

## APPOINTMENTS

### The Hon Justice Natalie Adams

Justice Adams was sworn-in as a judge of the Supreme Court of NSW on 5 April 2016. Attorney General Gabrielle Upton spoke on behalf of the New South Wales Bar.

Her Honour was born in Narrandera, in the Riverina District of New South Wales. She attended St Joseph's Convent Primary School, then St Francis de Sales Regional College at Leeton for Years 7 to 10, before completing Years 11 and 12 at Kincoppal Rose Bay. Her Honour studied Economics and Law at the University of Sydney, before graduating with honours in Law.

Her Honour was admitted as a solicitor in June 1989 then practised commercial litigation with Freehill Hollingdale & Page. Her Honour also assisted in the representation of a medical practitioner in the Chelmsford Royal Commission. While practising at Freehills, her Honour completed a Master of Laws at the University of New South Wales, specialising in criminal law.

Her Honour then took up a role with the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, where she initially conducted a District Court trial practice. After six years with the DPP her Honour was subsequently promoted to a solicitor in the Court of Criminal Appeal Unit. Her Honour also conducted a Supreme Court practice that involved instructing in high profile murder trials.

Her Honour was then invited to take up the position of professional assistant in the director's chambers, writing legal advice for the DPP until mid-1996 before moving to work with the then Legal Aid Commission of New South Wales in the Hurstville office and then the indictable section at the Parramatta office.

Her Honour moved to the Crown Solicitor's Office in 1997 where, as a senior solicitor in the criminal law team, she conducted extensive coronial work, including as a solicitor assisting the coroner in the inquest into the death of John Newman MP. During her time with the Crown solicitor, her Honour represented the attorney general in several guideline judgments, appeared in numerous prosecutions for a range of government departments and professional boards, and prosecuted a variety of contempt of court matters.

Her Honour was called to the New South Wales Bar in 2001. She took a room in Maurice Byers Chambers and read with Neil Williams SC and Paul Lakatos, as his Honour was then. In 2002 her Honour was appointed as a Crown prosecutor. She practised mainly in administrative law, conducting prosecutions for various government departments and receiving regular briefs from the Crown Solicitor's Office. Her Honour also did appellate work in the Court of Criminal Appeal.

Her Honour was appointed Crown advocate in 2011 and took silk in 2012. Her Honour appeared in the High Court of Australia in *Lee*, a matter involving the use of Crime



Commission evidence in 2014. During her time as a Crown advocate she was, on a number of occasions, appointed as a deputy to act for the solicitor general.

Her Honour is known for giving generously her time and expertise for the benefit of the profession. Since 2010 she has been a guest lecturer at the University of Wollongong's Master of Prosecution course, and lectured in evidence at the University of Technology Sydney. Her Honour has also been a valuable mentor, both within the legal profession and in the wider community. Since 2005 she has been involved in the Women's Mentoring Programs at Sydney University, and for many years, was a volunteer mentor with the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program, which helps young people who face serious adversity develop supportive relationships.

Attorney General Upton, in her speech on behalf of the bar, also mentioned her Honour's love of cooking - specifically, her quest for a more authentic moussaka - and her fascination with films. The attorney said:

Your Honour's interest in creative pursuits extends also to the world of the silver and small screens. Your Honour can be relied upon to know everything there is to know about films, new and old, and similarly your Honour is an expert and an early adopter when it comes to television series. At a time when many of your Honour's friends were wondering what an HBO was - it stands for Home Box Office of course - your Honour was deeply in the clutches of *The Wire*, *The West Wing*, *Game of Thrones*, *Girls*, and *Mad Men*. To some who think that those who occupy the Supreme Court Bench are out of touch, they will be pleasantly surprised of course, upon your Honour's arrival and popular cultural references thrown in the direction of your Honour, of course will be met with a knowing look.