

The Hon Justice Stephen Campbell

Stephen Campbell SC was sworn in as a judge of the Supreme Court of New South Wales on 2 May 2012. Attorney General Greg Smith SC spoke on behalf of the New South Wales Bar, while Ms Ros Everett, junior vice-president of the Law Society, spoke on behalf of the solicitors of New South Wales.

The Hon Justice Stephen Campbell was born in Glasgow in 1957, the son of a plumber working in the shipyards on Clyde-Bank. Seeking a better life for their children, the Campbell family migrated to Australia in 1966, and after brief stays in Adelaide and Brisbane, settled in Sydney's Sutherland Shire.

His Honour attended Kirrawee High School, which he described as 'a fine government school, staffed by dedicated teachers'. His Honour served as school captain and around that time developed an ambition to be a barrister.

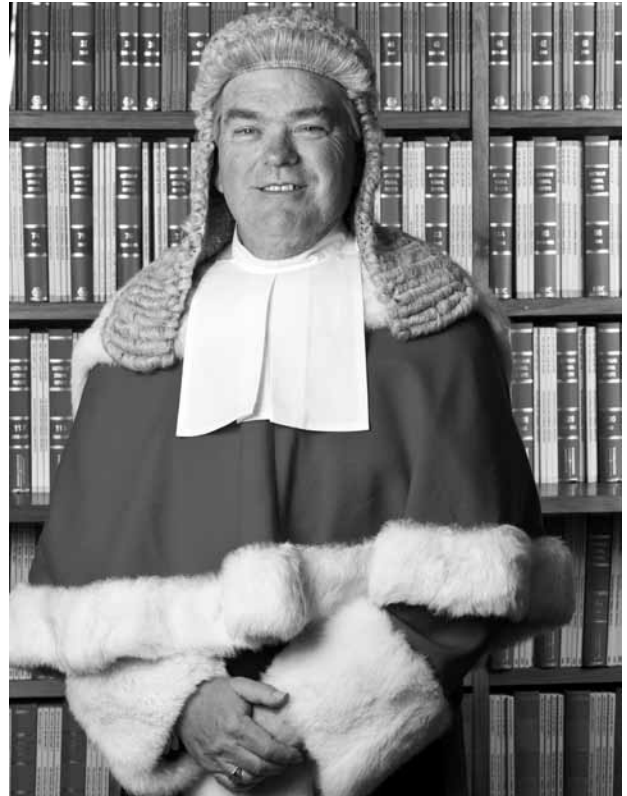
His Honour's legal career began when he answered a *Sydney Morning Herald* advertisement for a legal clerk at Messrs Francis White Barnes & McGuire. There, he gained his first experience in workers' compensation claims, as well as common law claims for personal injury. His Honour then worked, briefly, as a solicitor advocate for the State Rail Authority of New South Wales before moving to the firm of Curwood & Derkenne.

Justice Campbell was called to the New South Wales Bar in 1985 and read with Larry King, of whom his Honour spoke fondly during his speech-in-reply:

I was not very happy doing solicitor's work and I came to the bar ... I need to say that I read with Larry King (now SC) and Larry is not only a wonderful advocate, a good lawyer and the very best of blokes but he is also the epitome of everything a pupil master should be. It is no wonder he had a legion of readers, many of whom have taken silk. It is always one of my proudest boasts that I was the first of Larry's readers. He was generous to a fault; he was the only Senior Junior during those early days for whom I was inveigled to do some devilling work who insisted on paying for it on 'the noggin'. This was, as you can imagine, a great help during those early months of exceedingly insipid cash flow.

His Honour took a room in Wardell Chambers and built up a practice based on liability work, including industrial and motor accidents, occupier's liability, double-insurance cases and policy wording interpretation. His Honour took silk in 2002.

The attorney general described it as 'quite fitting'



that Justice Campbell will serve in the Common Law Division. He added:

You have also maintained a strong interest in workers' compensation matters through your appellate practice. You have appeared frequently in the District Court, Supreme Court and in the New South Wales Court of Appeal. You have also appeared before the High Court on occasion, most recently in *Zheng v Cai* and *Adeels Palace v Moubarak*. And he appeared as counsel assisting the ICAC in Operation JAREK, one of the largest and most complex investigations in the commission's history.

Similarly, Ms Ros Everett, junior vice-president of the Law Society, emphasised the tremendous work his Honour had done on behalf of injured litigants in need of compensation:

From personal injury cases in the Supreme Court such as representing a former erotic dancer for complications arising from breast enlargement surgery to counsel assisting the ICAC inquiry into Hunter Council kickbacks, your Honour has also gone public on the need to overhaul the greenslip compulsory insurance scheme to divert large profits from insurers to fund compensation for people injured in road accidents.

PERSONALIA

As is often the case at swearing-in ceremonies, the attorney general referred to his Honour's sporting interests. The attorney said:

You can speak knowledgeably about most sports, but true to your Scots heritage, you have a particular passion for golf. I am not sure why. You openly admit to being the worst golfer at two separate clubs. When I first heard this, I assumed your Honour was being humble, or 'umble. I doublechecked with your colleagues, you were not lying.

You have been a member and then chair of the Bar Association's Common Law Committee for a number of years. In your time, you have drafted numerous submissions to government, proposing changes to the Workers Compensation Act, Motor Accidents Compensation Act and Civil Liability Act. Your colleagues on the committee describe you as a charming man and a fine lawyer. They praise your calm manner and strong work ethic. You have even been known to take a complex

query on common law while putting on the 15th green. That might help explain your golf game.

Justice Campbell responded to the speeches, which he said were 'a testament to the ingenuity of the profession'. He concluded:

I am conscious that today I join one of the world's great legal institutions. It is great not only because of its nearly 200 years of continuous service in the administration of justice and maintenance of the rule of law in our free and democratic society; it is also a great institution because of the accomplishment, scholarship, and conscientiousness of the men and women who constitute it. Contemplating my new colleagues I confess to feeling a little hesitant about my ability to measure up to the high standard which they each set in their service to the people of New South Wales. In accordance with the oaths I have taken today, may I assure you all that for the whole term of my appointment I will strive to emulate their example.

The Hon Justice Richard Button

Justice Button was sworn in as a judge of the Supreme Court of New South Wales on 12 June 2012.

Richard Button SC was sworn in as a judge of the Supreme Court on 12 June 2012, following a distinguished career as a public defender.

His Honour was born in Sydney in 1961. He received his school education at Eastwood Public School and then at Barker College at Hornsby. By the time he had completed school, he already had, along with Latin and ancient history, a firm interest in the criminal law. Button J enrolled in the combined Arts and Law course at the University of Sydney in 1979.

Button J pursued a wide range of interests during his time at university, the first three years of which were spent on campus as a student at Wesley College. Theatre was one such interest. His Honour directed a mostly acclaimed production at Wesley of Alex Buzo's *Rooted*, and appeared as Moon in a student production of *The Real Inspector Hound*. Sporting interests were more off the field than on, particularly following a mild concussion suffered whilst playing rugby for Wesley in a match which, although his debut, proved also to be his swansong. In particular, Button J was an early supporter in Australia of American Football. He was a regular diner at a Mexican restaurant in Chatswood (which he referred to as 'The Gridiron Restaurant'), the

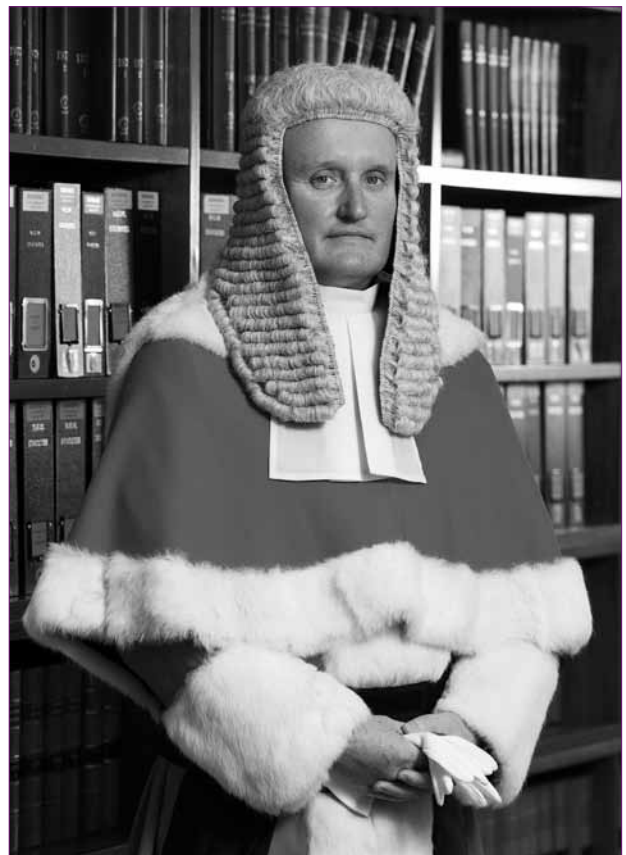


Photo: Courtesy of the Supreme Court of NSW.