

Her Honour Judge Catherine Margaret Traill

Her Honour Judge Traill was sworn in as a judge of the District Court of New South Wales on 24 August 2015. Hon Gabrielle Upton, attorney general for New South Wales, spoke on behalf of the bar.

Judge Traill graduated from the University of Sydney with a degree in Arts, with Honours in Politics and Fine Arts and a Diploma of Law from the Barristers Admission Board.

Colleagues have described her Honour as one of the finest jury advocates at the bar.

Her Honour was called to the bar in 1987 and developed an impressive practice in criminal law, inquiries, defamation, administrative law, equity and military law.

Ms Upton said:

What is admirable about your criminal practice is that you have served both ends of the bar table as defence and prosecution. You have represented the Crown and accused alike, serving as defence for a number of years before taking up a position as a Crown Prosecutor from 2009 to 2010.

Her Honour's passion for travel has allowed her to work as a legal practitioner in the UK and as a lecturer in Law and Advocacy in Bangladesh. Her Honour's contribution to the practice and teaching of law around the world earned her the distinction of being ordained a Dame of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre in 2002.

Her Honour also helped establish the New South Wales Bar Association's Duty Barrister Scheme.

Her Honour has served as a member of Bar Council since 1990.

Her Honour has also served the broader community through her extra-curricular activities, having served as an elected councillor on Mosman Council from 2004 to 2008, Aide-De-Camp to to the current and the most recent former NSW Governor and member of the Dental Board of Australia. Her Honour also continues to serve as Lieutenant Commander in the Royal Australian Naval Reserves.

Ms Upton noted that her Honour's colleagues at St James' Hall will miss her sense of humour, lively discussions about the law, dedication to clients and 'penchant for a smart pair of shoes'; and concluded by saying that:

'Your practical approaches to problems and your sense of empathy will stand you in good stead for dealing with the varying challenges of judicial office. Your professional and personal qualities will help better protect and deliver justice for our children and for our young people. There is no higher nor more important calling.'



Photo: Gilliane Tedder

Her Honour paid tribute to the support and example of her family, educators, mentors and colleagues. She enthusiastically described the interactive demands, inspirations and enjoyment of professional practice in diverse fields of engagement.

Judge Traill will dedicate most of her Honour's time to the conduct of child sexual assault matters before the court.