Therese Austin named new Local Court Judge

15 June 2018

Therese Austin has been named as an incoming judge to the NT Local Court, replacing Judge Sue Oliver who will be retiring in coming weeks.

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice Natasha Fyles said it was exciting to be able to appoint a born and bred Territorian to the role.

“Therese Austin is a well-respected and highly experienced legal professional,” Ms Fyles said.

“I look forward to the contribution she will make to the Northern Territory justice system from her new position.”

After studying at Northern Territory University, Ms Austin was admitted as a legal practitioner in the Supreme Court of the NT in 1994 and went on to work with the Director of Public Prosecutions for the next 14 years.

In 2007 she took up a role as in-house lawyer with the Australian Federal Police in Canberra and in 2010 went on to become Senior State Prosecutor in Western Australia.

She was short-listed as a candidate to become a Local Court Judge by an advisory panel, which noted that she had an appreciation of the needs of those navigating the justice system who were disadvantaged, traumatised, mentally ill or who had substance abuse issues.

Judge Oliver who became a magistrate in 2006 will be retiring from the bench on June 15. She will be continuing her role as chair of the Crimes Victims Advisory Committee until her current term expires.

Judge Oliver, who has primarily handled youth justice matters for the past eight years, will be joining the board of Territory Families.

“Probably the most valuable thing you can do is turn children’s lives around, not just for the child, but for the community,” Judge Oliver said.

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