



MEDIA RELEASE

Hon. John Hatzistergos MLC
General
Minister for Citizenship
Minister for Regulatory Reform

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JUSTICE HOWIE APPOINTED TO LAW REFORM COMMISSION

NSW Attorney General John Hatzistergos today acknowledged the lifetime of distinguished service to law of the Honourable Justice Roderick Howie, following his announcement today that he is retiring from the Supreme Court of NSW.

Justice Howie has been appointed as a part-time Commissioner of the NSW Law Reform Commission (LRC).

“Justice Howie is widely respected in the profession for presiding with distinction on the bench and for his depth of knowledge in criminal law and procedure,” Mr Hatzistergos said.

“Most recently, His Honour has served as a Judge of the Supreme Court since 2000 with integrity, fairness and independence.”

“I congratulate Justice Howie on his well-deserved appointment and wish him every success in this important role,” Mr Hatzistergos said.

Justice Howie has had a distinguished career in criminal law spanning more than three decades. He was appointed Queen’s Counsel in 1986 before becoming the Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions. In 1993, he became the Crown Advocate before his elevation to the bench of the District Court.

The 60-year-old began his career in criminal law as a solicitor in the Public Solicitor's Office in 1976, and was admitted to the Bar four years later. He was appointed as a Public Defender in 1980 where he appeared in the District Court, the Supreme Court and in appeals to the Court of Criminal Appeal and the High Court.

Between 1984 and 1987, Justice Howie was the Director of the Criminal Law Review Division of the Attorney General's Department.

Justice Howie was born in Sydney, educated at Homebush Boys' High School and holds Bachelor degrees in Arts and Law from the University of Sydney, together with a Master of Laws with First Class Honours.

He was sworn in on Wednesday April 7.

The NSW LRC was established in 1967 as the first permanent body in Australia charged with the task of reforming the general law. The functions of the Commission include to: consolidate, codify or revise the law and to simplify or modernise the law.

“Justice Howie’s profuse knowledge of the law of complicity will be an asset to the LRC as it undertakes a review of this area of common law,” Mr Hatzistergos said.

Mr Hatzistergos said he will support moves to have Justice Howie appointed as a member of the NSW Sentencing Council.