Bench Welcomes Two New Magistrates

The Attorney-General Peter Toyne today announced the appointment of two new Stipendiary Magistrates.

Sue Oliver will be based in Darwin and is expected to be sworn in within the next week. Greg Borchers will begin presiding over the lower court in Alice Springs from late November.

Dr Toyne said Ms Oliver will fill the position left vacant by the promotion of Jenny Blokland to Chief Magistrate. Mr Borchers’ appointment will meet the future resource requirements of the court.

“Both appointees have a strong attachment to the Territory and an appreciation of the unique and challenging environment of the legal issues in the region,” he said.

“They bring with them a range and depth of experience that I’m sure will add to the quality of the Territory’s judicial system, therefore continuing to ensure better justice outcomes for all Territorians.”

Ms Oliver has a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Adelaide and a Master of Laws from the College of William and Mary in the US.

She began her professional career as a legal adviser to the Territory Government before moving to the North Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service. She is a past NT Legal Aid Commissioner and has practised law in the private and public sectors.

Ms Oliver was the first Dean of the faculty of Law, Business and Arts at what was then the Northern Territory University. Her most recent position was as the acting Executive Director for Legal Services and the Director of Legal Policy in the Territory’s Department of Justice.

The organisations to which Ms Oliver is a member include the NT Legal Aid Commission Review Committee, the Council of Australian Law Deans and the South-East Asian Law Advisory Committee.

Mr Borcher holds a Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Commerce from Melbourne University.

His most recent position was as the principal legal adviser to the Central Land Council. Mr Borcher has also been the principal legal adviser to the Pitjantjatjara Council, spent several years in private practice as a solicitor and barrister in Melbourne, as well as half a dozen years with North Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid.

Ms Oliver and Mr Borcher’s appointments bring the number of Stipendiary Magistrates in the Territory to 13.

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