

Media Release



Monday, 12 December 2016

Law Council congratulates new Federal Judges

The Law Council of Australia today congratulated the latest three outstanding legal professionals to be appointed to the Federal Courts.

The Federal Government has announced the following appointments:

- Federal Court: Mr David O'Callaghan QC (commencing in the Melbourne Registry on 1 February 2017);
- Federal Circuit Court: Dr Robert Harper SC (commencing in the Sydney Registry on 18 January 2018); and
- Federal Circuit Court: Mr Anthony Kelly QC (commencing in the Melbourne Registry on 6 February 2017).

Law Council of Australia President, Stuart Clark AM, today said the new judges would bring a wealth of knowledge of experience to the Bench.

"The three new appointments to the Federal Courts are vastly experienced and highly accomplished," Mr Clark said.

Mr Clark noted that the three appointees had also had made a significant contribution to the legal sector through their involvement in professional bodies.

"David O'Callaghan QC has appeared as a Senior Counsel in both Federal and State jurisdictions, and in domestic and international arbitrations. Along with his extensive experience in Australia, Mr O'Callaghan is admitted to practice in Connecticut and New York.

"Mr O'Callaghan is also the current Senior Vice President of the Victorian Bar Association.

"Robert Harper SC has been a Barrister since 1984 and a Senior Counsel since 2004, and also 20 years experience as a mediator.

"Dr Harper has experience across a wide range of jurisdictions, but has particular expertise in building and construction law, and is a member of the Society of Construction Law Australia.

"Anthony Kelly QC was admitted to the Victorian Bar in 1987 and appointed Queen's Counsel in 2006.

"Mr Kelly has also lectured at Monash University and the University of Melbourne, and taken an active role in mentoring young lawyers. He is a member of the Victorian Commercial Bar Association and the Victorian Bar insurance Committee," Mr Clark said.

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The Law Council of Australia is the national voice of the legal profession, promoting justice and the rule of law.