

Appointment of the Law Draftsman

The Department of Justice announced today (October 9) the appointment of Mr Eamonn Patrick Aquinas Moran, PSM QC, as the Law Draftsman, the head of the Law Drafting Division of the Department of Justice.

Mr Moran has been selected for the position through an open recruitment exercise. He will assume duty in January 2008.

In welcoming Mr Moran's appointment, the Secretary for Justice, Mr Wong Yan Lung, SC said that Mr Moran is a highly respected legislative draftsman with sound professional experience and outstanding leadership.

“He commands high respect in the legislative drafting field. I am sure that he will bring a wealth of experience and expertise to the Department of Justice. I very much look forward to working with him,” said Mr Wong.

The Law Draftsman post is ranked at Law Officer (DL6) level. The Law Draftsman is responsible for overseeing the drafting of all government legislation and advising on complex and sensitive legal issues identified in the course of developing draft legislation.

A brief biographical note on Mr Moran is set out below:

Mr Eamonn Moran, aged 55, was called to the Northern Ireland Bar in 1975 and admitted as Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Victoria in Australia in 1977. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1998 and awarded the Australian Public Service Medal in 2005 for his outstanding public service to legislative drafting and public law, and to the promotion of plain legal language in Australia.

Mr Moran has 32 years of experience in all aspects of the drafting of legislation, gained both in Australia and in Northern Ireland. He has been the Chief Parliamentary Counsel in Victoria, Australia since 1999. He also has long-standing experience in teaching and presenting on legislative drafting and statutory interpretation. In Australia he has served on a number of advisory committees and has been a Part-time Commissioner of the Law Reform Commission of Victoria. He was elected as President of the Commonwealth Association of Legislative Counsel at the meeting of the Association held in conjunction with the Commonwealth Law Conference in September 2007.

Mr Moran has widely written and lectured on various aspects of legislative drafting.

He is married with 3 children.

End/Tuesday, October 9, 2007

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