



MEDIA RELEASE

31 March 2017

THE HONOURABLE CHIEF JUSTICE MARILYN WARREN AC

The Honourable Chief Justice Marilyn Warren AC announced that she will be retiring effective from 1 October 2017.

Victorian Bar President, Jennifer Batrouney QC, said 'Chief Justice and Lieutenant Governor Marilyn Warren has served the State of Victoria, the Law, and the Supreme Court, with distinction.'

Chief Justice Warren has served as a Judge of the Supreme Court for more than 18 years, of those, more than 13 years as Chief Justice.

Her Honour was the first woman Chief Justice in any Australian jurisdiction. She is, and has been for some time, the longest-serving of all present Australian Chief Justices – State and Territory – and Commonwealth.

Next Monday, 3 April 2017, is the forty-second anniversary of the admission to practise as a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Victoria of Marilyn Louise Warren.

After admission, Her Honour worked for 10 years in the Victorian Public Service, including as Senior Policy Advisor to the Attorney-General; and as Assistant Chief Parliamentary Counsel. She practised at the Victorian Bar more than 13 years and achieved the distinction of appointment as Queen's Counsel – practising as Silk for just short of a year before being appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court – on which Her Honour has since then served with distinction and led with vision.

Chief Justice Warren's term as Chief Justice has been one of 'extraordinary achievement'.

Of particular significance, because it goes to the fundamental principle of judicial independence, was the establishment of Court Services Victoria in 2014. The Chief Justice presided over the introduction of a structure of judicial administration in Victoria that, for the first time in the 175-year history of the Court, was independent of Executive Government.

Other examples of Her Honour's vision and leadership are the establishment of the Commercial Court; substantial reform of the framework for Criminal Appeals; Information Technology reform; enhancement of the Divisional Structure and Committees of the Court; and, visibly, the revitalisation and refurbishment of the historic main building.

The Chief Justice has continued to contribute to the community of the Victorian Bar in many ways including being the patron of our Student Engagement Committee and Women Barristers' Association. Ms. Batrouney said, 'Her Honour has been an indefatigable supporter, role model and champion for diversity at the Bar and in the profession more broadly. The Victorian Bar looks forward to thanking the Chief Justice for her outstanding leadership and service in a more formal manner at an appropriate time in the future.'

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