinary proceedings," Ms Upton said.

"In addition to this, he was involved in the prosecution and defence of police officers and public officials, including recent prosecutions of Customs' officers involved in importing drugs."

Ms Upton thanked Judge Charteris for his exceptional contribution to the NSW justice system.

"Judge Charteris has had a distinguished 42-year legal career and I wish him well in retirement," Ms Upton said.

Since joining the bench in 2003, Judge Charteris has presided over criminal and civil trials in Sydney as well as 26 regional District Courts throughout NSW including at

locations such as Moree, Broken Hill, Coffs Harbour, Wagga Wagga and Nowra.

Judge Charteris was appointed Senior Counsel in 2001 and as a barrister he appeared for both the prosecution and the accused in many significant criminal trials across all NSW court jurisdictions. Judge Charteris will continue as an Acting Judge of the District Court.