



MEDIA RELEASE

**Hon. John Hatzistergos MLC
Attorney General
Minister for Industrial Relations**

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

FORMER BAR ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT APPOINTED JUDGE

Former NSW Bar Association president, Michael Slattery, QC, has been appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of NSW, Attorney General John Hatzistergos announced today.

“With 31 years of experience as a barrister, Mr Slattery will bring a wealth of legal expertise to the Supreme Court,” Mr Hatzistergos said.

“He has practised in a wide range of areas including equity, commercial, administrative, personal injury and criminal law.”

Since being appointed Queen’s Counsel in 1992, Mr Slattery has appeared in a range of important cases, including the Commission of Inquiry into the conduct of James Hardie Industries in relation to its asbestos liabilities. He also conducted public examinations of the directors of One.Tel on behalf of liquidators.

Mr Slattery is a navy reservist, who served in the Northern Persian Gulf at the end of the Gulf War in 2003. He was the principal counsel assisting a Navy Board of Inquiry into the Sea King helicopter crash that claimed nine lives on Nias Island, Indonesia in 2005. He received Admiral’s commendations for exceptional service to the Navy in 1994 and in 2007.

Mr Slattery served as president of the NSW Bar Association and as a director of the Law Council of Australia from 2005 to 2007. He is also a former vice-president of the Australian Bar Association.

“Mr Slattery has made significant contributions to the legal profession and his elevation to the bench of the Supreme Court is well deserved. I wish him well in his new role.” Mr Hatzistergos said.

Mr Slattery will be sworn in as a Supreme Court judge on May 25.