



**SENATOR THE HON GEORGE BRANDIS QC  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL  
LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SENATE**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**APPOINTMENTS TO THE FEDERAL COURTS**

Today I announce four appointments to the federal courts, bringing to the Bench a wealth of experience across a wide range of practice areas.

**Appointment to the Federal Court**

Mr Stephen Burley SC will commence in the Sydney registry on 23 May 2016. He will fill the vacancy left by the retirement of the Hon Justice Annabelle Bennett AO.

Mr Burley graduated with a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Sydney in 1985 and Master of Laws from the London School of Economics and Political Science in 1989. He was called to the Bar in 1993 and appointed Senior Counsel in 2007.

Mr Burley commenced his career as a solicitor with Hunt and Hunt in Sydney from 1987 to 1988. He moved to London and worked as a solicitor for Farrer & Co from 1989 to 1992. Mr Burley commenced as a barrister at 5 Wentworth Chambers in Sydney in 1993.

Mr Burley's principal areas of practice include intellectual property, administrative law, competition and trade practices.

**Appointment to the Family Court**

Mr Shane Gill will commence on 16 May 2016 in the Canberra registry.

The Hon Deputy Chief Justice John Faulks and the Hon Justice Mary Finn will retire in the coming months.

Mr Gill graduated with a Bachelor of Laws from the Australian National University in 1992. He was admitted to practice as a barrister in the High Court of Australia and a barrister and solicitor in the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory in 1992, and was called to the Bar in 2003.

Mr Gill is the President of the Australian Capital Territory Bar Association and a Director of the Australian Bar Association and the Law Council of Australia.

## **Appointments to the Federal Circuit Court**

### *Mr Alister McNab*

Mr Alister McNab will commence in the Melbourne registry on 18 May 2016. Mr McNab will fill the vacancy in the Melbourne registry left by the untimely passing of Judge Dominica Whelan.

Mr McNab graduated with a Bachelor of Laws from Monash University in 1985. He was admitted as a barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court of Victoria in 1988 and signed the Bar Roll in 1990.

Mr McNab commenced his legal career as an articled clerk with Williams, Winter & Higgs in 1987 prior to practising as a solicitor with Purves Clark Richards from 1988 to 1990. He commenced practising as a barrister at the Victorian Bar in 1990.

Mr McNab's areas of practice are commercial law, discrimination law, employment and industrial law

### *Ms Brana Obradovic*

Ms Brana Obradovic will commence in the Parramatta registry on 30 May 2016. Ms Obradovic will fill an upcoming vacancy.

Ms Obradovic graduated with a Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Laws from the University of Technology Sydney in 1997 and Master of Laws (International Law) from the University of New South Wales in 2005. She was called to the Bar in 1998.

Ms Obradovic commenced practising as a barrister with Lachlan Macquarie Chambers in 1998. She was a casual lecturer at the University of Western Sydney from 2000 to 2008, and a senior associate with Harmers Workplace Lawyers from 2003 to 2005.

Ms Obradovic's areas of practice are bankruptcy, civil and human rights, discrimination, commercial law, equity law, family law, industrial and employment law, international law and workplace health and safety.

6 May 2016