

### Her Honour Judge Sharron Norton

Sharron Norton SC was sworn in as a judge of the New Wales District Court on 16 September 2013.

Judge Norton graduated from the University of New South Wales with a combined Bachelor of Commerce and a Bachelor of Laws in 1978 and in July of that year began working at the firm of Gunn Hamilton and Blay as a conveyancer and real property lawyer.

Her Honour was called to the bar in September 1979 and read with G Barry Hall. Her Honour began at Frederick Jordan Chambers, when they were still on Macquarie Street, occupying the Women's Room, putting her Honour in the company of the Hon Justice Jan Stevenson, the Hon Justice Virginia Bell, the Hon Justice Elizabeth Fullerton and her Honour Judge Anne Ainslie Wallace.

Her Honour developed a practice predominantly in personal injury work. In 2001, her Honour took silk. Phillip Boulten SC, who spoke on behalf of the bar at her Honour's swearing-in, said that, since taking silk, her Honour built up what was 'arguably the largest appellate practice at the New South Wales Bar' with more than 150 appeals, of which at least 50 percent were successful, and continued:

You established a reputation for being very calm, with a down to earth, disarming style of advocacy. You have acquired a reputation for efficiency and industriousness and for your ability to reduce weeks of dense transcript and a lengthy judgment to their essential elements. Your submissions were always a model of precision and persuasion.

Her Honour undertook a generous amount of pro bono work, through organisations such as the Marrickville Legal Centre, the Shopfront and the Women's Legal Service.

Judge Norton was a part-time judicial member of the Legal Service Division of the Administrative Decisions Tribunal for fifteen years, during which time her Honour heard various matters involving the professional conduct of barristers and solicitors. In the late 1990s her Honour was appointed an acting judge of the District Court. Her Honour also contributed to the continuing education of the profession through lessons in the Bar Practice Course and CPD seminars.

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Mr Boulten spoke of aid of her Honour's reputation in chambers at Frederick Jordan Chambers as a 'kind and thoughtful mentor':

The door to your Honour's chambers was, as the saying goes, always open, though not just for generous amounts of time listening to questions and giving advice. Your Honour is a skilful knitter and colleagues often would receive a shawl or some other item of clothing for their newborn children. 'Morning tea' and celebratory drinks were a staple part of the convivial atmosphere that always seemed to surround your Honour's room.