

Appointments to the District Court

There have been three appointments to the District Court of New South Wales from the bar in the second half of 2010.

Her Honour Judge Laura Wells SC was sworn in on 27 July 2010. Her Honour was admitted to the Queensland Bar in 1987 and in New South Wales in 1996. Her Honour was appointed senior counsel in 2009.

Her Honour had been a trial advocate, crown prosecutor, deputy senior crown prosecutor and acting public defender, and had held the position of director of the Criminal Law Review Division at the Department of Justice and Attorney General in 2006–2007.

His Honour Judge Andrew Haesler SC was sworn in on 20 September 2010.

His Honour began his legal career as a solicitor for Redfern Legal Centre in 1982, was called to the bar in 1990, and appointed as a public defender in 1996.

His Honour was the appointed director of the Criminal Law Review Division of the Department of Justice and Attorney General in 1999, providing advice to government in a broad range of areas including sentencing and court diversionary programmes.

Most recently before his Honour's appointment he was the deputy senior public defender.

His Honour Judge Ross Letherbarrow SC was sworn in on 11 August 2010.

He had practised extensively at the common law bar in the District Court and Supreme Court over his 32 years in practice. His Honour was a member of the Bar Council from 1997 to 1999. His Honour had long been a valuable member of the association's Common Law Committee, and was the association's representative on the District Court Rule Committee between 1999 and 2004.



His Honour was also the bar's representative on the Motor Accidents Council between 1999 and 2002. In his speech at his Honour's swearing in, the president of the Bar Association, Tom Bathurst QC, adverted to his Honour's unique qualifications in this regard, not simply because of his Honour's experience in litigation but also his love of sports cars:

At one time or another, you have owned a Corvette, a Porsche, a De Tomaso and a Jaguar XJ6. But the pride and joy was the Jensen Interceptor, reputed to be the heaviest production car ever made. Comedian Ronnie Corbett once said that he liked British cars 'because he liked walking', a fact that would have been appreciated – or not – by your Honour's wife who was driving the Jensen to Newcastle when it broke down and she had to push it to the side of the road. It is believed that the car's performance showed a marked decline when it rained. Eventually, it was sold to another car tragic at the Bar, Andrew Lidden.