



**ATTORNEY-GENERAL
THE HON ROBERT McCLELLAND MP**

STATEMENT

30 May 2008

038/2008

NEW SOLICITOR-GENERAL OF AUSTRALIA APPOINTED

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Stephen John Gageler SC as the next Solicitor-General of Australia.

Mr Gageler will commence a five year term on 1 September 2008.

Mr Gageler is a highly respected member of the New South Wales Bar, and has extensive experience as a legal adviser at the highest levels. I am sure that his expertise in Australian public law, especially constitutional law, will serve him well in his new role.

Mr Gageler was admitted as a barrister and solicitor of the High Court in 1982 and as a barrister of the Supreme Court of New South Wales in 1989. Mr Gageler was appointed Senior Counsel in 2000.

He is a graduate of the Australian National University and has post-graduate qualifications from Harvard University.

Mr Gageler will succeed David Bennett AO QC as Solicitor-General. I want to personally thank Dr Bennett for serving Australia with distinction as Solicitor-General for the past decade. Dr Bennett's current term expires in August.

A short biography for Mr Gageler is attached.

Media Contact: Adam Sims 0419 480 224.



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STATEMENT

Name: Stephen John Gageler SC

Date of birth: 5 July 1958

Qualifications: B.Ec (Australian National University) (1980)
LL.B (H1) (Australian National University) (1982)
LL.M (Harvard University) (1987)

Barrister and Solicitor of High Court (1982)
Barrister of Supreme Court, New South Wales (1989)
Appointed Senior Counsel (2000)

Experience: 1989-present – barrister, Sydney
1985-1989 – Attorney-General’s Department (Assistant to Solicitor-General from 1987)
1983-1985 – Associate to the Hon Sir Anthony Mason KBE, High Court
1982-1983 – solicitor, Canberra

Former board memberships: Board of the 11th Floor Wentworth Limited (member)