

His appointment as senior counsel in 1999 was a popular one and his appointment to the District Court Bench has been widely acclaimed.



His Honour Judge Anthony Blackmore SC

Anthony Blackmore SC was sworn in as a judge of the District Court of New South Wales on Monday, 4 February 2002

His Honour was educated at Normanhurst Boys High School where he is remembered for both his academic achievements and enthusiasm for sport. He excelled at squash, playing at a State level while at school and competitively for many years after that.

In 1975 at just 19, His Honour commenced work in the Attorney General's Department, in Magistrates Court administration. In 1979, he took up a position as a legal clerk at the Corporate Affairs Commission of NSW. It was during his time at the CAC that he was admitted as a solicitor (in 1980) and admitted to the Bar (in 1984).

His Honour set up chambers at ground floor Wentworth Chambers, principally practicing in criminal law, administrative law, company law and taxation, appearing in a full range of civil and criminal cases including Local, District and Supreme Court trials and appeals. He was often briefed to advise and appear in complex corporate criminal cases. For example, in the *Cambridge Credit* litigation as junior counsel for the prosecution and in relation to the prosecutions that flowed from the failed *Balanced Property Management Trust*. He also appeared for the defence in such cases as the alleged conspiracy charges flowing from the 'bottom of the harbour' tax investigations. His Honour's appearances extended to a number of administrative cases, particularly those related to the development of corporate

regulation under the Companies Acts and Australian Securities Codes.

In 1991, His Honour accepted an appointment as a Crown Prosecutor, appearing in many trials in both the District Court and Supreme Court often prosecuting police officers, lawyers and other public officials. Such cases are frequently the subject of appeal, however His Honour holds the enviable record that no conviction was ever overturned in any of the cases in which he appeared.

In September 1997, he was appointed to act as Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions and subsequently appointed as the Deputy Director in January 1998. In 2001, he was appointed Senior Counsel.

His Honour's contribution to the law has not been limited to the pursuit of a career as prosecutor. For a number of years, he was an active member of a Professional Conduct Committee of the Bar Association; gave talks to the Bar Readers' course on the role of the Director of Public Prosecutions; regularly attended and presented papers at both local and international fora relating to criminal law issues; and, is a co-author of the one of the leading legal services in criminal law.

The Attorney General concluded his remarks with the following observations:

I trust that your judicial appointment will be performed with the same skill as your performance on the fairway in your new sport of golf. Your acquaintances have asked me on this occasion to advise you to work on your putting which I hear is more closely reminiscent of your earlier downhill slalom exploits – veering here and there and always on the verge of complete loss of control.

You possess the personal qualities and ability desired of a District Court judge, and in that role, Your Honour will preside with integrity, fairness and independence, and continue to earn the respect of the legal profession. I welcome your experience and expertise, which I believe will enrich the District Court Bench to the advantage of all those who appear before you...

The Hon Justice Mark Le Poer Trench

Mark Le Poer Trench was sworn in as a judge of the Family Court of Australia on 15 October 2001.

His Honour began his Bachelor of Law degree at The Australian National University in Canberra in 1967 before moving to Sydney in 1969. He obtained articles with Dunhill Barker under the supervision of Keith Robinson and was admitted as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of New South Wales in 1974.

His Honour was called to the New South Wales Bar in 1980 and moved to chambers in Parramatta. There he practised with Ian Coleman, now the Hon Justice Coleman of the Family Court. In 1985, along with Peter Maiden, Lynn Judge and others, his Honour established Lachlan Macquarie Chambers and later Arthur Philip Chambers, also at Parramatta.

At the Bar, his practice focused principally on family law, appellate advocacy, children's matters and de facto relationships. A notable case in which his Honour appeared in 1992 involved the removal of children from the Family of God religious sect.

In addition to running a busy Bar practice, his Honour was a long-serving member of the Legal Aid Commission's Family Law Review Committee, a lecturer in advocacy at the College of Law and a member of the Bar Association's Family Law Committee.

Ian Harrison SC, speaking on behalf of the Bar, made the following observations which reflected the esteem in which his Honour is held:

Over time, your Honour took a leading role in the growth and development of the family law Bar at Parramatta. They are, and remain, a tightly knit group of practitioners. That closeness was historically forged, at least in part out of the violent and tragic events involving, or at least directed at some members of this court, in the early 1980s.

Your Honour's appointment comes with a certain air of inevitability. You have for many years been highly regarded, both by the Bench and your colleagues, as a competent and effective counsel in this court.