

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Output 1.1

Question No. 83

Senator Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 27 May 2008:

Please provide a biography for each member of the appointments panel for the Federal Magistrates Court.

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

Biographies for each member are below.

Name: Katherine Grace LEIGH

Present Position: First Assistant Secretary, Civil Justice Division, Attorney-General's Department

Educational and Professional Qualifications:

Bachelor of Arts, Griffith University, 1980

Bachelor of Laws (Hons), Australian National University, 1983

Master of International Law, Australian National University, 1989

Admitted, Supreme Court of NSW, 1984

Admitted, Supreme Court of the ACT, 1984

Admitted, High Court of Australia, 1984

Relevant Experience: Kathy Leigh has responsibility for providing legal policy advice to the Attorney-General on matters relating to federal courts and tribunals, administrative law, evidence, private international law, family law and related services and inter-country adoption.

Ms Leigh is an Alternate Member of the Council of the National Judicial College of Australia.

Name: Susan Mary MORGAN

Present Position: Rtd Justice of the Family Court of Australia

Educational and Professional Qualifications:

Bachelor of Laws, University of Melbourne, 1964

Admitted, Supreme Court of Victoria, 1984

Relevant Experience: Susan Morgan served as a Judge of the Family Court of Australia from July 1995 until her retirement in early 2006. During her time on the bench, she also served as a member of the Family Law Council from 2003 to 2006.

Prior to her judicial appointment, Mrs Morgan practised full-time as a barrister at the Victorian Bar. She specialised in family law, general property law, administrative law and mining law and also acted as a mediator in the Supreme Court of Victoria.

Mrs Morgan's career at the private Bar was preceded by a career in academia. From 1977 to 1989, she was first a lecturer, then a senior lecturer, in Law at the University of Melbourne.

Name: Michael Peter BAUMANN

Present Position: Federal Magistrate

Educational and Professional Qualifications:

Solicitors' Board, Queensland, 1975

Master of Laws, Queensland University of Technology, 2000

Admitted, Supreme Court of Queensland, 1979

Admitted, High Court of Australia, 1979

Accredited Mediator, Bond University, 1991

Accredited Family Law Specialist, Queensland Law Society, 1995

Accredited Mediator and Arbitrator, Australian Institute of Family Law Arbitrators and Mediators

Relevant Experience: Michael Baumann commenced his appointment as a Federal Magistrate in June 2000. Prior to his appointment, he was a sole practitioner and partner of the Gold Coast law firm, Bells Solicitors. A substantial part of his practice was in the Family Law jurisdiction and in 2000 he was accredited by the Queensland Law Society as a family law specialist.

From 1995 to his appointment, Federal Magistrate Baumann was Chair of Legal Aid Queensland and he served as President of the Queensland Law Society from 1993 to 1994. He has been actively involved in mediation, both as a participant and as a practitioner. He is an accredited mediator with Bond University and an accredited mediator and arbitrator with the Australian Institute of Family Law Arbitrators and Mediators.

Since his appointment, Federal Magistrate Baumann has been awarded the Outstanding Alumni award by the Law Faculty of the Queensland University of Technology. Since late 2007, he has been the National Coordinator of Case Management for the Federal Magistrates Court, working with the Chief Federal Magistrate to enhance the efficiency and delivery of service by the Court. As a member of the Court, he regularly speaks at Conferences on Family Law and related topics.