

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE5425

Holmes, Catherine

(1956 -)

Born 19560101, Brisbane Queensland Australia

Occupation Barrister, Judge, Lawyer, Senior Counsel, Solicitor

Summary

Catherine Ena "Cate" Holmes, AC, assumed the office of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Queensland on 11 September 2015. She holds the degrees of B.Econ (ANU), B.A. (Hons), LLB, LLM (Advanced) (UQ).

Holmes was admitted as a solicitor in 1982 and as a barrister in 1984, taking silk in 1999. While in practice, Justice Holmes was at various times a part time member of the Anti-Discrimination Tribunal, Deputy President of the Queensland Community Corrections Board and, during 1998 and 1999, Counsel assisting the Forde Commission of Inquiry into Child Abuse. Her Honour was appointed to the Supreme Court of Queensland in March 2000. She was the judge overseeing the Court's criminal list for some years, and was the judge constituting the Mental Health Court from February 2005 until May 2006, when she was appointed to the Court of Appeal. From 16 January 2011 until 16 March 2012, Justice Holmes was the Commissioner of the Commission of Inquiry into the Queensland Floods 2010-2011.

Justice Holmes AC was made a Companion in the General Division of the Order of Australia on Australia Day in 2020, for eminent service to the judiciary, notably to criminal, administrative, and mental health law, and to the community of Queensland. She was a founding member of the Queensland Women's Legal Service in 1984.

Published resources

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Edited Book

A Woman's Place: 100 Years of Queensland Women Lawyers, Purdon, Susan and Rahemtula, Aladin, 2005

Article

Who is Catherine Holmes, Queensland's first female chief justice?, Agius, Kim, 2015,
http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-09-07/who-is-catherine-holmes/6756168?WT.ac=statenews_qld

Site Exhibition

Australian Women Lawyers as Active Citizens, Trailblazing Women Lawyers Project Team, 2016,
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/lawyers>

Author Details

Nikki Henningham

Created 5 October 2015
Last modified 3 August 2025

Digital resources



Title: Honourable Justice C E Holmes

Type: Image

Date: 3 May, 2023