



Supreme Court of New South Wales

SUPREME COURT CONGRATULATES NEW CHIEF JUDGE AT COMMON LAW JUSTICE BEECH-JONES

The Supreme Court of New South Wales congratulates the Honourable Justice Robert Beech-Jones on his appointment as the new Chief Judge at Common Law and a Judge of Appeal, announced by NSW Attorney General Mark Speakman this morning.

Justice Beech-Jones replaces the Honourable Justice Clifton Hoeben AM RFD, who retires on 31 August after eight years as Chief Judge at Common Law.

Justice Beech-Jones was elevated to the bench in 2012 after 20 years as a barrister including six years as a Senior Counsel.

Chief Justice Bathurst welcomed his appointment and said the news will be met with universal acclaim both within the court and outside it.

“In the time he has been a judge, Justice Beech-Jones has made significant contributions to the development of law in civil and criminal areas,” Chief Justice Bathurst said.

“He is a highly respected, supportive and collegiate member of the Supreme Court judicial team and I am looking forward to working more closely with him in his capacity as Chief Judge.”

Justice Beech-Jones said he was honoured to be appointed as Chief Judge at Common Law and a Judge of Appeal.

“It is an exciting opportunity and will be a great challenge, particularly at a time when the court has transitioned to delivering civil and criminal proceedings remotely during COVID-19,” Justice Beech-Jones said.

“I am fortunate to have a division comprising of talented judges and supportive staff who are doing an exceptional job at enabling the court to continue to operate during the pandemic.”

Chief Justice Tom Bathurst also paid tribute to Justice Hoeben acknowledging his outstanding contributions to the Court, particularly his work as Chief Judge at Common Law and a judge in the Court of Criminal Appeal.

Justice Hoeben is one of the longest serving Supreme Court judges in NSW, having spent 17 years on the Bench and nine years as a Judge of Appeal.