



MEDIA RELEASE

**Hon. John Hatzistergos MLC
Attorney General
Minister for Industrial Relations**

Friday November 6, 2009

PETER COLLINS APPOINTED AS NEW CHAIR OF LEGAL AID

NSW Attorney General John Hatzistergos today announced the appointment of former Liberal Attorney General Hon. Peter Collins AM QC as the Chair of the Board of Legal Aid NSW.

“Peter Collins brings a wealth of experience in government and the legal profession coupled with his strong interest in social justice issues to this role,” Mr Hatzistergos said.

“I am very pleased that he was willing to accept this esteemed appointment.”

Mr Collins is a former Attorney General of NSW and Leader of the Opposition and has extensive experience as the Chair of a number of other government boards, including those of the Cancer Institute of New South Wales and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

On accepting the appointment at the 30th Anniversary Dinner of Legal Aid NSW last night, Mr Collins said he looks forward to confronting the complex and important social justice challenges that come with the appointment.

“I am committed ensuring access to justice for ordinary people are preserved as a fundamental right in society today,” Mr Collins said.

“I believe Legal Aid NSW is the leading institution on social justice issues which has been well served by its current board and staff, and I am looking forward to making a personal contribution going forward.”

Mr Hatzistergos praised the dedication and commitment of the current board members of Legal Aid.

“I would especially like thank the outgoing Chair Phillip Taylor who has chaired the Board for much of the past decade devoting countless hours to the role,” he said.

Also in attendance at the 30th anniversary celebrations were former NSW Attorney General John Dowd, and current and former Legal Aid staff including the Hon. Barbara Perry MP and Barry Collier MP, NSW Chief, Chief Magistrate Graeme Henson, and President of the Children’s Court Mark Marion.