

Media Release

The Hon Jill Hennessy MP

Attorney-General

Minister for the Coordination of Justice and Community Safety – COVID-19

Minister for Workplace Safety



Tuesday, 22 September 2020

NEW JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS TO MAGISTRATES' COURT

The Victorian Government today announced the appointment of Alexandra Burt, Guillaume Bailin, Kimberley Swadesir and Melissa Stead to the Magistrates' Court of Victoria.

The four new appointees bring strong and diverse experience from a wide range of practice areas and regions across Victoria.

They each have a strong commitment to justice, including strengthening access to and navigating the justice system.

Alexandra Burt has extensive experience across criminal and administrative law and has held positions at the Office of the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions and Victoria Legal Aid, where she worked in a variety of jurisdictions.

Ms Burt was admitted as a lawyer in 2005 and holds a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Laws with Honours from the Australian National University.

In 2018, she was appointed a legal member and Chairperson of the Victorian Firearms Appeals Committee.

Guillaume Bailin held positions at the County Court of Victoria and the Office of Public Prosecutions has worked for Victoria Legal Aid since 2015, most recently as Acting Program Manager, Indictable Crime.

Mr Bailin is the Founder and President of the Prison Legal Education and Assistance Project and has held leadership positions with the Law Institute of Victoria.

Mr Bailin was admitted as a lawyer in 2010 and has held a variety of senior positions. Mr Bailin holds a Bachelor of Laws with Honours, a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Laws (Human Rights) from Monash University.

Kimberley Swadesir brings over 20 years' experience working across the justice system and since 2002 has been a solicitor at the Office of Public Prosecutions, most recently as Managing Principal Solicitor of the Geelong branch.

On top of her experience across the Magistrates', County, Children's, Coroners and Supreme Courts, Ms Swadesir has acted as a mentor, providing valuable insight and knowledge to the next generation of Victorian solicitors.

Melissa Stead held the position of Honorary President of the Children's Court Bar Association from 2016 to 2019, where she worked collaboratively with the Children's Court in the area of professional development and providing the Bar's perspective on issues relevant to the Children's Court jurisdiction.

Quotes attributable to Attorney-General Jill Hennessy

"The experience Ms Burt, Mr Bailin, Ms Swadesir and Ms Stead will bring to their roles is not only extensive but covers a wide range of jurisdictions and functions across Victoria's legal sector."

"I congratulate the appointees – the Magistrates' Court will greatly benefit from their expertise and sound knowledge of the law."

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