



# MEDIA RELEASE

Hon. John Hatzistergos MLC  
General  
Minister for Citizenship  
Minister for Regulatory Reform

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Wednesday March 10, 2010

## **SOLICITOR APPOINTED AS A JUDGE ON THE NSW SUPREME COURT**

NSW Attorney General John Hatzistergos today announced the appointment of distinguished solicitor Michael Ball to the bench of the Supreme Court of NSW.

Mr Ball is the second solicitor that Mr Hatzistergos has appointed directly to the NSW Supreme Court.

“I welcome the appointment of Mr Ball, a highly skilled litigation lawyer, with more than three decades of experience in the legal profession,” Mr Hatzistergos said.

“It is indeed a rare honour for a solicitor to be directly appointed to the bench of the Supreme Court, and this is no small part a reflection of the significant skill and acuity with which Mr Ball practices law.”

In August 2008, the Attorney General recommended the appointment of the first female solicitor directly to the bench of the NSW Supreme Court, Justice Julie Ward.

Mr Ball has been a partner at law firm Allens Arthur Robinson (previously known as Allen Allen & Hemsley) since 1987. He has given advice on mediation and litigation in professional negligence, contract law, trade practices disputes and corporations law.

“In recent years, Mr Ball has focused on large and complex litigation, including the lengthy C7 case in the Federal Court,” Mr Hatzistergos said.

The 54-year-old is a member of the Law Society of NSW Costs Working Group, which examines issues relating to the fees solicitors charge clients.

Mr Ball has also worked for the Australian Law Reform Commission and co-authored publications on insurance law, including the Insurance Legislation Manual, Principles of Insurance Law in Australia and New Zealand, and the insurance sections of Halsbury’s Laws of Australia.

In 1978, he was the recipient of the Butterworth Book Prize for law, the same year he graduated from the University of Adelaide.

Mr Ball will be sworn in as a Supreme Court judge on April 13.