

## APPOINTMENTS

### His Honour Judge Warwick Hunt

Judge Warwick Hunt was sworn in as a judge of the District Court of New South Wales on 8 August 2016. Arthur Moses SC spoke on behalf of the bar.

His Honour graduated from the University of Sydney with a Bachelor of Laws in 1980 and was admitted as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of New South Wales in 1982. His Honour is the first in his family to practise law, although his grandfather, a dairy farmer in northern NSW, was involved in the law as a JP. His Honour practised as a solicitor for 13 years, including working, at the New South Wales Legal Aid Commission as both a duty solicitor as well the solicitor in charge of the Prisoners' Legal Service.

His Honour left Legal Aid and trained as a massage therapist. Later, between 1989 and 1995, his Honour practised as a sole practitioner and accredited criminal law specialist. In that year his Honour was appointed as a member of the Consumer Claims Tribunal, the Residential Tenancies Tribunal and the Residential Building Disputes Tribunal.

In 2000 his Honour was appointed as a magistrate of the Local Court, serving for five years in the most difficult Local Courts of Burwood, Liverpool, Wollongong and Campbelltown. Importantly, his Honour later came to serve as the children's magistrate in Campbelltown and Illawarra where in that capacity his Honour was held in high regard by the profession.

His Honour also served as a coroner, and was well known in that role for his ability to manage multi-party inquests and to manage interpersonal dynamics arising from such complex cases.

His Honour was called to bar in 2007. His Honour read with now Justice Anthony Payne and Hament Dhanji, now of senior counsel. Mr Moses SC noted that when contacted in connection with his speech, Dhanji confessed that his Honour was really much more useful to him than he was to his Honour.

His Honour took a room in Forbes Chambers and remained there for nine years until his most recent appointment to the court. His Honour practised principally in criminal law but also appeared in commissions of inquiry and coronial inquests, as well as a significant amount of work in child protection and adoption law. His Honour was one of three counsel assisting the Special Commission of Inquiry into Police Investigations of Child Sexual Abuse in the Catholic Diocese of Maitland and Newcastle.

His Honour appeared in many trials, as well as appeals before the Court of Criminal Appeal.



Mr Moses also noted that his Honour had contributed significantly to life at the bar through work on many committees, and most memorably, delivering his Honour's speech, as Mr Junior, at the 2015 Bench and Bar Dinner while impersonating Dame Edna.

Mr Moses noted that his Honour comes to the court with a deserved reputation as learned and highly respected advocate.

His Honour stated that he was very honoured to be appointed as a judge of the court and particularly to be replacing retired Judge Brian Knox, who himself replaced the late great Judge Bob Bellar, a proud Noonuccal, Jarowair and Ni Vanuatu man, and the first Aboriginal judge appointed in Australia. His Honour also noted another important lineage of which he was part, namely, practitioners called to serve in judicial office having learned the ropes of the criminal justice system on the ropes at the Legal Aid Commission, the Public Defender's Office or in community legal centres, each of which is enormously relevant grounding for his Honour's new role.

His Honour will sit predominantly in the court's criminal jurisdiction, which deals with the majority of serious criminal offences in NSW.