# ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18





29 October 2018

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The Honourable Yvette D'Ath MP Attorney-General and Minister for Justice Leader of the House 1 William Street BRISBANE QLD 4000

**Dear Attorney** 

I enclose my report, under s 19(1) of the *Supreme Court of Queensland Act* 1991, on the operation of the Supreme Court for the year ended 30 June 2018.

Yours sincerely

Catherine Holmes Chief Justice

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CHIEF JUSTICE'S OVERVIEW 2017-2018

# **CHIEF JUSTICE'S OVERVIEW 2017-2018**

### Performance

This overview concerns the performance of, and challenges facing, the Supreme Court over the past year. The statistics cited have been collated on the basis of the requirements of the Australian Government's Productivity Commission for the production of its annual "Report on Government Services".

# **Disposition of Caseload**

### **Trial Division**

#### Criminal

On the criminal side, there were 2356 lodgements. The trial division ended the year with 750 outstanding cases, having disposed of 2618 (a clearance rate of 111.1%).

Of the outstanding cases, 18.9% were more than 12 months old (from date of presentation of indictment), and 3.9% more than 24 months old. Some of the last group would result from orders for re-trials made on appeal.

#### Civil

On the civil side, there were 2782 lodgements. The trial division ended the year with 2518 outstanding matters, having disposed of 2779 matters (a 99.9% clearance rate).

Of the outstanding matters, 27.5% were more than 12 months old, and 7.2% more than 24 months old.

### **Court of Appeal Division**

The Court of Appeal division disposed of 402 criminal appeals this year (394 last year), representing a clearance rate of 97.3%. As of 30 June, 273 criminal appeals awaited disposition (237 last year).

The Court of Appeal also disposed of 268 civil appeals (245 last year), with a clearance rate of 119.1%, leaving 116 outstanding at the end of the year (148 last year).

### Observations on the Court's Caseload

The increase in criminal lodgements remarked on in the Annual Reports of the last two years has eased very slightly, the numbers decreasing by 0.3% (representing 6 defendants). Effectively, it appears to have plateaued in the current year, at a level almost three times the numbers of five years ago, although the number of judges in the trial division is the same as it was then. The situation is unsurprising and unlikely to improve, having regard to the rising population of Queensland and regular boosts to the numbers of Queensland police officers. The Court's workload can be expected to continue to rise.

The 2017-2018 clearance rate for criminal matters is impressive at 111.1% and reflects the concerted efforts of judges; but, it must be said, it is also the result of an abnormally high proportion of resolutions by guilty plea: an increase of 34.7% on the previous year, or 547 more defendants proceeding straight to sentence. Although it does not explain the numbers of matters resolving by guilty plea, one contributor to the Court's clearance rate was the holding of the Commonwealth Games in April 2018. The need for Queensland Police Service officers to provide security for the games meant that criminal trials where police officers were needed as witnesses could not be listed for the two weeks duration of the games or a period of some weeks afterwards as police officers took compensating leave. As a result, the Court set aside more time for sentencing.

It is not expected that the high proportion of guilty pleas will be maintained. Of the matters awaiting listing at

the end of the 2017/2018 year, there has been a 30.6% decline (116 matters) in the matters awaiting sentence and a 61.1% increase in the numbers of matters listed for trial (11 more trials). While the efforts of judges have resulted in a reduction in the number of matters on hand across the State, the proportion of the matters to be dealt with in which the indictments were presented more than 12 months ago has increased by 8.3% (33 defendants) and those where the indictment was presented more than two years ago by 1.3%. Those are not large increases, but they do suggest an increase in the number of more complex matters awaiting trial; as does the fact that average trial length increased from 5.2 days to 5.9 days.

In the civil jurisdiction, there has been a 6.7% decline in the number of civil matters as calculated for the purpose of the Productivity Commission's Report on Government Services (ROGS) figures, but that is more than offset by an increase in the numbers of matters not captured by those statistics – probate lodgements, forfeiture applications brought by the Crown, bail applications, applications for orders under the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act and applications for admission as a legal practitioner.

From 1 March 2017, it became possible to file representative proceedings (class actions) in Queensland. Three such proceedings were filed in the 2017/2018 year. They require intensive case management by the judge to whom they are allocated. They have added and will continue to add significantly to the Court's civil workload. It should be noted, however, that the appointment (albeit on a trial basis) of the Court's Resolution Registrar has assisted in enabling matters capable of early resolution to be identified and dealt with expeditiously.

# Southport sittings

As a result of representations by the Gold Coast legal profession, the court undertook to hold a sittings at Southport in August 2018. For that purpose, practitioners were twice sent notices asking them to identify matters, both criminal and civil, which could be heard at a two week sittings. The response was disappointing, with no civil matters identified and few criminal. However, with the assistance of the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Legal Aid Office (Queensland) enough matters were identified to warrant a two week sittings, which will be the subject of comment in next year's report. The amount of work able to be listed in this way was sufficient to indicate that another sittings in the second half of 2019 would be warranted. It is hoped that there will be a higher level of response from the profession in identifying matters which can appropriately be heard at Southport. The low take-up rate compared with other jurisdictions may be explained in part by the fact that the Gold Coast region, while having a greater population than other regional centres, has a much smaller catchment area in terms of geographical size and, so far as criminal matters are concerned, by the smaller number of committing Magistrates Courts than, for example, Toowoomba.

# The Court's ICT Systems

There has been no change in the circumstances described last year. The court has no general capacity for electronic lodgement of documents or electronic case management and its existing ICT systems have not been the subject of any investment. Queensland is unique among the Australian jurisdictions in having no eFiling system or any process in place to implement one. The concern remains about the lack of separation between the court's IT systems and the Department of Justice & Attorney General's network.

# Chief Justice's Calendar

Over the reporting year, I sat in Brisbane in the Court of Appeal (nine weeks), the criminal jurisdiction (one week and two days), civil sittings (six weeks), and the applications court (two weeks). I undertook week-long circuits, with a mix of civil and criminal matters, to each of the regional centres of Rockhampton, Townsville, Cairns, Toowoomba and Mackay (the last two being shortened when matters resolved). I spent a further seven days presiding over admissions ceremonies, at which 1039 new practitioners were admitted. The balance of my time was occupied with administrative and official responsibilities.

An important part of the Chief Justice's role is engagement with the profession and the public. Accordingly,

throughout the year, I spoke at a number of conferences and functions, and attended many others, both in Brisbane and in regional centres. I attended two meetings of the Council of Chief Justices of Australia and New Zealand, in Adelaide in October 2017 and in Canberra in April 2018. An additional commitment was to undertake the role of Acting Governor on 9 occasions, for periods aggregating 43 days.

### International aspects

On 11 September 2017, I met visiting judges from the Supreme People's Court of the People's Republic of China and the Hainan High People's Court.

On 12 September 2017, the Chief Justice of Papua New Guinea, the Hon Chief Justice, Sir Salamo Injia, Kt GCL and I signed a Memorandum of Understanding on judicial cooperation between the Supreme and National Courts of Papua New Guinea and the Supreme Court of Queensland.

The Hon Geoffrey Ma Tao-li GBM, Chief Justice of Hong Kong presented the Annual Supreme Court Oration on 21 May 2018.

# Judicial Appointments

The Hon Justice Helen Bowskill was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland on 10 July 2017.

The Hon Justice Ann Lyons was appointed as Senior Judge Administrator on 24 August 2017.

The Hon Justice Peter Davis was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland on 16 October 2017.

On 16 October 2017 the Hon Justice Martin Daubney was appointed as President of the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal for a three year period.

The Hon Justice Graeme Crow was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland and as Central Judge on 22 February 2018.

The Hon Justice Soraya Ryan was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland on 9 March 2018.

### **Judicial Retirements**

Particular mention should be made of the retirement of Justice John Byrne AO RFD. Having served as Senior Judge Administrator from 24 August 2007, effectively, tirelessly and with great dedication, his Honour retired as a Judge of the Supreme Court on 24 August 2017. The Hon Justice Ann Lyons was appointed as Senior Judge Administrator in his place on 24 August 2017.

The Hon Justice Duncan McMeekin resigned as a Judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland and as Central Judge on 23 April 2018.

### Recognition

The Honourable John Muir QC, a distinguished former member of this court, died on 10 February 2018. Mr Muir was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland on 3 April 1997. He also served as a member of the Land Appeal Court (1997-2000); as a Commercial List judge (2002-07); as chairperson of the Queensland Law Reform Commission (1998-2001). Mr Muir retired on 26 December 2014.

### Acknowledgement

I thank the Judges, officers of the Registry, the court's administrative staff, and the Director-General and his staff for their contribution to ensuring the effective discharge of the court's responsibilities for another year.

PROFILE OF THE SUPREME COURT

# **PROFILE OF THE SUPREME COURT**

The Supreme Court comprises the Office of the Chief Justice and two divisions: the Court of Appeal Division and the Trial Division.

# Judges of the Supreme Court

(listed in order of seniority)

### **Office of the Chief Justice**

#### **Chief Justice**

The Honourable Catherine Ena Holmes

### **Court of Appeal Division**

#### President

The Honourable Walter Sofronoff

#### **Judges of Appeal**

The Honourable Justice Hugh Barron Fraser The Honourable Justice Robert William Gotterson AO The Honourable Justice Philip Michael Hugh Morrison The Honourable Justice Anthe Ioanna Philippides The Honourable Justice Philip Donald McMurdo

### **Trial Division**

#### Senior Judge Administrator

The Honourable John Harris Byrne AO, RFD (resigned 23 August 2017 as Senior Judge Administrator and 24 August 2017 as a Supreme Court Judge)

The Honourable Justice Ann Majella Lyons (appointed 24 August 2017)

#### **Trial Division Judges**

The Honourable Justice Roslyn Gay Atkinson AO The Honourable Justice Debra Ann Mullins The Honourable Justice James Sholto Douglas The Honourable Justice Alfred Martin Daubney AM (appointed 16 October 2017 as President of QCAT) The Honourable Justice Glenn Charles Martin AM The Honourable Justice Duncan Vincent Cook McMeekin (Central Judge) (retired 23 April 2018) The Honourable Justice Peter David Talbot Applegarth The Honourable Justice David Kim Boddice

The Honourable Justice Jean Hazel Dalton

The Honourable Justice David Octavius Joseph North (Northern Judge) The Honourable Justice James Dawson Henry (Far Northern Judge) The Honourable Justice David John Sandford Jackson The Honourable Justice Peter James Flanagan The Honourable Justice Timothy Francis Carmody The Honourable Justice Martin Burns The Honourable Justice John Kennedy Bond The Honourable Justice Susan Elizabeth Brown The Honourable Justice Helen Patricia Bowskill (appointed 10 July 2017) The Honourable Justice Peter John Davis (appointed 16 October 2017) The Honourable Justice Graeme Francis Crow (Central Judge) (appointed 22 February 2018) The Honourable Justice Soraya Mary Ryan (appointed 9 March 2018)

### **Other Appointments**

#### **Mental Health Court**

The Honourable Justice Jean Hazel Dalton The Honourable Justice Peter James Flanagan

#### Land Appeal Court

The Honourable Justice Jean Hazel Dalton (Southern District) The Honourable Justice Duncan Vincent Cook McMeekin (Central District) (until 23 April 2018) The Honourable Justice David Octavius Joseph North (Northern District) The Honourable Justice James Dawson Henry (Far Northern District) The Honourable Justice Graeme Francis Crow (Central District)

#### **Industrial Court**

The Honourable Justice Glenn Charles Martin AM

COURT OF APPEAL DIVISION

# **COURT OF APPEAL DIVISION**

### Governance

### **Organisational Structure**

The Court of Appeal hears appeals:1

- in criminal and civil matters from the Trial Division of the Supreme Court of Queensland;
- in criminal and civil matters from the District Court of Queensland;
- from the Planning and Environment Court;
- from the Land Appeal Court; and
- from other tribunals, principally the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT).

An appeal from the Court of Appeal to the High Court of Australia can proceed only by way of special leave so that for most cases the Queensland Court of Appeal is Queensland's final appellate court.

The President of the Court of Appeal is the Hon Justice Walter Sofronoff. There are also five judges of appeal. During this year, they were:

- the Hon Justice Hugh Barron Fraser;
- the Hon Justice Robert William Gotterson AO;
- the Hon Justice Philip Hugh Morrison;
- the Hon Justice Anthe Ioanna Philippides; and
- the Hon Justice Philip Donald McMurdo.

The Court of Appeal sat as a bench of three judges for 39 weeks during the year, which is three fewer than last year. The President and the judges of appeal together sat 200 individual judge weeks this year,<sup>2</sup> compared to 208 weeks last year. The reduction in these numbers is attributable to the introduction of judgment writing weeks to the Court of Appeal calendar, whereby one week out of every month is allocated as a judgment writing, and therefore non-sitting, week.

A total of 525 matters were heard this year and 510 judgments were delivered.

The Chief Justice sat in the Court of Appeal, apart from admissions ceremonies, for 9 weeks this year compared to 11 weeks last year.

Trial Division judges sat in the Court of Appeal for 77 individual judge weeks this year compared to 74 weeks last year.

The Court benefits from the experience of the Chief Justice and Trial Division judges, especially in trial work and sentencing, and could not dispose of its workload as efficiently without this assistance. It therefore remains desirable for the Chief Justice and Trial Division judges to sit in the Court of Appeal on a regular basis.

Mr Brett Gillespie acted as senior deputy registrar (appeals).<sup>3</sup>

Certain kinds of matters are identified for special management:

- appeals concerning short custodial sentences;
- appeals by the Attorney-General of Queensland or the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions against sentences where respondents have been released into the community;

<sup>1</sup> Including applications and references.

<sup>2</sup> This expression refers to every week an individual judge sits in the Court of Appeal.

<sup>3</sup> For administrative purposes within the Department, this role is known as acting team leader (appeals).

- matters involving children;
- appeals against interlocutory decisions, so that the determination of the principal action is not unnecessarily delayed pending appeal;
- pressing commercial disputes which have been dealt with expeditiously in the Trial Division's commercial list; and
- other matters where urgency is demonstrated.

Registry staff continued to identify at an early stage matters which were complex or where delay was a particular concern. These matters were case managed by the President to ensure timely disposition.

The President and the judges of appeal valued the high level of service provided by Mr Gillespie and Mr Mark Slaven, Appeals Registry staff, associates and secretaries, without whose professionalism the work of the Court would become impossible.

The President and the judges of appeal also valued the commitment and support of the Executive Director of the Supreme, District and Lands Courts Service, Ms Julie Steel, and her staff.

The Court is also grateful to Glen Morgan and his security team that has continued its discreet and effective work.

# Human Resourcing Issues

There were a number of changes to the Court of Appeal Registry staff this year. Five of the nine staff were consistently with the Court of Appeal throughout the year. This staff continuity has reflected positively in the level of service provided to the judges and court users and has assisted in the timely disposition of the Court's work. Continuity of staffing in the Court of Appeal Registry remains desirable in order to ensure that matters are handled in an efficient manner.

# Auscript

As has been the case in previous years, there has been no major delay in the receipt of transcripts for the preparation of appeal record books.

### Performance

### **Disposal of Work**

This year 638 matters were commenced in the Court of Appeal (413 criminal matters and 225 civil matters), down slightly from the 650 matters commenced last year (378 criminal matters and 272 civil matters). There has been an increase in criminal matters and a decrease in civil matters. There are 389 active matters, an increase from 385 last year. The Court finalised 670 matters, an increase from 639 matters finalised last year. See appendix 1, table 1.

The Court's clearance rate of criminal matters decreased slightly this reporting year, from 104.2 per cent last year to 97.3 per cent. The Court's clearance rate in civil matters increased more significantly from 90.1 per cent last year to 119.1 per cent. Overall, 81.2 per cent of Court of Appeal matters were finalised within 12 months of lodgement. See appendix 1, table 2. In all matters not heard within 12 months of lodgement, the Court offered parties hearing dates during the year and the delay was occasioned at the request of one or both parties. Some delay in criminal matters was caused by the Legal Aid Queensland (LAQ) external review process pertaining to applications to LAQ where aid has been refused.

The median time for the delivery of reserved judgments in criminal matters was 103 days. In civil matters it was 119 days. Overall, the median time between hearing and delivery of reserved judgments was 106 days. See appendix 1, table 5.

### **Origin of Appeals**

Filings from the Trial Division decreased this year in civil matters from 138 to 110 and decreased slightly in criminal matters from 115 to 101. Filings from the District Court decreased in civil matters from 94 to 79 and increased noticeably in criminal matters from 262 to 308. Planning and Environment Court filings increased from 4 to 8. Applications and appeals, principally from QCAT, also decreased this reporting year from 36 to 28. See appendix 1, table 6.

Filings of general civil appeals decreased this year in civil matters from 135 to 109 and filings of civil applications decreased from 119 to 98. Filings of sentence applications increased from 147 to 155 but filings of conviction only appeals decreased from 98 to 91. Filings of combined conviction and sentence appeals marginally increased from 38 to 40. Filings of sentence appeals brought by the Queensland Attorney-General and the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions increased marginally to 9 compared to 4 last year and 6 in 2015-2016. See appendix 1, table 7.

During the reporting year there were 31 applications for special leave to appeal from the Court of Appeal to the High Court of Australia, 3 of which were granted.<sup>4</sup> See appendix 1, table 10. The High Court delivered 6 judgments from the Court of Appeal this reporting year, allowing 4 appeals and dismissing 2 appeals.<sup>5</sup> See appendix 1, table 11.

### Reasons of the Court

This year there were 379 outcomes for the Court of Appeal, an increase of three from 376 last year. The reasons in 13 of these outcomes were delivered as a judgment of the Court or with all Judges concurring without separate reasons, which is no change from last year. 315 outcomes were delivered with three separate concurring reasons, an increase of 25 from last year. Six outcomes were delivered with two joint concurring reasons and one separate reasons, a decrease of six from last year.

Out of the total 379 outcomes, 25 involved dissents (a decrease of four from last year). There were 20 outcomes where reasons were delivered by a single judge, a decrease of 12 from last year. See appendix 1, table 12.

# **Townsville Sittings**

The Court of Appeal's northern sitting for 2018 was held in Townsville from Monday 28 May to Friday 1 June.

Five judges participated: the President, Justice Fraser, Justice Morrison and Justice Philippides from Brisbane, Justice North from Townsville and Justice Henry from Cairns. The Court heard ten appeals against conviction, nine sentence applications, two sentence applications by the Attorney-General, one criminal application, two general civil appeals and one security for costs application.

A total of 19 barristers, six of whom were regionally based, participated in the sittings (twelve or 63.2 per cent from Brisbane, six or 31.6 per cent from Townsville, one or 5.3 per cent from Canberra). Of the 26 appearances by barristers, six (23.1 per cent) were female.

The judges also participated in a dinner with the North Queensland Bar Association. A welcome ceremony was convened for Justice Sofronoff's first visit to the Townsville court and a welcome function was hosted by the Townsville District Law Association.

<sup>4</sup> Irwin v The Queen [2017] HCATrans 161; Govier v Unitingcare Community [2017] HCATrans 183; Collins v The Queen [2017] HCATrans 237.

Koani v The Queen (2017) 91 ALJR 1079; Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police v Hart, Commonwealth of Australia v Yak 3 Investments Pty Ltd, Commonwealth of Australia v Flying Fighters Pty Ltd (2018) 92 ALJR 154; Irwin v The Queen (2018) 92 ALJR 342; Pike v Tighe (2018) 92 ALJR 355; Collins v The Queen (2018) 92 ALJR 517.

### Women Barristers in the Court of Appeal

This year saw an increase in the number of female counsel appearing in the Court of Appeal. This year, female counsel appeared in 22.1 per cent of all Court of Appeal appearances, compared to 17.4 per cent last year. Despite this encouraging increase in the number of women appearing, this nonetheless reflects a slight underrepresentation of women in the Court of Appeal relative to the number of women at the Bar, given 23.5 per cent of members of the Bar with practising certificates in Queensland are female.<sup>6</sup>

Female counsel appeared in 30.5 per cent of criminal matters, compared to 22.4 per cent last year, and in 13 per cent of civil matters, compared to 10.8 per cent last year.

The President remains concerned about the underrepresentation of women at the Bar in Queensland, but is hopeful that the increase in appearances by women counsel in the past year in the Court of Appeal is indicative of a longitudinal trend towards greater representation of women at the Bar.

### Self-Represented Litigants

Self-represented matters often require greater levels of case management, including the listing of mentions and reviews, in order to ensure that timelines for the lodgement of material are complied with and that the parties are in a position to proceed to the substantive hearing of their matters. However, on the whole, oral argument involving self-represented parties proceeded with expedition.

The number of self-represented litigants in cases where judgment was delivered in the Court of Appeal has decreased from 110 matters last year to 88 matters this year. At least one party was self-represented in 35 civil matters in which judgment was delivered this reporting year (24.3 per cent), compared to 36 last year (24.7 per cent) and 41 in 2015-2016. At least one party was self-represented in 53 criminal matters in which judgment was delivered this reporting year (22.6 per cent), compared to 74 last year (32.2 per cent) and 53 in 2015-2016. See appendix 1, table 8.

Many matters involving self-represented litigants are finalised before the hearing. This reporting year 169 matters involving self-represented litigants were finalised either before or after the hearing (26.5 per cent of matters lodged this year). This included 86 civil appeals (38.2 per cent of matters lodged this year) and 83 criminal appeals (20.1 per cent of matters lodged this year). See appendix 1, table 9.

### LawRight

LawRight and its Self-Representation Service (SRS) again provided valuable assistance to self-represented litigants in the Court of Appeal.

- SRS received nine applications for assistance from potential and current litigants. Of these, three concerned potential appeals and six concerned current appeals.
- Of the current appeals, one received private representation following a referral from LawRight and were successful in their matter. Four appellants were given advice that they did not have promising prospects and two of these appellants discontinued their appeals. Zero current appellants have been successful in continuing their appeals. One was unsuccessful and one matter is yet to be determined.
- One potential applicant obtained separate pro bono representation. Three potential applicants were advised not to commence their appeals. Zero potential appellants have been successful, as one matter is yet to be determined. Two of the three potential applicants who were advised not to commence their appeals accepted that advice.

**<sup>6</sup>** This includes both Class A and Class B practising certificates as at 8 August 2017. Class A practising certificates are those barristers in private practise. Class B practising certificates are employed barristers who have taken out practising certificates and include barristers in Crown Law, the Director of Public Prosecutions (Qld), the Director of Public Prosecutions (Cth), LAQ, Police Prosecutors, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service and academics.

LawRight provides an invaluable service, not only to self-represented litigants, but also to the appeals registry, court staff, judges and the wider community. The President and judges of appeal wish to extend their gratitude to LawRight and, in particular, to its directors, Linda MacPherson and Sue Garlick, and the SRS solicitors, Ben Tuckett and Melinda Willis.

### **Self-Represented Success Rates**

A total of 18.9 per cent of self-represented criminal litigants (compared to 27.6 per cent last year) and 11.4 per cent of self-represented civil litigants (compared to 13.9 per cent last year) were successful in their appeals.

### **Pro Bono Assistance**

The Court of Appeal pro bono scheme entered its 18th year and continues to operate. This year 16 appellants were assisted. The President wishes to express his gratitude to the generous and public-spirited barristers listed in Appendix 2. Particular thanks are extended to the following barristers who acted pro bono in applications and appeals in the Court of Appeal in the last year:

Simone Bain Nathan Boyd Daniel Caruana Janice Crawford Benjamin Dighton Angus Edwards John Griffin QC Simon Hamlyn-Harris Andrew Hoare Saul Holt QC Josh Jones Peter Mylne Andrew O'Brien **Benedict Power** Colin Reid Neville Weston Patrick Wilson

With the assistance of a group of barristers and solicitors, the scheme is being reviewed to ensure its efficient operation for the future.

### Technology and Infrastructure

This year the Court heard 29 matters where at least one party appeared by video link, compared to 32 last year. The quality of these links remained variable. The poor quality of some video links was often the product of sub-standard facilities at the other end of the links, particularly in correctional centres.

The senior deputy registrar (appeals) and his staff continued to provide record books in searchable electronic form to judges and parties. This year also saw the introduction of a system of digital distribution in the Court of Appeal. Materials filed by parties to appeals are scanned and digitised by the registry and made available to the judges and their associates.

Courts wi-fi was again available free of charge during the hearing of appeals in the Banco Court and in the Court of Appeal.

The President and the judges of appeal, whether in court, in chambers, or remotely, accessed computers for legal research, electronic record books, electronic outlines and electronic transcripts of appeal hearings.

This year there were two appeals, one civil and one criminal, fully prepared and conducted electronically.

All Court of Appeal judgments delivered during this year were again available free of charge on the internet through:

- AustLII; and
- the Supreme Court Library website which includes:
  - a link to a database maintained by the Supreme Court Library containing selected High Court and intermediate appellate court judgments relating to the Criminal Codes of Queensland, Western Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory; and
  - a link to a database of civil appellate decisions of general interest to Australian intermediate appellate courts maintained on the New South Wales Court of Appeal web page but to which all intermediate appellate courts contribute.

The Court's research officer, Mr Bruce Godfrey, again coordinated the publication of Court of Appeal judgments, ensuring compliance with profuse and sometimes complex legislative naming prohibitions.

- Mr Godfrey arranged hard copies and electronic links to the judgments for all major Brisbane media outlets.
- He prepared judgments which were:
  - published on the Supreme Court Library website;
  - distributed to interested Queensland judicial officers, the Queensland Law Society, and the Bar Association of Queensland; and
  - published in *Proctor*, the Queensland Law Society journal.

### **Future Directions and Challenges**

This year saw the introduction of an electronic system for the distribution, to judges and their associates, of materials filed by parties to appeals and applications. Judges are therefore now able to access materials on tablets and laptops.

A call over system has been introduced in order to more efficiently case manage new appeals. The criminal call over is held once a month, the purpose of which is to allow represented appellants and applicants in newly filed criminal matters, and the Crown, to seek a listing date and address any issues arising from the matter. Similarly, the civil call over is held fortnightly to allow for the prompt listing of newly filed civil appeals and applications. This system has proved to be an effective means of ensuring the timely resolution of matters. The benefits of this call over system are expected to increase as it is developed and refined.

2019 will also see a week-long sitting of the Court of Appeal in Cairns. Given the number of matters filed in the Court of Appeal that originate from regional registries, attention should be turned to whether, in the future, the Court of Appeal should sit more frequently in regional centres.

# Appendix 1

#### Table 1: Annual Caseload – Number of Cases

	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	Change from Previous Year
Lodged	632	650	638	-1.85%
Heard	448	431	525	+21.81%
Finalised*	719	639	670	+4.85%
	Lodged in 2017-2018	Heard in 2017-2018	Finalised* in 2017-2018	Active (including reserved judgements not yet delivered)
Criminal				reserved judgements not
Criminal Civil	2017-2018	2017-2018	2017-2018	reserved judgements not yet delivered)

 $^{\ast}$  Includes matters abandoned, withdrawn, discontinued, struck out or stayed

#### **Table 2: Performance Indicators**

	Clearance Rate %	% finalised within 12mths	% finalised > 12mths old	% finalised > 24mths old	% Active > 12mths old	% Active > 24mths old
Criminal	97.3%	75.3%	21.5%	3.2%	11.0%	2.6%
Civil	119.1%	89.5%	10.5%	0.0%	14.7%	1.7%
ALL CASES	105.0%	81.2%	16.9%	1.9%	12.1%	2.3%

#### **Table 3: Judgments, Criminal Matters**

Judgements	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Outstanding at start of year	37	30	52
Reserved	177	231	223
Ex tempore judgments delivered	84	45	92
Reserved judgments delivered	193	222	200
Outstanding at end of year	30	52	75

#### **Table 4: Judgments, Civil Matters**

Judgements	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Outstanding at start of year	41	45	36
Reserved	145	112	136
Ex tempore judgments delivered	76	82	96
Reserved judgments delivered	155	115	122
Outstanding at end of year	44	36	55

### Table 5: Time between Hearing and Delivery of Reserved Judgments

	Median number of days		
Type of cases	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Criminal cases	70	70	103
Civil cases	95	108	119
ALL CASES	85	78	106

#### Table 6: Court in which Matters were Commenced

	Number of matters field		
Court	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Trial division – civil	112*	138*	110*
Trial division - criminal	117*	115*	101*
District court - civil	69	94	79
District court - criminal	292	262	308
Planning and Environment Court	3	4	8
Other - civil (cases stated, QCAT, tribunals, etc.)	38	36	28
Magistrates Court – criminal	0	0	1
Other – criminal	1	1	3

\* These statistics include Circuit Court matters

### Table 7: Types of Appeals Field

Appeal type	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Civil			
General including personal injury	99	135	109
Applications	108	119	98
Leave applications	12	12	12
Planning and environment	1	1	5
Others	2	5	1
Criminal			
Sentence applications	185	147	155
Conviction appeals	88	98	91
Conviction and sentence appeals	40	38	40
Extensions (sentence applications)	20	20	18
Extensions (conviction appeals)	13	15	21
Extensions (conviction and sentence)	10	5	13
Sentence appeals (A-G/Cth DPP)	6	4	9
Other	48	51	66

#### Table 8: Matters Determined where One or Both Parties Self-Represented\*

Number of cases	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Civil	41	36	35
Criminal	53	74	53
TOTAL	94	110	88

\* The above table represents final outcomes from the Court of Appeal, i.e. judgments delivered. In some matters there is more than one outcome. For example, when there are multiple parties in criminal matters, each party has a separate outcome, despite only one QCA number being allocated to the overall decision.

#### Table 9: Matters Finalised\* where One or Both Parties Self-Represented\*

Number of cases	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
Civil	118	75	86
Criminal	116	114	83
TOTAL	234	189	169

\*Includes matters abandoned, withdrawn, discontinued, struck out or stayed

#### Table 10: Applications for Special Leave to Appeal to the High Court of Australia

Criminal 2017-2018		Civil 2017-2018		
Granted	2	Granted	1	
Refused	10	Refused	18	

#### Table 11: Appeals from the Court of Appeal to the High Court of Australia

Criminal 2017-2018		Civil 2017-2018		
Allowed	2	Allowed	2	
Dismissed	2	Dismissed	0	

#### Table 12: Reasons of the Court

Judgment of the Court or all concurring without separate reasons	Three separate concurring reasons	Two joint concurring reasons and one separate reason	Two joint concurring reasons, one dissent	Separate concurring reasons, one dissent	Single judge	Total outcomes for the Court of Appeal
13	315	6	22	3	20	379

# Appendix 2

#### Court of Appeal Pro Bono List for 2017-2018

Simone Bain	Andrew Hoare	Gerard O'Driscoll
Andrew Boe	Saul Holt QC	Tom Polley (Rockhampton)
Nathan Boyd	Jeffrey Hunter QC	Benedict Power
Michael J Byrne QC	Mark Johnson	Colin Reid
Peter Callaghan SC	Josh Jones	Peter Richards
Daniel Caruana	Viviana Keegan	Tim Ryan
Anthony W Collins (Townsville)	Stephen Keim SC	Julie Sharp
Michael Copley QC	Tony Kimmins	Joshua Trevino (Cairns)
Janice Crawford	Simon Lewis	Bret Walker SC
Patrick Cullinane (Mackay)	Eoin Mac Giolla Ri	Neville Weston
Robbie Davies	Donald MacKenzie	Elizabeth Wilson QC
Ralph Devlin QC	Gregory Maguire	Patrick Wilson
Benjamin Dighton	Frank Martin (Toowoomba)	
Angus Edwards	Mark McCarthy	
Tony Glynn QC	Kerri Mellifont QC	
Justin Greggery QC	Bruce Mumford	
Mark Green	Peter Mylne	
Simon Hamlyn-Harris	Peter Nolan	
Kylie Hillard	Andrew O'Brien	

# TRIAL DIVISION

# **TRIAL DIVISION**

# The Work of the Trial Division

The trial division resolves matters commenced by indictment (in criminal cases), claim or originating application (in civil proceedings) by trial, hearing or consensus.

The Senior Judge Administrator is responsible for the administration of the trial division.

Criminal trials are usually heard with a jury. Civil cases are almost always determined by judge alone.

Criminal trials mainly concern murder, manslaughter and more serious drug offences including the importation of border controlled drugs and drug trafficking.

In its civil jurisdiction, the Court deals with a wide range of cases, including contests about commercial matters, building and engineering contracts, civil wrongs, wills and estates, conveyancing, insurance and judicial review of administrative decisions. The Court has a number of class actions currently on foot with the first likely to be listed for trial in early 2019. It is likely that such actions will require a significant allocation of judicial resources in the future.

Trial division judges also sit on the Court of Appeal and the Land Appeal Court. Two judges serve on the Mental Health Court and a number of judges devote extra time to manage the Criminal List, the Dangerous Prisoner Sexual Offenders List, the Commercial List, the Case Flow List, and the Supervised Case List which includes the Self Represented Case List. That additional management has assisted in the expeditious determination of many of those matters. A judge is President of the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal and since 2015 an additional judge has been allocated to that Tribunal.

Some judges also act as members of bodies such as the Queensland Law Reform Commission and many are involved with groups that have a responsibility for implementing procedures to improve the administration of justice, including the Rules Committee and the Streamlining Criminal Justice Committee. A number of judges also assist in training newly appointed judges from all around Australia in the National Judicial Orientation Program which is conducted over a week and generally held twice a year. Assistance is also regularly provided by trial division judges to the Bar Practice Course and other professional education programs.

### The Structure of the Trial Division

The Court is divided into far northern, northern, central and southern regions, reflecting the decentralised nature of the State and its large area.

Most of the trial division judges are based in Brisbane in the southern region. That region includes Toowoomba, Maryborough and Roma.

The Central Judge resides in Rockhampton, where he presides at civil and criminal sittings. He also conducts sittings in Bundaberg, Longreach, Mackay and assists in Townsville as required.

The Northern Judge resides in Townsville and he circuits to Mackay.

The Far Northern Judge resides in Cairns and he circuits to Mt Isa.

In Townsville, Rockhampton and Cairns, a registrar and support staff assist the judges.

More than eighty per cent of the workload arises in and around, and is dealt with, in, Brisbane.

Information about the organisation and practices of the trial division, including its calendars, law lists, fact sheets, Practice Directions, and reasons for judgment, are published on the Queensland Courts website:

www.courts.qld.gov.au.

# Developments

The past year has been characterised by significant challenges. The greatest challenges have been the need to list for hearing, not only a significant criminal caseload, but also increasingly complex and lengthy civil cases. Whilst the number of civil cases may have decreased, a number of matters which are complex and difficult have required an extensive allocation of judicial resources including not only long trial listings, but intense judicial management prior to trial as well as an appropriate period of judgment writing after trial. One civil matter during the year occupied one judge for 11 weeks and one criminal trial occupied one judge for 5 weeks. The increasing complexity of cases inevitably means judges spend much of their weekends and vacation writing judgments. With long civil trials this is particularly the case.

The number of Dangerous Prisoner matters has continued to increase with a 46.2 per cent increase (12) in applications. Those applications now require a judge to be allocated to hear them for one sitting day every week. The number of probate lodgements has continued to increase with a 4.5 per cent increase since the last financial year, and a 21 per cent increase over the last five years. Those increased lodgements inevitably lead to an increase in the number of matters being referred to the Court. There has also been a 5.6 per cent increase in bail applications which can often occupy many hours on a busy Applications list.

Whilst the number of criminal lodgements in Brisbane has now levelled out and is similar to last year, it is significant that the number of cases finalised increased once again and is again the highest it has ever been.

### **Criminal Jurisdiction**

The criminal list continues to impose significant demands on the available judicial resources. Whilst the trajectory of unsustainable growth in criminal lodgements in recent years flattened in 2018, decreasing state-wide from 2,362 to 2,356, criminal filings remain at record levels. The Court's ability to cope with that increase was no doubt assisted by the fact that the number of cases finalised by a plea of guilty increased, with the greatest percentage of those defendants in Brisbane. Across the state, there was a 34.7% increase in finalisation by guilty plea from 1,578 to 2,125.

Whilst there was a decrease in the number of criminal trials conducted during the year, there was an increase in the average length of the trials. The number of defendants finalised by trial state-wide decreased from 58 to 56; the average length of a trial increased from 5.2 days to 5.9 days.

Overall, the number of defendants finalised increased by 27.7% from 2,050 to 2,618. The finalisations by guilty plea resulted in a substantial increase in the clearance rate from 86.8% to 111.1%, with a significant decrease in the number of active pending defendants of 26.6%, from 1,022 to 750. The substantial increase in the clearance rate and reduction in active pending defendants was starkest in Brisbane where the clearance rate increased from 82.4% to 111.4%, with a reduction in active pending defendants of 28.4% from 885 to 634.

That result was in no small measure due to the vigilance and hard work of Justice Boddice, the Criminal List judge, and the Registry criminal list manager who oversaw the allocation of trials and sentences during the year. Sentencing judges also assisted by carrying a heavier than usual case load per day and by sitting longer hours. Long-term however, those increased workloads are not sustainable.

There was also a 45% increase in criminal lodgements in Townsville, which required some Brisbane-based judges to travel to Townsville to assist with the workload particularly in the civil jurisdiction.

An exacerbating feature of the demands placed on judicial time in the criminal jurisdiction is the continuing increase in the number of charges for each defendant, including dealing with multiple summary charges at sentence, increasing the length and complexity of sentence hearings.

There remain many lengthy trials to be allocated trial dates. The complexity of those matters is reflected in an increase in the percentage of criminal filings awaiting clearance which are older than 12 months from presentation date. That figure increased 8.3% state-wide, from 10.7% (109 defendants) to 18.9% (142 defendants). In Brisbane, the increase was greater being 9.2% from 11.3% (100 defendants) to 20.5% (130 defendants). The substantial increase in that indicator highlights the need for additional judicial resources to ensure the prompt and timely allocation of trial dates, particularly as many of the active pending defendants in the Criminal jurisdiction are held in remand pending trial.

	Num	Number of defendants m			Backlog Indicator (3)	
Centre	Lodged	Finalised	Active	Clearance rate (2)	% > 12mths	%> 24mths
Main centres						
Brisbane	1,806	2,012	634	111.4%	20.5%	3.9%
Cairns	113	125	18	110.6%	11.1%	5.6%
Rockhampton	74	56	15	75.7%	6.7%	6.7%
Townsville	203	190	42	93.6%	11.9%	-
Main centre Totals	2,196	2,383	709	108.5%	19.5%	3.8%
Regional centres						
Bundaberg	15	27	4	180.0%	-	-
Longreach	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mackay	79	94	16	119.0%	6.3%	6.3%
Maryborough	25	36	6	144.0%	16.7%	-
Mount Isa	6	17	3	283.3%	-	-
Roma	-	-	-	-	-	-
Toowoomba	35	61	12	174.3%	16.7%	8.3%
Regional centre Totals	160	235	41	146.9%	9.8%	4.9%
State Total	2,356	2,618	750	111.1%	18.9%	3.9%

#### Summary of Activity on Criminal List - By Location

#### Notes:

(1) Defendant: As defined by the RoGS rule: A 'defendant' is defined as 'one defendant; with one or more charges; and with all charges having the same date of registration'. Defendants with outstanding bench warrants and defendants with secondary charges such as breaches of court orders are excluded. Also excluded are defendants who have been committed to the Supreme Court and are awaiting presentation of indictment.

(2) Clearance Rate: Finalisations/Lodgments.

(3) Backlog Indicator: the number active defendants with proceedings older than the specified time.

#### **Mental Health Court**

Two trial division judges devote six weeks a year each to the Mental Health Court, which deals with issues of criminal responsibility and fitness for trial. That Court has a considerable workload and means that the judges allocated to that Court have a very heavy caseload for the duration of their appointment, which is usually for a term of three years to six years.

### **Civil Jurisdiction**

Lodgements decreased this year by 6.7 per cent (201 cases) from 2983 in 2016-2017 to 2,782. Finalisations decreased by 0.4 per cent (10 cases) from 2789 in 2016-2017 to 2,779. The clearance rate increased by 6.4 per cent from 93.5 per cent in 2016-2017 to 99.9 per cent. There was a decrease of 1.9 per cent (49 cases) in active pending matters (2,518 as at 30 June 2018 down from 2567 last year).

The number of pending cases older than 12 months and less than 24 months increased from 429 as at 30 June 2017 to 511, representing 20.3% of the active pending caseload. Cases more than 24 months old increased by 2 in 2017-18 and stood at 182 cases at 30 June 2018.

Many claims are dealt with by registrars, which is one reason why a decrease in lodgements does not result in a corresponding reduction in judicial workloads.

	RoGS civil files (1)			Clearance	Backlog Indicator (4)	
Centre	Lodged	Finalised	Active	rate (3)	% > 12mths	%> 24mths
Brisbane	2,424	2,482	2,181	102.4%	28.0%	7.6%
Cairns	87	75	86	86.2%	24.4%	1.2%
Rockhampton	118	100	123	84.7%	25.2%	6.5%
Townsville	72	62	53	86.1%	28.3%	3.8%
Main centre Totals	2,701	2,719	2,443	100.7%	27.8%	7.2%
Regional centres						
Bundaberg	4	5	5	125.0%	40.0%	-
Longreach	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mackay	69	43	63	62.3%	17.5%	7.9%
Maryborough	3	1	1	33.3%	-	-
Mount Isa	2	3	1	150.0%	-	-
Roma	-	3	-	-	-	-
Toowoomba	3	5	5	166.7%	40.0%	20.0%
Regional centre Totals	81	60	75	74.1%	20.0%	8.0%
State Total	2,782	2,779	2,518	99.9%	27.5%	7.2%

#### Summary of Activity on Civil List - By Location

#### Notes:

(1) The RoGS unit of measurement for the civil jurisdiction is a case. Secondary processes such as interlocutory applications are excluded.

(2) RoGS files in the Trial Division include claims and the majority of originating applications. Non RoGS proceedings, such as Probate, admissions as a legal practitioner and appointment as a case appraiser are excluded from this count.

(3) Clearance Rate: Finalisations/Lodgments.

(4) Backlog Indicator: the number active defendants with proceedings older than the specified time.

### **Civil Jurisdiction - Brisbane**

To ensure that when civil matters are listed for trial they are ready to proceed in a timely way with the real issues in dispute having been clearly identified, a number of judges manage, respectively, the Supervised Case List, the Case Flow List, the Dangerous Prisoners List and the Self Represented Litigants List. Such management requires a substantial allocation of judicial resources. To assist in this process the trial division is currently trialling the appointment of a Resolution Registrar. An experienced litigator, Ms Julie Ruffin, commenced on 4 September 2017 and has already ensured that when matters proceed to trial the issues in dispute have been narrowed, and she has assisted the profession by facilitating case management conferences and the adoption of realistic trial plans. That initiative together with judicial management has contributed to a substantial increase in the civil clearance rate in the past year, despite the challenges outlined.

#### **Case Flow Management**

During the year under review, the case flow list was managed by Justice Daubney, up until October 2017 and Justice Bowskill since then.

Practice Direction No 17 of 2012 continues to govern case flow management in the civil jurisdiction of the Supreme Court in Brisbane. The requirements of the Practice Direction are explained in a plain English guide.

Much of the work of the case flow list is able to be done "on the papers", thereby minimising the costs associated with personal appearances before the court. Efficiency in this process requires the co-operation of the parties' representatives and extensive input by the Case Flow Manager and the managing Judge's Associate, and considerable oversight and supervision by the managing judge. There remains, however, a significant need for interventionist judicial management, which is accommodated by ten case flow review days during the year (an increase from eight in the previous year). The case flow process ensures that matters on the list do not stagnate and costs are minimised wherever possible.

In the year ended 30 June 2018 there were 422 case flow court events, compared with 539 in the previous year. In the year before that, ending June 2016, the total was 721, so it can be seen that there is a continuing pattern of decrease. This may reflect improved efficiency in resolution of proceedings overall, including as a result of the work of the Resolution Registrar, but may also be the result of matters, where appropriate, being transferred to either the Supervised Case List or the Supervised Case List involving self-represented parties. Ongoing co-operation by parties has continued to result in a satisfactory rate of consent orders in compliance with the Practice Direction, and as a result 216 (or about 50%) of the orders were able to be made on the papers without the necessity for an appearance.

Event Type	Result	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	Grand Total
	Final Order	5	2	6	13
Decision on Papers	Order	410	317	210	937
Decision on Papers Tota	al	415	319	216	950
	Adjourned After Commencement	1	4	2	7
	Adjourned Before Commencement	14	40	54	108
	Delisted	-	1	1	2
	Discontinued	7	-	15	22
	Final Order	-	2	4	6
Review	No Appearance	1	-	-	1
	No Order Made	5	4	4	13
	Order	163	105	111	379
	Settled	3	-	-	3
Vacated - Event Not Required		112	64	12	188
	No Appearance - Relist	-	-	3	3
Review Total		306	220	206	732
Grand Total		721	539	422	1,682

#### **Civil jurisdiction - Brisbane (Case Flow Management)**

Source: Queensland Higher Courts civil database (QCivil)

#### Notes:

**1.** The QCivil systems are "live" operational systems in which records are updated as the status of court matters change (for example, a defendant being resentenced as a result of a Court of Appeal decision) and or input errors are detected and rectified. This constant updating and data verification may result in a slight variance of figures over time.

#### DPSOA

Applications for continuing detention or supervision orders, annual reviews of a detention order or hearings with respect to the contravention of supervision orders, all under the *Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act* 2003 (Qld), are case managed. Until 31 December 2017, Justice Mullins and Justice Burns were responsible for the management of all such matters and, from 1 January 2018, that has been the sole responsibility of Justice Burns.

All such applications and hearings are the subject of court reviews that are held in advance of their listed dates and, where appropriate, directions are made to ensure that they proceed as expeditiously and efficiently as possible. The supervising judge also works closely with the Registry staff to the same ends.

Over the period covered by this report, there has been a substantial increase in the number of applications and hearings. They have for some time required the allocation of one of the judges sitting in the applications jurisdiction to hear one or two DPSOA matters every Monday, but it is now commonplace for that judge to be fully occupied with DPSOA cases on the Monday. Furthermore, the increase in filings has seen one of the applications judges being not infrequently required to hear another DPSOA matter on the Tuesday.

#### **Commercial List**

The commercial list provides for the management and prompt hearing of proceedings involving issues of a commercial character. The current commercial list judges are Justice Jackson and Justice Bond.

A case is placed on the list if a commercial list judge considers that it is appropriate for inclusion, having regard to its nature, the issues in dispute and whether there are circumstances of urgency.

A party wishing to have a case placed on the list files an application and supporting material by email, which includes a Commercial List Statement setting out the relevant matters. The two commercial list judges alternate on a monthly basis to hear these listing applications. A case listed by one of the judges is managed by that judge, who makes directions and generally hears any contested interlocutory applications as well as the trial. Trial dates will be allocated by the judge at a point when it is clear that remaining interlocutory steps will be completed by those dates.

The commercial list judges endeavour to provide early hearing dates for interlocutory disputes and trials. Priority is accorded to commercial list cases in the calendars for those judges.

Practitioners are encouraged to propose directions for the conduct of their cases which recognise the particular importance of expedition in the resolution of commercial disputes. Alternative dispute resolution in this list will be facilitated by the court, but on the footing that it should not significantly delay the progress of the case towards a final hearing and determination.

The court documents for a case entered on the commercial list are filed electronically and are uploaded and accessible through the court's electronic file web page at http://apps.courts.qld.gov.au/esearching/.

As at 30 June 2018, there were 70 cases on the list. During the prior year, 31 cases were added to the list. In total 38 cases on the list were finally resolved, of which 9 were finally resolved by judgment or after trial. There were 261 other hearings, being 75 interlocutory hearings (including listing applications and other interlocutory applications) and 186 reviews.

#### Supervised Case List and SRL Supervised Case List

Supervised case lists provide judicial management of civil cases where the hearing is estimated to take more than five days or where supervision is needed because of the complexity of the matter, the number of parties or for some other reason. The list also supervises cases in accordance with Practice Direction 10 of 2014 where one or more of the parties is a self-represented litigant.

An innovation introduced in late 2017 to the supervised case list for self-represented parties is that one judge is assigned to manage those cases where one or more parties are self-represented. Justice Mullins has undertaken that role during 2017-2018. These other lists were managed by Justice Applegarth and

Justice Flanagan until December 2017, after which Justice Brown took over Justice Flanagan's list. The aim of supervision is to narrow the issues in dispute and to effect a just and timely resolution of them as efficiently as possible – saving time and reducing costs for the parties and the court.

#### General Supervised Case Lists

As at 30 June 2018, there were 78 matters active on the supervised case lists of Justices Applegarth and Brown.

Cases are placed on the supervised case list at the request of one or more of the parties. They are also placed on this list at the court's initiative, such as where a judge conducting an interlocutory hearing sees the need for ongoing judicial management of the case. Cases are also regularly referred to this list after a case flow review. Many cases on this list fall within the general "commercial law" category. Cases on the list cover a wide range of civil matters, including complex building and engineering claims, public liability and other insurance litigation, personal injury claims and defamation claims.

The judges conducting reviews typically seek to ensure that all issues in the case are identified by the pleadings; to ensure that substantial efforts are made to resolve the case, or, so far as possible, narrow the issues to be decided; to improve the efficiency and utility of expert evidence at trial; and to see that matters on this list are only given trial dates when there is a high likelihood that the trial will be able to start on the allocated date, and be completed within the estimated time. Trial plans are an important part of this process. The SCL judges also seek to ensure that parties adopt an efficient and proportionate approach to the management of documents at all stages of litigation.

A Supervised Case List Manager, who manages and assists with other lists, administers the supervised case lists. However, parties communicate directly with the Associates to the SCL judges, and the Associates, under the supervision of their judges, have a significant workload in attending to those communications, settling orders, reviewing compliance with orders and arranging reviews. Given their many other judicial duties, the judges who conduct the supervised case lists have limited time to closely case manage cases on the list.

The appointment of a Resolution Registrar has assisted the judges to improve case management and the timely resolution of matters requiring supervision. The Resolution Registrar can conduct case conferences to narrow and better identify issues, expeditiously and informally resolve disputes over documents and trial preparation, and improve the efficiency of civil litigation. After a review the supervised case list judges can seek the support of the Resolution Registrar to progress the management of a case, or the Resolution Registrar can refer a matter for supervision by a SCL judge.

The separate conduct of a Self-Represented Litigant List has removed a significant workload from the other two supervised case list judges. The total number of cases being supervised on all supervised lists remains steady.

#### The Self-Represented Litigant Supervised Case List

There are approximately 40 files currently active on the list. Matters are added to the list when identified by Registry staff as involving a self-represented party, by the direction of a judge sitting in the applications jurisdiction who has heard a matter involving a self-represented litigant and identifies the matter as one which would benefit from management, or as a result of the represented party notifying the List Manager that another party is self-represented. A matter will be removed from the list when the self-represented party obtains legal representation.

The List Manager provides each self-represented party with the kit for self-represented parties that is described in paragraph 4 of Practice Direction 10 of 2014. In addition, LawRight has facilitated contact with self-represented parties by sending a representative to attend review hearings. Not all matters involving self-represented parties fall within the types of matters for which LawRight can provide assistance. The attendance of the representative at the review hearing has been efficient in achieving early referral to LawRight for those matters where it is likely that LawRight might offer some assistance.

Management of cases involving self-represented parties can assist in streamlining the timing and the ambit of interlocutory applications and focussing the parties on the issues that will determine the outcome of the

litigation. The practices that apply generally to cases on the supervised case list are also used for the SRL supervised case list.

#### **Streamlining Criminal Justice Committee**

At the Court's initiative the Streamlining Criminal Justice Committee (SCJC) was established in April 2016 and chaired by Justice Douglas. It has focused on work to streamline the delivery of criminal justice in Queensland courts. Its members come from the great majority of bodies concerned with the administration of criminal justice in Queensland; all levels of the State courts, including judges, magistrates and registry staff, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General (DJAG) and other State government departments, the Director of Public Prosecutions (Qld), the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions, the Queensland Police Service, the Australian Federal Police, Legal Aid Queensland, Queensland Corrective Services, the Queensland Law Society and the Bar Association of Queensland.

The SCJC received funding from DJAG to complete a system-mapping and problem identification exercise. This work was facilitated by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC). The final PwC report was presented to members of the SCJC and other stakeholders on 18 May 2017. The PwC report identified six problem areas where process and operational improvements could be pursued to streamline the system; namely, disposition options, early engagement and continuity of representation, early engagement among police, defence and prosecution, effective management of cases, whole of system analytics, performance and outcomes and bail application and adherence.

During 2017-2018 the SCJC's working groups have identified numerous possible steps that can be taken to make improvements in the areas identified and have reported on them to the Attorney-General. Several pilot programs have been commenced to help determine what efficiencies may be achieved, for example, by earlier engagement between prosecution and defence lawyers and clearer identification of prisoners on remand who may be entitled to bail. Potential savings in court time have been identified by the greater use of ticketing for minor offences. Significant legislative change has been suggested to the *Justices Act* 1886 and other legislation. Other recommendations require funding of the transition from paper files to electronic files and the better use of information technology in the administration of the system. Similarly the need for increased resourcing of QPS and the John Tonge Centre so that drug analysis certificates, forensic reports, transcripts of interviews and other reports can be obtained in a timely manner has been identified. The committee's work continues, particularly in assessing the results of the pilot programs.

### Regions

### **Southern Region**

Justice Peter Applegarth assumed management of the Southern region circuits in June 2015.

### **Central Region**

The Central Judge is based in Rockhampton and is responsible for the work of the Court in Rockhampton, Bundaberg and Longreach. He shares the work of the Mackay region with the Northern and Far Northern Judges.

Justice Crow was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland on 26 February 2018, and became Central Judge on 24 April 2018, replacing Justice McMeekin who had been commissioned as Central Judge on 14 January 2008.

Justice McMeekin's involvement in the legal, social and sporting life of the region was very much appreciated and acknowledged at a series of farewell functions held in March 2018. In an historic ceremony held on Friday 9 March 2018, the Chief Justice, the President of the Court of Appeal, the Senior Judge Administrator and five other Supreme Court judges attended Justice McMeekin's valedictory ceremony.

Justice Crow, the thirteenth Central Judge, was welcomed by the profession at a ceremony held at the Rockhampton Court House on 26 March 2018.

In 2018 the Supreme Court did not sit in Longreach. Twelve weeks were allocated to sittings in Rockhampton for civil work and eight weeks for criminal work. Four weeks were allocated for sittings in Mackay and two to Bundaberg. The Central Judge sat in the Court of Appeal in Brisbane for four weeks.

The trend of increasing criminal lodgements in Rockhampton has continued. For the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 there were 74 indictments lodged. These lodgements principally relate to offences against the *Drugs Misuse Act*. Similarly with civil lodgements – the number of lodgements has increased by nearly 16% (from 102 lodgements in 2017 to 118 in 2018) over the course of the year. While clearance rates in Rockhampton are below 85% (i.e. the rate at which the number of matters finalised matches the number of lodgements), this does not reflect on the availability of the court to litigants. As has been the practice for many years, parties are offered trial dates as soon as they indicate their readiness.

The trend of a decreasing need for sitting time in Mackay has been reversed. The bulk of the criminal work in Mackay relates to offences against the *Drugs Misuse Act*. As well, there have been several substantial civil trials.

Application days were held in Rockhampton on approximately a six-weekly basis. On these days, ceremonies were conducted, if needed, for those seeking admission to the profession and who have a connection to Central Queensland. There were 14 practitioners admitted in 2017-2018.

In 2018, design works for a significant renovation of the Virgil Power Building have been completed. The building work will commence in the latter part of 2018 and is programed to be undertaken so as to minimise the effect on the Court sitting hours.

### **Northern Region**

The Northern Judge, Justice North, is responsible for the work of the court within the northern district of the court and is based in Townsville. In the year covered by this report, he shared the work in the circuit centre at Mackay with the Central Judge and the Far Northern Judge.

In addition to the criminal and civil sittings in Townsville in 2017-2018, the Northern Judge sat in the Court of Appeal for one week in May in Townsville when the Court of Appeal conducted its northern sittings. His Honour also sat in Mackay at circuit sittings.

In the criminal jurisdiction in Townsville there was a 45% increase in the number of lodgements (63 extra defendants) over the preceding year. The response was an increase in finalisations of 63.8% when compared with the previous year. The clearance rate of 93.6% in the year in question was highly satisfactory in the context of the significant increase in lodgements in the criminal jurisdiction. This increase reflects a continuation of a trend from previous years caused by an increase in the number of indictments presented alleging trafficking in methylamphetamine (ice).

There was a reduction in the number of civil claims lodged in the Registry over the year in question (10%, which represented a reduction by only 8 lodgements) and overall the number of active cases is comparable with the same time last year.

Justice North continued the court's involvement with the profession in its professional development. In May he attended the North Queensland Law Association's annual conference held in Cairns and participated in the program. Additionally, his Honour attended a number of professional CPD seminars coordinated by the Townsville District Law Association and the North Queensland Bar Association.

Admission ceremonies were conducted throughout the year in Townsville. In all 46 new lawyers were admitted (30 of whom were women). Most of the admittees have made arrangements to further their careers in northern or regional Queensland.

### **Far Northern Region**

The Far Northern Judge, Justice Henry, sat at Cairns for 14 weeks in the civil jurisdiction and 14 weeks in the criminal jurisdiction. He sat at Townsville with the Court of Appeal in its one week northern circuit. He circuited to Brisbane for four weeks in the Court of Appeal and one week in the trial division. He circuited

to Mackay for four weeks and Mount Isa for about half a week. He had 6 judgment writing weeks. The Chief Justice circuited to Cairns for one week sitting in the criminal jurisdiction. Justice Bond circuited to Cairns for a two week civil sittings.

In Cairns, applications days are conducted approximately fortnightly and applications mornings are conducted every Wednesday and Friday, ensuring that applications are disposed of promptly.

In the 2017/18 year, the number of matters lodged in the criminal jurisdiction decreased by 19.9% to 113 from 141 last year. In the civil jurisdiction, lodgements decreased by 17.1% to 87 compared to 105 the previous year. Those lodgement numbers represent an easing of the notable surge in lodgements of 2016/17 but are higher in both jurisdictions than lodgement numbers were in 2015/16.

In conjunction with the Bar Association of Queensland and Queensland Law Society, the court coordinated the Cairns Judiciary 2017/18 CPD Series – a series of professional development sessions delivered by Cairns resident Supreme and District Court judges. The court delivered seminars for the Far North Queensland Law Association and to the North Queensland Law Association, which held its annual conference in Cairns.

During the year 17 new practitioners were admitted: 13 women and 4 men. Many took up positions in the far north having completed law degrees at the Cairns campus of James Cook University. Links with the University were maintained by the court's support of the James Cook University law student mooting competition and its teaching support for the university's law subject, *"Advocacy and Criminal Sentencing"*.

# LAND APPEAL COURT

# LAND APPEAL COURT

The Land Appeal Court hears appeals from the Land Court and is constituted by a Judge of the Supreme Court and two Members of the Land Court, other than the Member whose decision is under appeal. The Land Appeal Court has limited original jurisdiction under the Biological Control Act 1987 and the Foreign Ownership of Land Register Act 1988.

The Land Appeal Court may sit at Brisbane, Rockhampton, Townsville and Cairns, the headquarters of the four Supreme Court regions in Queensland. From time to time, the Chief Justice nominates a Supreme Court Judge to act as a Member of the Land Appeal Court for the Southern Region. The Honourable Justice Jean Dalton was the Judge for the 2017-2018 financial year. The Honourable Justice D V C McMeekin was the Member of the Land Appeal Court for the Central Region. His Honour Justice McMeekin recently retired on 9 March 2018. The Honourable Justice D O J North was the Member of the Land Appeal Court for the Northern Region. The Honourable Justice J D Henry was the Member of the Land Appeal Court for the Far Northern Region.

A party to a proceeding in the Land Appeal Court may appeal from a decision of that Court to the Court of Appeal on the ground of error or mistake in law or jurisdiction. A further appeal could lie to the High Court of Australia, but only with special leave.

Appeals to the Land Appeal Court are by way of rehearing, usually on the record of the Court below. The Land Appeal Court has power to admit new evidence, but only if the Court is satisfied that such evidence is necessary to avoid grave injustice and that adequate reason can be shown why the evidence was not previously given. By convention, the Supreme Court Judge Member presides, but all Members of the Land Appeal Court sit as equals and the decision of the majority is the decision of the Land Appeal Court.

Nature of Appeals	District Lodged	2017-2018	Status
			Far North matter has been heard and decided.
Land Valuation Act 2010	Two Southern One Far North	3	One Southern matter has been heard and awaiting decision.
			One Southern matter listed for 1 day hearing on 28/8/2018.
	Far North Southern		Far North matter heard and decided.
Acquisition of Land Act 1967		2	Southern matter has been heard awaiting decision.
Land Court Act 2000	Southern	1	Dismissed by consent.
Local Government Regulation 2012	Southern	1	Matter has been heard and decision will be handed down 28/8/2018.

There were seven appeals lodged in the Land Appeal Court in 2017-18, compared with five appeals filed in 2016-17.

There was one application for leave to appeal filed in the Court of Appeal during the reporting period, compared to two filed in 2016-17. The Application for leave filed in the Court of Appeal is currently awaiting hearing and will most likely be listed after September 2018.

There were no applications for special leave filed in the High Court during the reporting period.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OVERVIEW

# **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OVERVIEW**

## Office of the Executive Director

### **Supreme District and Land Courts Service**

The Office of the Executive Director, Supreme District and Land Courts Service is responsible for the management and coordination of registry administration, as well as the provision of judicial support services for the Supreme Court of Queensland.

Ms Julie Steel is the Executive Director and is supported by executive, administrative and registry staff throughout Queensland.

In addition to the Executive Director role, Julie is the Vice President of Protect All Children Today, having been a Board member since 2014, and is an ex-officio member of the Incorporated Council of Law Reporting, and of the Legal Practitioners Admissions Board. Julie is also a member of the Public Records Review Committee at Queensland State Archives, and of the Supreme Court Library Committee, and regularly attends meetings of the Rules Committee. Her appointment as Vice President of Court Network concluded during November 2017.

# **Registry Services**

Court registries are responsible for:

- receiving and sealing documents for filing and service;
- providing information about court processes and the progress of particular matters;
- maintaining court records and ensuring that documents such as Verdict and Judgment Records are created and distributed to give effect to orders of the court;
- organising resources to enable matters to progress through the system and hearings to proceed; and
- performing all necessary administrative work associated with the criminal and civil jurisdictions of the court.

There are permanent Supreme Court registries at Brisbane, Cairns, Rockhampton and Townsville, and a further 11 centres throughout the state are visited on circuit. Local Magistrates Court registry staff perform the registry role in those centres.

Registrars within the permanent registries have the responsibility of determining certain applications without the necessity for judicial involvement, including probates, letters of administration, winding up orders, default judgments and warrants to enforce the court's civil orders.

### **Registry Workloads**

Criminal lodgements in the Supreme Court stabilised during 2017-18 following several years of steeply increasing. Compared to 2016-17, there was a decrease of 0.3% (2,362 to 2,356) across the state.

During 2017-18, civil lodgements as recorded in the Report on Government Services (RoGS) decreased across the state by 6.7% (2,983 to 2,782). That decrease was offset by the continuing growth of estate administration applications, which increased by 4.5% (10,686 to 11,167).

However, workloads are being affected by work not captured by the RoGS. Non-RoGS civil and non-RoGS criminal matters have increased by 54.9% since 2013-14 (1,848 to 2,863). This includes applications for Supreme Court bail (36% increase), applications for admission as a legal practitioner (22.4% increase) and

applications under the *Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act* 2003 (53.2% increase). These matter types are typically complex and therefore require considerable judicial and registry resources.

The role of Resolution Registrar referred to in last year's report has been extended until 30 June 2019. Since the role was implemented, nearly every civil claim proceeding to hearing in the Supreme Court at Brisbane has been subjected to some form of case management. The parties in many cases have participated in a conference and other cases have been monitored to ensure timely compliance with judicial directions already made. Almost all have been reviewed to determine the required action necessary to ensure that the trial proceeded in an efficient and timely manner. The conferencing regime, and the requirements in place concerning preparation for conferences, has assisted the parties to focus on the steps necessary for efficient trial preparation, including the narrowing of issues, agreement on critical documents for trial and the formulation of a plan for the presentation of evidence at trial.

The Resolution Registrar also assisted judges in the organisation of civil sittings in Townsville and Rockhampton. This new level of oversight has resolved many of the issues which have interfered with the efficient use of court resources in the past, reducing cost and delay, and benefiting both the litigants and the wider community.

It is hoped permanent funding for the role will become available into 2019-20 and beyond.

### **Court Network Volunteers**

Court Network's volunteers again provided a range of support services to court users through its Court Network outreach and support services in Cairns, Townsville and Brisbane, and the Victim Support Unit in Brisbane, Ipswich, Sunshine Coast and Gympie. The volunteers provide court users with non-legal information, practical and emotional support, and advocacy and referrals to enable them to access justice.

During 2017-18, volunteers assisted 7,391 court users through the Brisbane Information Kiosk, 3,180 court users through the Brisbane Supreme and District court Networker service, 150 in Cairns and a further 425 in Townsville. Since the program commenced, in excess of 64,000 court users in Queensland have been assisted.

The Victim Support Unit provide coordinated cross-jurisdictional support for adult victims in the criminal justice system. During the year, nearly 500 VSU clients were assisted with approximately 2,120 hours of service provided. Since commencing in September 2013, more than 1,500 clients have been assisted.

To enhance the services provided by Court Network, a Justice of the Peace (JP) service commenced in the Brisbane Supreme and District Courts in October 2017. Since that date, 623 JP services have been provided.

# Acknowledgements

The ongoing enthusiasm, commitment and professionalism of registry staff in discharging their duties are without doubt, some of the most significant assets of the Court. Workloads are managed efficiently and the many challenges and changes that arise are embraced.

The continuing support and assistance of legal practitioners and judges, particularly in the face of the difficulties which sometimes arise in providing registry services, is greatly appreciated. Their willingness to engage with the registry to improve services is equally appreciated.

SUPREME COURT OF QUEENSLAND LIBRARY

### SUPREME COURT OF QUEENSLAND LIBRARY

The Supreme Court Library Queensland (SCLQ) was established under statute to serve the administration of justice in Queensland through provision of legal information services to the Queensland judiciary, legal profession and public. As the primary legal information provider for the state's judiciary and legal profession, the library provides a comprehensive suite of services including reference, research and document delivery, training and support, and publication of the official unreported decisions of Queensland courts and tribunals, together with a variety of current awareness services offering access to the latest developments in Queensland law. All of these services are freely available to Queensland's Supreme Court judges and their support staff across the state.

The library maintains print collections in eight provincial courthouses in addition to the main library collection in Brisbane at the QEII Courts of Law. It also continues to service the Court of Appeal library and chambers collections by undertaking regular maintenance of print subscription services and processing new acquisitions. In 2017–18 our combined print collection comprised over 160,000 items, with the library purchasing 249 new monographs during the year, and maintaining subscriptions to 420 print journals, legislation services and law reports series.

For members of the judiciary their state-wide desktop access to an expanding collection of online resources available via the library's Judicial Virtual Library (JVL) is their most comprehensive, current and reliable source of legal information. In 2017-18 the library catalogue enabled access to more than 65,000 online full text titles, with over 750 new records added to the catalogue during the year. During 2015-16 the library negotiated expanded access rights for many library members to 138 of the most popular online publications as part of its Virtual Legal Library (VLL) offering to the legal profession, and during 2017-18 an additional 437 Queensland legal practitioners registered for and began using this ground breaking service, an increase of 51% making 1293 in total.

The library provides a range of current awareness services to judges and their associates, including the *Judicial Daily Update* service, a daily news and current awareness newsletter tailored specifically for the Queensland judiciary. It also publishes and distributes the *Queensland Legal Updater* (QLU), a weekly email bulletin designed to update legal professionals on changes to legislation and developments in case law relevant to legal practice in Queensland. Together the judicial current awareness services and QLU recorded over 100,000 views during the year.

As the publishing arm of the Queensland courts, the library has maintained its commitment to timely publication of the official version of full text judgments from Queensland courts and tribunals. Most decisions are published online within an hour of being handed down, making the SCLQ website the primary and most current and authoritative access point for Queensland case law. In 2017-18 the library published over 1800 new decisions from Queensland courts and tribunals (excluding new collections). Some 327 of them were from the Supreme Court Trial Division, 13 from the Mental Health Court, 12 from the Industrial Court, and 342 from the Court of Appeal. The library also expanded the publicly available case law by adding 1030 decisions of the historical Land and Resources Tribunal (2000-07), and creating new collections for Supreme and District Court pre-trial rulings. In 2017-18, 45 Supreme Court pre-trial rulings were published in various places. By the end of June 2018 the total number of full text Queensland decisions available from the library website was over 41,000. The number of public sentencing remarks the library made available on its website increased more than eight-fold. During 2017-18, 262 Supreme Court sentencing remarks transcripts were published. The library is also responsible for provision and maintenance of the Queensland Sentencing Information Service (QSIS), with use of the service continuing to steadily increase. During 2017-18 there were over 40,000 visits to the QSIS database (an average of 112 unique visits a day), resulting in over 670,000 page views. In the course of the year subscriptions to QSIS increased by 20 per cent, from 578 to 691. QSIS is relied upon by the prosecution, defence and judiciary to promote consistency and fairness in sentencing criminal offenders and is available to all judges and their associates.

Our library's websites are the primary means of accessing our information resources and services for the majority of our customers. In 2017-18 more than 7.5 million page views were recorded from the SCLQ public website, JVL, VLL and library catalogue combined. Specialist legal research tools developed by the library, including the Queensland Legal Indices and the Uniform Civil Procedure Rules Bulletin, comprise part of the wide range of legal content available to the judiciary via the library's websites. In all, CaseLaw services (including the official unreported judgments collection) recorded more than 5.4 million page views over the year.

Throughout the year the library's Information Services team continued to assist the judiciary and legal profession with navigating the legal research tools within the library's print and online collections. The team responded to a total of 7965 information enquiries, comprising 3392 reference, 1314 research and 3259 basic requests. A total of 10,072 documents were supplied in response to these queries. During 2017-18 the library maintained weekly afternoon clinics on level 15 of the QEII Courts of Law building to assist judges and their associates with their legal information needs.

The library's heritage and education programs are designed to foster broad appreciation of Queensland's legal heritage and to promote an understanding of the Queensland justice system and its role in society. Highlights during 2017-18 included:

- Almost 7000 visitors participated in the popular education program, including over 2000 participants in judges' information sessions and over 5000 students witnessing the law in action by observing court proceedings.
- The exhibition *Without fear or favour: exploring Queensland's legal system*, open to the public in the Sir Harry Gibbs Legal Heritage Centre, was officially launched by the Hon Justice Glenn Martin AM on 10 August 2017. Later in 2017 the exhibition was enhanced by the inclusion of three videos written and narrated by eminent legal academics and an introductory video by the Hon Justice Patrick Keane of the High Court of Australia.
- An extensive exhibition which examines Lord Atkin's life, career and impact was installed in the library on level 12 of the QEII courts building in November 2017, to continue until November 2018. This exhibition commemorates the anniversary of Lord Atkin's birth and his lasting legacy to the common law. The physical exhibition is complemented by an oral history given by two of Lord Atkin's granddaughters displayed in the library and available on the library's website.
- The 2018 Supreme Court Oration was presented by The Hon Geoffrey Ma Tao-li GBM, Chief Justice of the Court of Final Appeal of Hong Kong. Two of the five Selden Series lectures were presented by serving Queensland judges (The Hon Justice Roslyn Atkinson AO and The Hon Justice Glenn Martin AM), with a further lecture presented by a former judge (The Hon Alan Wilson QC).
- The Hon Susan Kiefel AC, Chief Justice of Australia, was welcomed back in November 2017 to present the inaugural Lord Atkin lecture as part of the Selden Society series. This lecture coincided with the official opening of the Lord Atkin exhibition in the library on the 28 November, the 150th anniversary of the birth of Lord Atkin.
- The *Queensland Legal Yearbook 2016* reviewed the year's legal events and statistics, and contained transcripts of court ceremonies and speeches by members of the judiciary in 2016.

Looking ahead to 2018-19, there will be a continued focus by the library on providing a high level of support to Queensland's busy judges and their support staff. This will include supporting adoption of the 'go anywhere' electronic versions of popular legal loose-leaf publications designed to be downloaded to tablets and other mobile devices, as well as providing training and support in identifying, locating and making more effective and efficient use of the range of print, electronic and online resources available to the judiciary. We look forward to increased use of the Virtual Legal Library service by eligible Queensland legal practitioners, and to redeveloped SCLQ CaseLaw services. Together these initiatives will contribute to improved legal information services for the Queensland judiciary, legal profession and public.

SUPREME COURT JUDGES' ASSOCIATES 2018

### SUPREME COURT JUDGES' ASSOCIATES 2018

#### Judge

The Honourable Justice Catherine Holmes **Court of Appeal** The Honourable Justice Walter Sofronoff The Honourable Justice Fraser The Honourable Justice Gotterson AO The Honourable Justice Morrison The Honourable Justice Philippides The Honourable Justice Philip McMurdo

#### **Trial Division**

The Honourable Justice Lyons

The Honourable Justice Atkinson AO The Honourable Justice Mullins The Honourable Justice Douglas The Honourable Justice Daubney AM The Honourable Justice Martin AM The Honourable Justice Applegarth The Honourable Justice Boddice The Honourable Justice Dalton The Honourable Justice Jackson The Honourable Justice Flanagan The Honourable Justice Carmody The Honourable Justice Burns The Honourable Justice Bond The Honourable Justice Brown The Honourable Justice Bowskill The Honourable Justice Davis The Honourable Justice Ryan

#### Regional

Central Judge	The Honourable Justice McMeekin (retired 23 April 2018)
	The Honourable Justice Crow (appointed 22 February 2018)
Northern Judge	The Honourable Justice North
Far Northern Judge	The Honourable Justice Henry

Associate

Cecelia Redfern

Joshua Keenan Marissa Chesher Jack Baldwin Ashley Reynolds Allison Boland Madeleine Ryan

Georgina Morgan

Molly Thomas Julian Ladd Zackary George Alexandra Blake Lauren Browne Elizabeth Dowrie Holli Edwards Alexander O'Hara James Rigby Harriet O'Hare Eliza Burke Michael Potts Jillian Lorenzo Samantha Johnson Rose Barrett Aidan McCarthy Tessa Boardman

#### Dominic Jorgensen

Nikita Nibbs Patrycja Dubiniecka

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Senior Judge Administrator

Chief Justice

President



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