



Greg Smith SC MP

Attorney General
Minister for Justice

MEDIA RELEASE

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TWO NEW MAGISTRATES FOR NSW

Attorney General Greg Smith SC today announced the appointments of the Queensland State Coroner, Michael Barnes, and Administrative Decisions Tribunal judicial member, Carolyn Huntsman, as magistrates of the Local Court of NSW and as industrial magistrates.

“Magistrate Barnes and Ms Huntsman bring a combined total of 55 years of legal experience to the bench of the local court,” Mr Smith said.

For the past 10 years, Magistrate Barnes has served as Queensland’s inaugural State Coroner and periodically as the Acting Deputy Chief Magistrate of Queensland.

Prior to joining the Queensland judiciary, Magistrate Barnes was Head of the School of Justice Studies at the Queensland University of Technology.

Magistrate Barnes has also worked as chief officer of the Complaint Section of the Queensland Criminal Justice Commission, principal solicitor of the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service and as a solicitor and partner in a small legal firm.

Ms Huntsman has been a judicial member of the Administrative Decisions Tribunal since 2009 and has served on range of other tribunals including the Mental Health Review Tribunal and the Guardianship Tribunal.

She has also worked as a solicitor, specialising in criminal, immigration and administrative law. She appeared in the Local, Children’s and District Courts of NSW as well as the Federal Court of Australia and the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

Early in her career, Ms Huntsman worked extensively on legal issues facing Aboriginal people. She was a solicitor at the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services Secretariat and a researcher for the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.

Ms Huntsman and Mr Barnes are both accredited mediators.

Ms Huntsman will be sworn in as a magistrate of the Local Court of NSW and as an industrial magistrate on 15 July 2013. Magistrate Barnes will be sworn in on 26 August 2013.