IN THE DISTRICT COURT

OF NEW SOUTH WALES

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF SENIOR COUNSEL**

ANDREW BRUCE GOTTING taking rank and precedence next after David Tony Joseph Scully.

HUGGETT CJ: Andrew Gotting SC, since your admission to the Bar in 1999, you have made your reputation in employment, industrial, and occupational health and safety law. You were a solicitor at Freehill Hollingdale and Page (now Herbert Smith Freehills) in employment, industrial and occupational health and safety and then as Associate to the Honourable W.M.C. Gummow AC in the High Court of Australia. You are a member of the Industrial, Employment and Health and Safety Committee and the Law Council of Australia’s Industrial Law Committee.

JAMES JULIAN TREVALLION taking rank and precedence next after Andrew Bruce Gotting.

HUGGETT CJ: James Trevallion SC, since your admission to the Bar in 1999, you have made your reputation in criminal law. Prior to finding the law you worked in hospitality, sales and occasionally as a labourer. You also lived and studied in Spain for two years, teaching English and are fluent in Spanish. You were a mature age student who came straight to the Bar and have been a member of the Legal Aid Committee. You are a Director of the We Help Ourselves Rehabilitation Service, where you have volunteered for 20 years.

SEAN THOMAS FLOOD taking rank and precedence next after James Julian Trevallion.

HUGGETT CJ: Sean Flood SC, since your admission to the Bar in 2004, you have made your reputation in criminal law. You were an early supporter of working from home, having run your busy practice there. You are a member of the Diversity and Equality Committee and the Accessibility Panel. You have recently been working on a pro bono basis with Victim Advocates International, assisting survivors of drone strikes in Somalia to access *ex gratia* payments.

PHOEBE LOUISE ARCUS taking rank and precedence next after Michelle Therese England.

HUGGETT CJ: Phoebe Arcus SC, since your admission to the Bar in 2007, you have made your reputation in patent, intellectual property law, and competition law. You worked as solicitor at Mallesons Stephen Jaques (now King & Wood Mallesons) and as an Associate to the Honourable A. Bennett AC SC in the Federal Court of Australia. Since 2022, you have been a member of the Wellbeing Committee having previously sat on the New Barristers Committee. You are a member of the Law Council of Australia’s Intellectual Property Committee.

DARRELL JAMES BARNETT taking rank and precedence next after Phoebe Louise Arcus.

HUGGETT CJ: Darrell Barnett SC, since your admission to the Bar in 2007, you have made your reputation in commercial law, class actions, and high value property disputes in family law. You were the Associate to the Honourable W.M.C. Gummow AC in the High Court of Australia, and a solicitor at Freehills (now Herbert Smith Freehills) working in banking and finance law. You developed and taught a course on the judicial power of the Commonwealth and Federal jurisdiction.

LESTER ALOYSIUS FERNANDEZ taking rank and precedence next after Darrell James Barnett.

HUGGETT CJ: Lester Fernandez SC, since your admission to the Bar in 2007, you have made your reputation in criminal law. You worked in a children’s legal service and then at Legal Aid NSW. You were a member of the Criminal Law Committee for 16 years, the Education Committee, and are currently a member of the working group developing a program to assist First Nations Bar Exam candidates. You volunteer as the chair of a finance committee at a not‑for‑profit community organisation and a local charity. You are also Captain of your running club.

PAUL ROBERT COADY taking rank and precedence next after Lester Aloysius Fernandez.

HUGGETT CJ: Paul Coady SC, since your admission to the Bar in 2008, you have made your reputation in criminal law. Before becoming a Public Defender, you practised in wills and estates, commercial, and criminal law. You were a solicitor at Phillips Fox (now DLA Piper) and worked as in‑house counsel for Nine MSN. You were the Public Defenders’ representative on the “Forensic Working Group, Monitoring and Evaluation Group,” an inter‑governmental agency tasked with monitoring the implementation of the *Mental Health and Cognitive Impairment Forensic Provisions Act 2020* (NSW).

VANESSA ANN THOMAS taking rank and precedence next after Paul Robert Coady.

HUGGETT CJ: Vanessa Thomas SC, since your admission to the Bar in 2009, you have made your reputation in medical negligence claims. You worked as a solicitor at Mallesons Stephen Jaques (now King & Wood Mallesons) in Sydney, then joined the Hong Kong office, practising in commercial litigation and arbitration. You later joined Blake Dawson Waldron (now Ashurst) in commercial litigation. You are a member of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee and the Common Law Committee.

NICHOLAS JOHN BROADBENT taking rank and precedence next after Hayley Patricia Bennett.

HUGGETT CJ: Nicholas Broadbent SC, since your admission to the bar in 2009, you have made your reputation in criminal law. You are based in Dubbo and are the sole Public Defender for an area of Western NSW bounded by Lightning Ridge and Broken Hill. You have practised at Maurice Byers Chambers and were appointed as a Public Defender in January 2020. You have worked in New York City at Vedder Price P.C. in aviation finance and bankruptcy law and were an admitted member of the New York Bar. You are also the chair of the Macquarie Conservatorium of Music.

MATTHEW JOHN LEWIS taking rank and precedence next after Nicholas John Broadbent.

HUGGETT CJ: Matthew Lewis SC, since your admission to the Bar in 2009, you have made your reputation in media and defamation law. You practised at the Bar in England and Wales in civil, family, and human rights law. You continue to undertake work in the United Kingdom. You were a member of the Defamation Law Committee and made submissions on behalf of the NSW Bar Association to the Council of Attorneys-General in the Review of the NSW Model Defamation Provisions. You are also a member of the Bar News Committee.

CHESTER WESLEY BROWN taking rank and precedence next after Matthew John Lewis.

HUGGETT CJ: Chester Brown SC, since your admission to the Bar in 2010, you have made your reputation in public internation law, international investment law, and international commercial arbitration. You are a Professor of International Law and Internation Arbitration at the University of Sydney. Prior to coming to the Bar, you worked at Mallesons Stephen Jaques (now King & Wood Mallesons) in environmental law and litigation. You have written several books and have been involved in the delivery of CPDs on international law.

ROBERT JOHN RANKEN taking rank and precedence next after Alan Shearer.

HUGGETT CJ: Robert Ranken SC, since your admission to the Bar in 2010, you have made your reputation in criminal law, inquests, and workplace safety matters. You were a senior solicitor within the Inquiries and Criminal Law Teams at the NSW Crown Solicitor’s Office. Prior to that you were a solicitor for the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. You are a member of one of the Professional Conduct Committees and have been a member of the Inquests and Inquiries Committee since its inception.

SIMON FITZPATRICK taking rank and precedence next after Robert John Ranken.

HUGGETT CJ: Simon Fitzpatrick SC, since your admission to the Bar in 2010, you have made your reputation in broad commercial practice specialising in insurance law. You started your career as Associate to the Honourable A.M. Gleeson AC KC, former Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia, and then taught law at the University of Sydney. You practised in New York for eight years in intellectual property litigation and have volunteered as a Director of Marrickville Legal Centre.

FIONNUALA MARIE THERESE SIMPSON taking rank and precedence next after Trent Matthew Glover.

HUGGETT CJ: Fionnuala Simpson SC, since your admission to the Bar in 2010, you have made your reputation in building and construction law and arbitrations, including international arbitrations and class action proceedings. You were a senior associate at Mallesons Stephen Jaques (now King & Wood Mallesons) in the construction and engineering team, and an associate at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer in London. You are a member of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee and the International Committee.

HILBERT SIN YUN CHIU taking rank and precedence next after Fionnuala Marie Therese Simpson.

HUGGETT CJ: Hilbert Chiu SC, since your admission to the Bar in 2011, you have made your reputation in medical and professional negligence, public liability, insurance, inquests, and building and construction. You worked for Herbert Smith Freehills as a solicitor and as a tipstaff to the Honourable Justice P. Garling of the Supreme Court. You are a member of the Bar Council and a delegate for the Bar on the Supreme Court Class Actions User Group and the Costs Assessment Rules Committee. You volunteer with CanRevive, an organisation that supports cancer patients and their carers in the Chinese‑Australian community.

SAMUEL SUREN PARARAJASINGHAM taking rank and precedence next after Christopher James Othen.

HUGGETT CJ: Samuel Pararajasingham SC, since your admission to the Bar in 2011, you have made your reputation in criminal law. You worked for MinterEllison in commercial litigation and then for the Aboriginal Legal Service in regional NSW. You have been on the Diversity and Equality Committee and have presented numerous continuing legal education papers for commercial and not‑for‑profit organisations, as well as being a regular presenter at the Bar Practice Course.

AMY ELIZABETH MUNRO taking rank and precedence next after Samuel Suren Pararajasingham.

HUGGETT CJ: Amy Munro SC, since your admission to the Bar in 2012, you have made your reputation in commercial law, commissions and inquiries. You worked for Mallesons Stephen Jaques (now King & Wood Mallesons) predominantly in litigation. You are on Bar Council, the Finance, Investment and Audit Committee, and one of the Professional Conduct Committees. You have a long‑time association with the Redfern Legal Centre, including 10 years as the Chair of their board.

ELISA HOLMES taking rank and precedence next after Thomas Owen Prince.

HUGGETT CJ: Elisa Homes SC, since your admission to the Bar in 2012, you have made your reputation in commercial law, corporations and insurance law and competition law. You were at the South Australian Bar, then worked as a barrister at Monckton Chambers in London from 2005 to 2012. You are a member of the International Committee and a director of Sports NSW and KU Children’s services, a not‑of‑profit provider of childcare and preschool services.

Can I then begin by acknowledging the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation as the traditional owners of the land on which we meet, and I pay my sincere respects to their Elders past and present.

To the Senior Counsel of 2024 able to be here today, the warmest of congratulations and thank you for attending. Welcome also to your families, friends, floor clerks and colleagues who have attended this morning. There can be no doubt that becoming Senior Counsel is no easy feat. Your appointment is recognition by your peers and members of the judiciary that you are leaders in the profession and is testament to your commitment to the administration of justice in NSW and to excellence in leadership.

When each of you took your Bows, announcing your rank and precedence in the order of Senior Counsel, the short recitation by me that followed demonstrates how well deserved each of your appointments are. With your new role comes the responsibility of leadership and mentorship, including passing on your experience and wisdom to junior members of the Bar. This includes being candid as to mistakes you made in your career so that you can help juniors in the profession learn from your mistakes, and hopefully avoid them.

The insights and leadership you offer will shape the future of the Bar and I hope each of you embrace this challenge with enthusiasm and humility. As you celebrate this wonderful milestone, I know each of you will make a commitment to upholding the integrity of the profession, including by supporting the work of the NSW Bar Association and by fostering collegiality and camaraderie amongst the profession.

On behalf of the Judges of the District Court, I congratulate you on your appointment as Senior Counsel and wish you every success in your new positions, and I hope all who have attended this morning will be able to join us for morning tea.