

# County Court

## Criminal Division

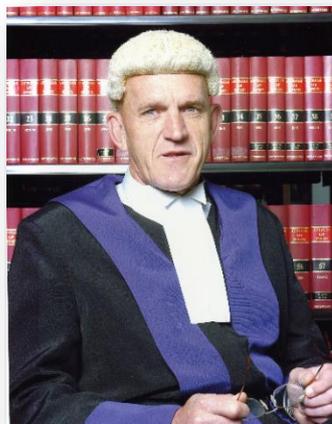
**Her Honour Judge Lisa Hannan – Head of Criminal Division**

### Message from the Head of the Criminal Division

In the past month we have seen the retirement of three experienced and dedicated Judges of the Criminal Division. Judges Punshon, Chettle and Maidment retired within two weeks of each other; a great loss to the Division and to the criminal justice system in Victoria. We wish all our retiring colleagues well as they enter the next stage of their careers.

### Retirement of Judge Geoffrey Chettle

On 26 April 2017, His Honour Judge Geoffrey Chettle retired as a Judge of the County Court after more than 13 years on the bench, having been appointed on 2 December 2003. Prior to his appointment as a Judge, His Honour had a very successful career at the Bar for over 25 years, practicing in criminal law, and specialising in commercial and white collar crime.



His Honour Judge Chettle

For 10 years His Honour was briefed primarily by the State Director of Public Prosecutions. His Honour then developed an extensive defence practice and was also briefed in many prosecutions for the Commonwealth DPP. His Honour had a reputation for having an unassailable appetite for work. His understanding of human nature and his love for his work as a Judge were hallmarks of his time on the bench. The Criminal Division thanks Judge Chettle for his indefatigable capacity for work and very much looks forward to welcoming His Honour back as a Reserve Judge after a well-earned break.

### Criminal Division Contacts

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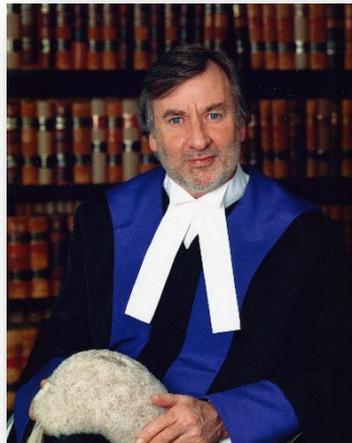
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## Retirement of Judge Roy Punshon

On 28 April 2017, His Honour Judge Roy Punshon retired as a Judge of the County Court. His Honour served as a County Court Judge for 14 years, having been appointed on 8 April 2003. Prior to his appointment, His Honour practiced at the Bar for almost 30 years, beginning practice in workers' compensation and then, in 1977, moving across to specialise in criminal law, where His Honour's unequalled skills in cross-examination, thoroughness of preparation and razor sharp intellect came to the fore, making a significant mark.



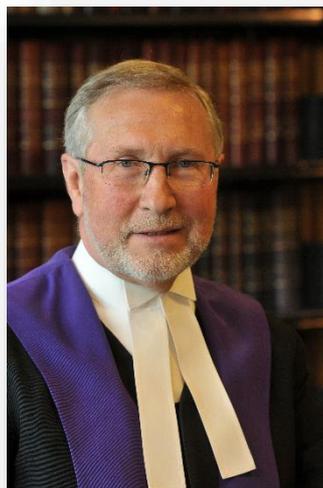
His Honour Judge Punshon

His Honour has been an extremely hard working Judge, deeply committed to social justice, using his well-known calm, considered and analytical approach, in and out of the courtroom, and at the same time treating everyone with courtesy, fairness and respect. The Criminal Division thanks His Honour for his hard and tireless work in the Division and we are very fortunate to be able to welcome His Honour back to the Court in the future as a Reserve Judge.

## Retirement of Judge Richard Maidment

On 5 May 2017, His Honour Judge Richard Maidment retired as a Judge of the County Court. His Honour served as a County Court Judge for six years, having been appointed on 21 June 2011. Before his appointment as a Judge, His Honour enjoyed a long and extremely successful career as a barrister for nearly 40 years, being admitted to the Bar of England and Wales in 1971.

His Honour immigrated to Australia in 1981, where he was admitted to practice in Victoria, and signed the Victorian Bar roll later that year.



His Honour Judge Maidment



## Key Dates

### May

- 19:** Criminal Division non-sitting day
- 20:** Courts Open Day

### June

- 12:** Queen's Birthday public holiday

His Honour appeared in criminal jury trials from the very outset of his career in Australia, working in a number of complex cases, and being renowned for his calm manner in even the most stressful of cases. Taking Silk in 2001 and practicing for more than nine years as Senior Council, His Honour served as in-house Senior Counsel for the Commonwealth DPP for almost three years.



As with his time at the Bar, His Honour has a reputation for being deeply committed to his work and public service, having a great sense of fairness and justice, as well as an insatiable appetite for work. His Honour will be greatly missed by the Criminal Division and we thank him for his work at the Court. However, our loss will be the Victoria Bar's gain and we wish him well.

### Appointment of Judge Carolene Gwynn

Her Honour Judge Carolene Gwynn's appointment to the County Court was announced by the Attorney-General on 9 May 2017. Judge Gwynn was formerly a Magistrate, appointed in 2015 and based at the Melbourne Magistrates' Court, where Her Honour was an active member of the Court's criminal law, education, Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal and sex offences committees.



Her Honour Judge Carolene Gwynn

Prior to Judge Gwynn's appointment to the Magistrates' Court, Her Honour was a well-respected barrister. With more than 20 years' experience as a defence and prosecution advocate, specialising in criminal law, Her Honour has practiced in all Victorian Courts. She was admitted to practice in 1994 and signed the Victoria Bar Roll in 2001, having read with Judge James Montgomery of this Court.

Throughout her busy and successful career Her Honour has been very much involved in education in the law, and this will no doubt continue during her time at the County Court. The Criminal Division is very fortunate and pleased to welcome Judge Gwynn to the Court and wishes Her Honour well in her new role.

## Courts Open Day

Preparations are ramping up for the Courts Open Day this Saturday 20 May 2017. There will be a range of activities and events for those interested in learning more about the work of the Court, including:

- Mock plea hearings;
- Mock Koori Court plea hearing;
- Tours of the custody cells;
- County Court charity BBQ;
- Self-guided tours;
- Gowns and wigs display;
- Mock jury empanelment;
- Court sketch artist; and
- Court stenographer display.



Further information about events and session times can be found [here](#).

## Legislation Update

### Bail Review

The Bail Review conducted by former Supreme Court Justice and Director of Public Prosecutions Paul Coghlan QC delivered its second advice to the Victorian Government on 1 May 2017. The review made 37 recommendations in total. In addition to requiring that bail be refused for new offences such as Aggravated Home Invasion and Aggravated Carjacking unless exceptional circumstances apply, it is recommended that there should be a presumption against bail for many more offences including:

- Rape;
- Kidnapping;
- Armed Robbery;
- Intentionally or Recklessly Causing Serious Injury in Circumstances of Gross Violence;
- Culpable Driving Causing Death;
- Dangerous Driving Causing Death or Serious Injury;
- Dangerous or Negligent Driving while Pursued by Police; and
- Persistent Contravention of a Family Violence Intervention Order.

These reforms will be implemented in the first wave of reforms which are expected to be introduced into Parliament by the end of May. A second wave of reforms expected later this year will consider the 'unacceptable risk' and 'reverse onus' tests.



## Next Edition

The next edition of the County Court Criminal Division Update will be published in June 2017.

Any suggestions can be sent to Ryan Mallia or Nancy Molloy:

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