




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Supreme Court, Chief Justice

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (9.56 am): Today is a momentous day. The Premier has this morning announced that Justice Helen Bowskill, the Supreme Court Senior Judge Administrator, has been appointed as the new Chief Justice of the Queensland Supreme Court following the retirement of Queensland's first woman chief justice, the Hon. Chief Justice Catherine Holmes AC.

Justice Bowskill is well qualified for the position of Chief Justice and brings a wealth of experience and skills to the role. Her Honour was admitted as a barrister to the Supreme Court of Queensland in 1998. She was appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland's Trial Division in 2017 after more than 2½ years as a judge of the District Court.

Mr Bleijie: Who appointed her?

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members to my left!

Ms FENTIMAN: It is good to see such support from both sides of the House of such a wonderfully qualified Chief Justice.

Most recently, Justice Bowskill was appointed as the Senior Judge Administrator in August 2021 and has diligently approached the administrative role of the court since that time. Justice Bowskill is widely respected within the legal profession and is renowned for her measured and compassionate approach in a courtroom. Since her appointment as Senior Judge Administrator, Justice Bowskill has shown great leadership and will contribute greatly to the Queensland justice system in her new role. Justice Bowskill will commence in the role of Chief Justice on 19 March 2022.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Chief Justice Holmes, who has proved a steadfast leader of the Queensland justice system during her tenure as Chief Justice. Her Honour has been a trailblazer in the profession for so many but particularly women, and her leadership of the court during COVID-19 has been commendable, ensuring Queenslanders have continued access to justice during the global pandemic. Chief Justice Holmes is an inspiration to generations of women lawyers in Queensland, with a career spanning more than four decades. I thank the Chief Justice for her service to the courts and to Queensland over her distinguished career. I wish Justice Bowskill all the very best in her new role.