

His Honour Judge Mark Williams

Mark Williams SC was sworn in as a judge of the New Wales District Court on 23 September 2013.

Judge Williams graduated from the University of New South Wales with a Bachelor of Commerce and a Bachelor of Laws in 1978 and immediately began practice at the New South Wales Bar in December 1978. His Honour read with Ian Johnston on 16 Wardell Chambers, then headed by Tom Hughes QC. From 1986 his Honour practised from Tenth Floor Wentworth Selborne Chambers.

His Honour's practice began as an eclectic mix of equity, personal injury, insurance, crime and some family law. Judge Williams took silk in October 1999 and thereafter the nature of his Honour's practice changed in such a way as to concentrate more on insurance and negligence cases.

His Honour's passion for sport was reflected in working in various courts and tribunals on a pro bono basis. His Honour appeared often in the International Court of Arbitration for Sport and was appointed by the Australian Olympic Committee to chair a number of appeals tribunals handling disputes over selection.

His Honour completed countless hours of work for the Bar Association's Legal Assistance Referral Scheme and similar programs established by state and federal courts, including two substantial matters in the Court of Appeal.

In *Bott v Carter* [2010] NSWCA 21, Allsop P said (at [5]):

Mr Mark Williams of Senior Counsel, has appeared pro bono for the applicant, pursuant to a request by the Registrar. The Court is grateful to Mr Williams for undertaking the task he has. The Bar's assistance in giving assistance to litigants where it is required assists fundamentally in the administration of justice, and the Court is always grateful for assistance, and in particular for the clear and helpful assistance of Mr Williams.

Judge Williams also served on one of the Bar Association's professional conduct committees for five years and delivered some well-regarded CPD seminars exploring the ethical constraints on a barrister's life outside the practice of law.

Phillip Boulton SC who spoke on behalf of the bar at his Honour's swearing-in said:

...it's surely a good thing when one of the busiest courts in the country can readily complement its bench by drawing upon the talent and experience at the Bar. That benefit is multiplied when the appointee combines 35 years at the Bar with experience as a director of various successful commercial ventures.

At one time or another Judge Williams was an investor and director of the iconic Australian clothing company Drizabone, a co-owner of a successful pine plantation and sawmill located near Tea Gardens and, while living in the UK, a part-owner of a ski-shop.

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Judge Williams is an accomplished surf and still water oarsman representing NSW in Masters rowing since 2002. His Honour was a director of the NSW Rowing Association between 2007-09 and held the role of director and ultimately president of Mosman Rowing Club.

Phillip Boulton SC concluded:

Judge Williams, you bring to this position a wealth and variety of experience, both in the courtroom and in the boardroom. You are regarded with great warmth and affection by your colleagues for being a hard working, practical, but extraordinarily generous person.