Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE5602

Thomas, Sally Gordon

(1939 -)

Born	19390807, Cambridge England
Occupation	Administrator, Judge, Lawyer, Magistrate

Summary

The Honourable Sally Thomas was the first woman to serve as a judge of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory, serving from 1992 to 2009. She had previously been Chief Magistrate from 1986. After retiring from the bench, she was appointed Chief Administrator of the Northern Territory, being sworn in on 31 October 2011 at Parliament House, Darwin, by the then Governor-General of Australia, Ms Quentin Bryce AC.

As well as having a distinguished career in the judicial system, Her Honour was Chair of the Legal Aid Commission from 1990 to 1996, Chair of the Northern Territory Winston Churchill Fellowship Committee from 1992 to 2004 and in 2004 she was appointed Deputy National Chair Fellowship, of the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust. Commenting on her appointment as Chancellor of Charles Darwin University (CDU) on 1 January 2010, Vice Chancellor Barney Glover noted that '[h]er strong leadership, coupled with her extensive experience as a committed reformer and contributor to social justice within Australia and beyond will bring a new perspective to CDU.'

Sally Thomas was interviewed by Nikki Henningham for the Trailblazing Women and the Law Oral History Project. For details of the interview see the National Library of Australia CATALOGUE RECORD.

Published resources

Resource Section
The Honourable Sally Thomas AC, 2014,
https://www.cdu.edu.au/25th-anniversary/sally-thomas

Resource
Farewell Ceremonial Sitting for the Honourable Justice Sally Thomas - transcript of proceedings, Supreme Court of the Northern Territory, 2009,
http://www.supremecourt.nt.gov.au/media/documents/Thomas_J_Retirement_30072009.pdf

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

Archival resources

National Library of Australia, Oral History and Folklore Collection
Sally Thomas interviewed by Nikki Henningham in the Trailblazing women and the law oral history project

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Created 7 April 2016
Last modified 3 August 2025