

### The Hon Justice Stephen Burley

Stephen Burley SC was sworn in as a judge of the Federal Court of Australia on 23 May 2016. Chrissa Loukas SC spoke on behalf of the New South Wales Bar.

The Hon Justice Stephen Burley grew up primarily in Turramurra on Sydney's upper North Shore with a time in Boston where his late father, a research scientist with CSIRO, took his wife Nan and the young family while he was working at Harvard. His lifelong passion for music began within the family and developed at Turramurra High, renowned for its music programme and concert band, where he learned to play the euphonium under the gifted bandmaster Peter Walmsley OAM. During university he played in the acclaimed Willoughby concert band.

Justice Burley read arts and law at Sydney University where he met his wife Annabelle, a pharmacy student, and joined Hunt & Hunt as a solicitor. He and Annabelle enjoyed several years of study and work in London between 1988 and 1992, with his Honour first gaining the LLM from London School of Economics then working as a solicitor with Farrer & Co, where he began a specialty in intellectual property which grew to be his primary area of practice on his return to Australia.

In 1993 his Honour returned to the bar in Sydney where he read with Steven Rares and David Yates, and began a continuous professional association with 5 Wentworth Chambers, first as a reader then as a member, being mentored by Dr Annabelle Bennett. His Honour succeeds Dr Annabelle Bennett on the court and will have Hon Justice Rares and Hon Justice Yates as fellow members of the court.

His Honour took silk in 2007. Under his skilled and personable mentoring of readers and junior barristers, 5 Wentworth developed a reputation as a centre for excellence in IP. His Honour's congenial collegiality contributed in large measure to the camaraderie of chambers.

His Honour's acute mind, capacity for thorough preparation, calm leadership, urbane professional demeanour and formidable advocacy earned him a place as one of the leading IP practitioners in Australia with whom other practitioners enjoyed working and felt appreciated as part of a team. He has appeared as leader in many of the foremost Australian IP and IT cases, some of which pioneered aspects of patent, copyright and trade mark law. He was lead Australian counsel for Apple in its litigation saga with Samsung between 2011 and 2014.



As both the Commonwealth attorney-general and the Law Council president noted among many encomiums, his Honour has made a distinguished contribution to the work of the Law Council in IP. His Honour also has served as a board member of Asthma Foundation New South Wales and Queensland.

Despite a very busy practice Justice Burley has enjoyed a close and active family life, in which he has encouraged, among other skills and interests, a love of travel and music in his children. Travel included a sabbatical extended camping holiday in 2004, introducing his then young children to the north and northwest of Australia. He is also a devotee of fly fishing and skiing and an excellent tennis player, competing in and on occasions winning in the annual bar competition.

His Honour attributed to music the formative influence of 'the joy of working in an ensemble with people who regard excellence as being the only standard to seek'. With characteristic humility he expressed his desire to try to emulate the example of his illustrious history of forebears on the court.