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NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT MEDIA RELEASE

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DR PETER TOYNE MLA

Attorney-General

NEW CHIEF JUSTICE ANNOUNCED

The Territory's new Chief Justice was announced today by Attorney-General, Dr Peter Toyne.

Justice Brian Ross Martin, a judge of the Supreme Court of South Australia since 1999, will replace retiring Chief Justice of the Territory's Supreme Court Justice Brian Martin AO MBE.

Justice Brian Martin has most recently been noted for his handling of South Australia's most complex trial – the Snowtown murders.

“Justice Brian Martin has an outstanding reputation both a barrister and for his leadership skills.

“He has held a number of senior positions in various areas of the law including Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions, and most recently a Justice of the South Australian Supreme Court.

“His breadth of experience and calibre will be a welcome addition to the Territory's bench.”

Justice Brian Martin was Senior Counsel Assisting the Western Australian Royal Commission (WA Inc) between 1991 and 1992 where his effective cross-examination of witnesses had a major impact on the proceedings.

He was appointed Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions in 1997 and served in that position until his appointment to the bench in 1999.

He also chaired the national Standing Council of Attorneys-General (SCAG) Working Committee on reforming criminal trial processes, which in 2000 produced a blueprint for achieving greater efficiencies within the criminal justice system.

Justice Brian Martin will be sworn in as the Northern Territory Chief Justice in January next year.

In the meantime Justice Angel will act as Chief Justice following the retirement of Chief Justice Brian Martin AO MBE at the end this month.