

# Media Release

**The Hon Martin Pakula MP**  
Attorney-General  
Minister for Racing



Tuesday, 25 July, 2017

## NEW COUNTY COURT JUDGE APPOINTED

Attorney-General Martin Pakula today announced the appointment of Michael O'Connell SC as a judge of the County Court.

Mr O'Connell was appointed to the Victorian Bar in 1990 and as Senior Counsel in 2008. During his 30-year legal career, he has been involved in several homicide, terrorism, white collar crime, sexual offences and occupational health and safety cases.

He completed a Bachelor of Law at Monash University in 1984 before practising as a trial and appellate advocate in all jurisdictions throughout Australia, as well as internationally.

Mr O'Connell has held a number of senior positions within the Victorian Bar and has been the Chairperson of the Criminal Bar Association since 2016.

Mr O'Connell is also an experienced legal educator who has served as a lecturer for the Victorian Bar Reader's Course since 2002 and was an accredited advocacy teacher with the Australian Advocacy Institute from 1997 to 2015.

Additionally, he has lectured in criminal procedure and intellectual property law at various Indonesian universities and government agencies as part of a project initiated by the Indonesian Department of Justice and Human Rights and AusAid.

Mr O'Connell will replace Judge Richard Maidment, who retired in May after almost six years at the County Court.

### Quotes attributable to Attorney-General Martin Pakula

*"During a 30-year legal career, Mr O'Connell has earned a reputation within the legal community as a strong criminal law and human rights advocate."*

*"Mr O'Connell's experience and skill in dealing with complex matters will be a huge asset in his new role, and I congratulate him on his appointment."*

*"I also thank Judge Richard Maidment for his dedication and service to the County Court."*