

## APPOINTMENTS

### His Honour Jeffrey McLennan SC

Judge Jeffrey McLennan was sworn in as a judge of the District Court of New South Wales on 22 August 2016. Chrissa Loukas SC spoke on behalf of the bar.

Ms Loukas noted that his Honour comes to the court with a deserved reputation as a learned and highly respected Crown Prosecutor with over 35 years of experience in the practice of the law.

His Honour grew up in Queensland and graduated from the University of Queensland with a Bachelors of Laws in 1980. His Honour first practised as a solicitor, predominantly in criminal law, first at the firm of Robertson O’Gorman, and from 1991 to 1999 as a Crown prosecutor, eventually heading the major crime section of the Brisbane Committals Project. During this time, his Honour was also seconded to the parliamentary Criminal Justice Commissioner’s Office as a principal legal officer. Immediately before coming to New South Wales his Honour was senior counsel for the Queensland Legal Aid Commission.

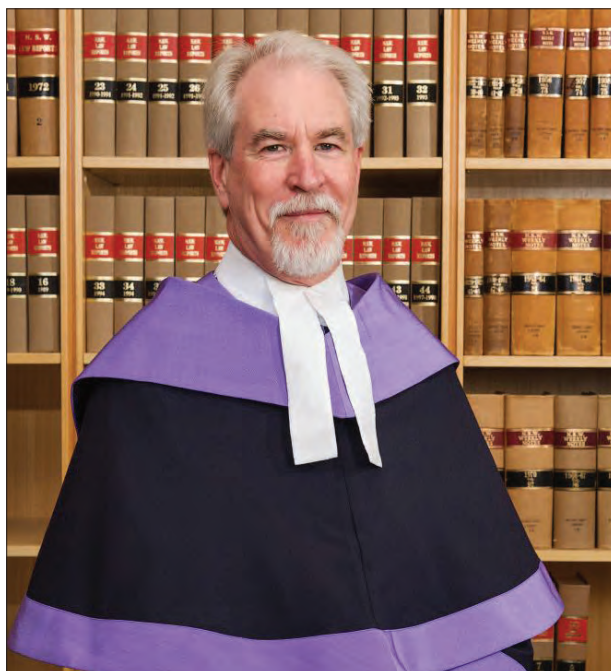
His Honour was admitted to the New South Wales Bar in 2002 and appointed as a Crown Prosecutor in Lismore. Since then his Honour has been a much-respected feature of the justice system in the Northern Rivers area. His Honour’s colleagues in the Lismore office of the DPP credit his Honour with being a great mentor to young up and coming solicitors and counsel.

His Honour prosecuted many serious criminal trials before the District Court and the Supreme Courts and took silk in New South Wales in 2014.

Ms Loukas noted his Honour’s widely held reputation as a measured, sincere and humble advocate. His Honour was also reputed, to defence counsel, to always be a tough, determined and efficient opponent, being thoroughly well prepared. That preparation included laminated maps and photographs, together with a rainbow of colour-coded tabs. Ms Loukas also noted his Honour’s deep interest in in Zen Buddhism and Taoism and that the benefits of mindfulness and meditation are as appropriate for advocacy, as they will be for judging.

Aside from the law, it was noted his Honour loves all things to do with trees, music and cycling.

His Honour thanked and paid tribute to the many people in his professional personal life who had assisted him, including then Lismore resident judge, Tom Ducker, and the two directors of public prosecutions with whom his Honour worked, Nick Cowdery and Lloyd Babb, each of whom his Honour remarked 'have a deep commitment to the criminal justice system in New South Wales and a deep commitment to public service and that deep commitment has been an inspiration'.



His Honour observed of his 36 years practising law, quoting Jerry Garcia, the lead guitarist with the Grateful Dead about his time with the band, that 'It's been a long, strange trip'.

His Honour concluded:

Sitting here wearing purple for the first time, I am acutely aware of what an immense honour this is. It also feels a bit weird. However, as Hunter S Thompson famously said, 'When the going gets weird, the weird turn professional'. I promise then to do my professional best to serve the people of New South Wales and to do justice according to law.

His Honour will sit in the court’s criminal jurisdiction. From July 2017, his Honour will be the New England region’s first permanent District Court judge.