



MEDIA RELEASE

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

Wednesday July 7, 2010

NEW DEPUTY CHIEF MAGISTRATE FOR NSW

Magistrate Jane Culver has been appointed a Deputy Chief Magistrate of the Local Court of NSW, Attorney General John Hatzistergos announced today.

“For the past six years, Magistrate Culver has served with distinction on the bench of the Local Court and I am sure she will continue to do so as she replaces Paul Cloran who has retired as Deputy Chief Magistrate,” Mr Hatzistergos said.

Since being admitted as a solicitor in 1989, Magistrate Culver has worked as a lawyer for Mallesons Stephen Jaques and served as a Senior Lawyer at the NSW Crime Commission.

Magistrate Culver was admitted as a barrister in 2002 and spent two years as a Crown Prosecutor before being sworn in as a Magistrate in 2004. She was subsequently appointed a Children’s Court magistrate and as a member of the Children’s Court Advisory Committee.

Mr Hatzistergos today also announced the appointment of Jennifer Atkinson as a Magistrate of the Local Court of NSW.

Ms Atkinson was the instructing solicitor to counsel assisting the judicial inquiry into the conviction of Phuong Ngo.

Ms Atkinson also managed the project that resulted in the enactment of the Civil Procedure Act 2005 and the adoption of uniform civil procedure rules across most NSW courts, including the Local Court, Supreme Court, District Court, Land and Environment Court and the Industrial Relations Commission.

“The introduction of uniform civil procedure rules has made it easier and more cost effective for litigants to come to court and has increased the efficiency of the justice system,” Mr Hatzistergos said.

During her 20-year career, Ms Atkinson has also practiced law in Queensland and is currently the Manager of Court Services and Prothonotary at the Supreme Court of NSW.

Magistrate Culver will be sworn in as a Deputy Chief Magistrate on July 12, while Ms Atkinson will be sworn in as a Magistrate on July 19.