



Attorney-General

Reference: MS23-000596

Mr Sam Hay KC
President
Victorian Bar
Owen Dixon Chambers East
Level 5, 205 William Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

By email: presidentbc@vicbar.com.au

Dear Mr Hay

I write to update you on the consultation, nominations and advisory panel process for the appointment of judicial officers to the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (FCFCOA). In addition, I seek your ongoing assistance by encouraging potential candidates to apply for such appointments.

Consistent with the Australian Law Reform Commission's Report *Without Fear or Favour: Judicial Impartiality and the Law on Bias*, the Government committed to issue public calls for expressions of interest (EOI) for federal judicial appointments. Accordingly, the Attorney-General's Department has developed a new process enabling candidates to submit their EOI through an online form. The form will be accessible on the department's website. Please encourage your nominees to submit an EOI via our website at <https://www.ag.gov.au/legal-system/courts/judicial-appointments>.

Under the new process the department will advertise in national and targeted publications. To maximise candidates considered for this new process, for this round you may also provide your nomination/s directly by return correspondence to attorney@ag.gov.au after obtaining your nominee's consent to do so. When doing so, please provide their Curriculum Vitae details using the official format required by the Australian Government, as **attached** to this letter.

Advisory panels will continue to be a key feature of the new process. They will be convened as needed to assess the EOIs received from candidates for judicial appointment. Interviews will not be necessary unless the advisory panel considers otherwise. The process may also be used to establish an order of merit to support future appointments.

While nominations are sought across all Registries, the Darwin and Melbourne Registries of the FCFCOA (Division 2) are of particular need at this time. Further vacancies are also expected to arise in the Sydney and Parramatta Registries of the FCFCOA (Division 1) and the Brisbane and Sydney Registries of the FCFCOA (Division 2). I would appreciate you actively encouraging those who you consider suitable for these appointments to submit an EOI for these vacancies.

Enquiries can be directed to the Attorney-General's Department at JudicialAppointments@ag.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

THE HON MARK DREYFUS KC MP

14 / 7 / 2023

Encl. *Curriculum Vitae*