

CONFIDENTIAL TO THE JUDGES

MINUTES

TRIAL DIVISION JUDGES' MEETING

4 February 2015, 1.30 pm

Chair Byrne SJA

Attendees Atkinson J
Mullins J
P McMurdo J
Douglas J
A Lyons J
Daubney J
Martin J
Applegarth J
P Lyons J
Boddice J
Dalton J
North J (by AV link)
Henry J (by AV link)
Jackson J
Flanagan J
Burns J

Apologies McMeekin J
Wilson J
Thomas J

1. Performance – each Division

The monthly statistics, including those concerning reserved judgments, were tabled. The small number of Judges who have judgments reserved for longer than three months reported. A number of those judgments is expected to be delivered shortly.

2. South East circuits – change to management by the judge conducting the circuit

Discussion took place concerning the position previously occupied by Philippides JA as the Judge administering the circuits at Toowoomba, Roma and Maryborough. It was agreed that this position be abolished and that, in

lieu, the Judge who is listed to conduct the sittings will be responsible for the management of the circuit.

It was acknowledged that, typically, this will mean that the Judge's Associate will need to contact the Registry 4-6 weeks before the sittings starts to put in place arrangements to maximise the number of cases to be determined.

Registry staff at Roma, Toowoomba and Maryborough will, however, be encouraged to raise, as early as they wish to do, issues about a forthcoming circuit with the Associate of the Judge who is to conduct that circuit.

3. Committee Replacements for Philippides JA

Given the appointment of Philippides JA to the Court of Appeal, two committee vacancies have arisen – on the Judges' Committee and the Bench Book Committee. It was agreed that Dalton J fill the vacancy on the Judges' Committee and Burns J the vacancy on the Bench Book Committee.

4. Joint meetings with Judges of Appeal – second Tuesday of each month?

The desirability of convening regular meetings with the Judges of Appeal was discussed, and it was agreed that this was a worthwhile initiative. Such meetings should take place on the second Tuesday of each month.

5. Item 6 – IFCE committee - report

An update regarding the work of the IFCE Committee was received and discussed.

6. A day for a Judges' seminar in the second half of 2015?

The desirability of allocating a PD day for a Judges' Seminar later this year was discussed. The consensus was against doing so.

7. Certification of Reasons for Judgments

There was discussion regarding certification of reasons for judgment. Problems with ex tempore judgments (including sentencing remarks) not finding their way to the file were highlighted. Rule 663 UCPR was mentioned. The SJA is to take these issues up with the Executive Director.

8. IT

Three Memoranda concerning changes to the Judicial IT Environment as a result of the BIEP program were tabled and discussed. Further issues should be brought to the attention of the Chair of the Judicial IT User Group, Fraser JA.

9. Broadcasting Court Proceedings Committee

A memorandum from the Chief Justice to McMurdo P was tabled, and discussion ensued.

10. General business

The importance of ensuring that the published Calendar accurately reflects commitments was acknowledged by all, and discussed.