



Media Release

Federal magistrate appointed to Western Australia

The appointment of Toni Lucev as Western Australia's first federal magistrate recognised the growing demand in the state for the Federal Magistrates Court's services, Chief Federal Magistrate John Pascoe said today.

Mr Lucev, a respected Perth barrister, took up his appointment on 15 August 2006. His ceremonial welcome will be held at the Federal Court at 9.30 am on Monday 28 August 2006 in the presence of Western Australia's top legal and judicial representatives.

Mr Pascoe said Mr Lucev brought a range of experience and skills to the Federal Magistrates Court that would benefit the people of Western Australia.

Mr Lucev received his Bachelor of Laws from the University of Western Australia in 1990 and was admitted as a legal practitioner in the same year. His work experience has encompassed industrial relations advocacy and legal practice with Freehills, where he became a partner in 1992. He moved to the bar in 1999. In 2001-02, Mr Lucev was one of the counsel assisting the Royal Commission into the Building and Construction Industry.

"Mr Lucev's wide-ranging experience is ideally suited to the position of federal magistrate, where he will have jurisdiction in federal law matters including migration, workplace relations, discrimination, trade practices, admiralty and bankruptcy," Chief Federal Magistrate Pascoe said.

"Since the Court's inception in 2001, it has established a reputation for expedition and efficiency in judicial decision-making. The Court's rules and procedures are simpler and less formal than the Federal Court, with which it shares jurisdiction, and aim to reduce the cost and number of court appearances for clients."

Last financial year, the Court heard 332 matters in Perth, a thirty per cent increase over the previous year. This is expected to substantially increase with the permanent presence of a federal magistrate and the recent expansion of jurisdiction for the Court to include workplace relations and admiralty matters.

"This is an exciting time in the Court's development, and we are most appreciative that Mr Lucev has agreed to join us in his home state," Mr Pascoe said.

The Chief Federal Magistrate thanked Federal Magistrate Murray McInnis of the Melbourne registry for arranging and conducting circuits to Western Australia for six years. He also thanked the Registrar of the Perth Federal Court Registry for his assistance with arrangements during this time.

"Federal Magistrate McInnis established the Court's reputation in the West as a viable court for litigants, which Mr Lucev will build upon and take forward," he said.

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