



# County Court Criminal Division

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

## Message from Her Honour Judge Hannan

After much reflection I have decided that it is time for me to stand down as both Head of the Criminal Division and Judge in Charge of the General List effective Friday 10 August. I think one of the hardest things to know is when it is time for a change. There is always an uncompleted project and more to do but I strongly feel that I have made such contribution as I can in my current capacity. I feel very confident about the Division and the Court but I think it is time for fresh minds and new ideas. There is such a depth of talent in the County Court and it should be utilised. Without renewal we stagnate.



**Her Honour Judge Hannan**

We have reached a point where I think the Division works well. The *Blue Sky* project told us that our list courts and systems are working well. We have had one 'not reached' trial this calendar year. The new position of Senior Associate to the Reserve List assists both judges and the profession in the allocation of our trials in a timely and transparent manner. The Long Trial List is an important part of the future management of our work load and it is up and running. We have in place the plan and the personnel to progress our next project which looks at the Division's work as a whole and asks the questions: Who is the best person to undertake this task, and how do we optimise staff working at the upper end of their skill set, freeing judges to concentrate on their court work?

## Criminal Division Contacts

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We are fortunate to have strong relationships with the Office of Public Prosecutions, Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions, Criminal Bar Association, Law Institute of Victoria, Victoria Legal Aid and Corrections Victoria who are all actively engaged with the Division in its work and projects. I am grateful to the profession and our stakeholders for their support and enthusiastic participation in our projects. You all have much to be proud of.



The aspect I have enjoyed most over the last 10 years managing the General List and four years as Head of Division has been working with the judges of the Court who are all hardworking dedicated and generous people and it has been such a privilege to try to make things work for all of us. Equally it has been a pleasure to work with such a dedicated team of Division staff. I know they will all continue their dedication in working with my successor.

I wish to thank the profession and all our stakeholders for your support and look forward to continuing as a productive Judge of the Division.

### **Retirement of Her Honour Judge Campton**

On 18 May 2018, Her Honour Judge Jane Campton retired as a Judge of the County Court, having served as a Judge of this Court for almost 16 years.



**Her Honour Judge Campton**

In 1981 Her Honour completed an internship with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees in Geneva. Returning to Australia in 1983, Her Honour worked as a Criminal Duty Solicitor with the Legal Aid Commission and in 1985, having returned to the Bar, Her Honour developed a busy and diverse practice, with particular expertise in the areas of professional negligence and misconduct and also unfair dismissals and equal opportunity cases. Whilst at the Bar, Her Honour was one of the founding members of the Women Barristers' Association.

Appearing in most Victorian courts and tribunals, including the Coroner's Court and Equal Opportunity Commission, and with a long association with the Law Institute of Victoria's Professional Standards Department, Her Honour earned a reputation for her

meticulous preparation and solid grasp of complicated areas of the law.

By the time of her appointment to the County Court in October 2002, Her Honour was well known for her great love and knowledge of the law, attention to detail, determination and the ability to quickly get to the substance of a matter. Her Honour sat in both the Criminal and Civil Trial Divisions of the Court and was widely regarded as a compassionate Judge having deep concern for people.

The Criminal Division is grateful for Her Honour's tireless work and her contribution to meeting the demands of the ever-growing workload of the Court.

Her Honour will be greatly missed by her colleagues at the Court, particularly her generosity with her time and her friendship. Known by her friends and family for her love of travel and art, her appreciation of wine and her great love for the environment, these will no doubt play a large part in Her Honour's retirement. As Her Honour said, she "would like to give back to the community from a different perspective", and the environment looks to benefit from Her Honour's keen interest in environmental law and her passion for the issues affecting its future welfare. The Criminal Division thanks Her Honour and wishes her well on her much deserved retirement.

### **Appointment of Her Honour Judge Fox**

Her Honour Judge Amanda Fox's appointment to the County Court was announced by the Attorney-General on 8 May 2018 and a ceremony was held to welcome Her Honour on 17 May 2018.

With a career in the law of more than 20 years, Judge Fox was admitted to practice in April 1995 and signed the Bar Roll in November 1997. In November 2016 Her Honour was appointed Senior Counsel.

Practicing extensively in criminal law, Her Honour appeared for both the prosecution and defence in a wide range of areas, including murder, fraud, slavery, foreign bribery, drug matters, sex offences, culpable driving and occupational health and safety matters.

An experienced trial advocate Her Honour appeared regularly before the Court of Appeal, Supreme Court, County Court, Coroner's Court and before Royal Commissions and, as an accredited Victorian Bar Readers' Court instructor, had been involved in the running of advocacy workshops in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands.





**Chief Judge Kidd welcomes Judge Fox**

Known by her friends and work colleagues for her discipline, compassion and sharp mind, the Court is very fortunate to have Her Honour join the Criminal Division. As was said at Her Honour's Welcome by Ms Wilson, speaking on behalf of the Law

Institute of Victoria, Her Honour "has a knack for lucidity, always built arguments on firm foundations and was strongly across the law of evidence". The Criminal Division is pleased to welcome Judge Fox to the Court and wishes Her Honour well in her new role.

### **Appointment of His Honour Judge Cahill**

His Honour Judge Michael Cahill's appointment to the County Court was announced by the Attorney-General on 29 May 2018 and a ceremony to welcome His Honour was held on 15 June 2018.

With a career in the law of 38 years, His Honour was admitted to practice in May 1980 and signed the Bar Roll in November 1990. In November 2016 His Honour was appointed Senior Council. Judge Cahill also served as the Vice-Chair of the Criminal Bar Association from 2010 – 2016.



**His Honour Judge Cahill**

An experienced trial advocate, His Honour has practiced in all criminal and quasi-criminal jurisdictions, having appeared regularly in jury trials in the Supreme and County Court, appellate courts, Coroner's Court, before Royal Commissions and other investigative and regulatory bodies. His Honour has also appeared in trials in Western Australia and Central Australia for the Indigenous community.

His Honour has travelled extensively, as an accredited Victorian Bar Readers' Course instructor and has instructed in overseas Advocacy Workshops in the Pacific for the Victorian Bar, in Bangladesh for the Australian Bar Association and in Uganda for an Australian NGO.

At his welcome ceremony Simon Marks QC, Junior Vice President of the Victorian Bar Council, described the familiar hallmarks of His Honour's work: those being intelligence, diligence, shrewd strategy and tactics, and no nonsense.



**Judge O'Neill, Judge Meredith, Judge Fox, Judge Gaynor, Judge Cahill, Judge O'Connell, Chief Judge Kidd, Judge Condon and Judge Taff**

Stuart Webb, President-Elect of the Law Institute of Victoria, described His Honour as unfailingly passionate, determined, generous, loyal and someone of refreshing humility.

The Criminal Division congratulates Judge Cahill on his appointment and is very pleased to welcome His Honour to the Court.

### **Courts Open Day**

The Court's annual Open Day, as part of the Victoria Law Foundation's Law Week, was held on Saturday 19 May 2018, and proved yet again to be a huge success. Almost 1200 people attended a range of events held over the course of the day and the feedback was, as with previous years, overwhelmingly positive.

One of the more popular events was the 'Day in the Life of an Accused' tour. This tour allowed members of the public to visit the custody cells, meet staff from Corrections Victoria and hear about and see where accused people on remand are held prior to their court hearing. The tour then continued to a mock plea hearing where a member of the public was arraigned and pleaded guilty to either culpable driving or intentionally causing serious injury.



**The tour of the custody cells**

After the plea hearing the Judge spoke about the work of the Court and took questions from the audience. The mock hearings provided a great opportunity for the Court to engage with the Community and explain our work.





For the second year now the Court offered a mock Koori Court plea hearing. The hearing was organised by Koori Court Co-ordinator, Terrie Stewart and heard by Judge in Charge of the Koori Court, Judge Grant. Those who attended learned about the Koori Court process and observed a sentencing conversation with Koori Elders.



This year the Court hosted the Adult Parole Board's mock parole hearing. His Honour Judge Peter Couzens, Chair of the Adult Parole Board, spoke about the role of the Adult Parole Board and members of the public saw a mock parole hearing and took part in the decision-making in relation to whether parole should be granted.

**Top: The mock Plea Hearing**  
**Above: Chair of the Adult Parole Board, Judge Peter Couzens discusses parole**

A mock bail application prepared and performed by the Victorian Bar's Student Engagement Committee also proved popular with many students attending to see a bail application and learn about the work of a barrister.



**Open Day volunteers (L-R) Robert Haines, Vivienne Jones, Her Honour Judge Morrish, Cecily Hollingworth and Edward Day**

The Court's charity BBQ was again popular and raised \$700 for the Berry Street Foundation helping children in need. The Division is grateful for the assistance provided by everyone in the lead up to and on Open Day including volunteers from the Office of Public Prosecutions, the Criminal Bar Association, Corrections Victoria, Juries Victoria, Court Network, Koori Elders and County Court Judges and staff.

## Practice and Procedure

### Review of the Criminal Division

In keeping with the Court's commitment to continuously modernise and set an example of contemporary court excellence, the Court has deemed it an opportune time to conduct a comprehensive review of the systems and processes within the Criminal Division. The results of this review will identify the degree to which those systems and processes meet the current needs of the judiciary, court staff and court users.

Stakeholder input is a critical component of this review. Over the coming months, the Court will be seeking to engage with stakeholders in order to gain a better understanding of their experience of the current systems and processes being employed by the Division. Stakeholder engagement will be conducted primarily by the members of the Criminal Division Redesign Team: Jason Goliszek and Larna Edney.

The Court is looking forward to progressing this important initiative.

### Long Trial Case Management List

The Long Trial Case Management List has been operating since the start of the year and is currently managing in excess of 30 long trials (those with an estimate of five weeks or greater). In addition to existing resources, a Long Trial Case Manager position has been created and Mahmud Begg has commenced in the role.

The Long Trial Case Management List has already seen a number of trials resolve into pleas of guilty, and the intensive and individualised case management is seen as beneficial for both the parties involved and the Court.

Enquiries about long trials can be made to Mahmud Begg on 8636 6687 or at [longtrials@countycourt.vic.gov.au](mailto:longtrials@countycourt.vic.gov.au).

