



MEDIA RELEASE

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

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

NEW APPOINTMENTS WITHIN NSW COURTS

NSW Attorney General John Hatzistergos today announced three new judicial appointments, including one of the state's most senior prosecutors.

Mr Hatzistergos said Justice Peter Young, the Chief Judge in Equity at the NSW Supreme Court since 2001, has been appointed a judge of the NSW Court of Appeal.

"Justice Young, who has served as a Judge of the NSW Supreme Court for 24 years, will replace Justice Virginia Bell who has been appointed a judge of the High Court," Mr Hatzistergos said.

"I am pleased to announce that Justice Patricia Bergin will become the new Chief Judge in Equity.

"Justice Bergin has served as a Judge on the bench of the NSW Supreme Court for the last 10 years."

Both Justices will be sworn into their new positions on Friday, March 6 2009.

In addition, Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions, David Frearson, SC, has been appointed to the bench of the NSW District Court.

"Mr Frearson has appeared in some of the most complex and sensitive appeals heard in NSW in recent years," Mr Hatzistergos said.

"He is also a vastly experienced trial counsel, who first prosecuted in the Supreme Court in 1987."

Mr Frearson made history in 1997 when he served as Counsel Assisting the Police Integrity Commission at its first public hearing. The inquiry resulted in the imprisonment of a number of corrupt police officers.

During a legal career that has spanned more than 30 years, Mr Frearson has also worked as the solicitor in charge of public prosecutions offices at Wollongong and Liverpool and as a principal solicitor of the Sydney public prosecutions office.

Mr Frearson will be sworn in as a District Court judge on Monday, March 2 2009.

"I wish Justices Young, Bergin and Mr Frearson every success in their new appointments," Mr Hatzistergos said.