

Chief Justice Helen Gay Murrell

On 28 October 2013, Helen Gay Murrell was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Australian Capital Territory.

Her Honour attended the University of New South Wales, from which she graduated in 1976 with B Arts/B Laws degree. In 1981 her Honour attended the University of Sydney and obtained a Diploma of Criminology.

Professional Positions

Her Honour was admitted as a solicitor to the Supreme Court of New South Wales in 1977. From 1977 to 1981 her Honour practised at the Commonwealth Crown Solicitor's Office and NSW Legal Aid Commission. In 1981 to 1996 her Honour practised as a Barrister and practised criminal law, administrative law, environmental law, common law and equity. From 1994 to 1996 her Honour was the first Environmental Counsel for the NSW Environment Protection Authority. In 1995 her Honour was appointed Senior Counsel in New South Wales. From 1996 to 2013 her Honour was appointed as a Judge of the District Court of New South Wales. In 1996 her Honour was also an Acting Judge in the Land and Environment Court of New South Wales. From 1997 to 1999 her Honour was President of the Equal Opportunity Tribunal of New South Wales. At the same time her Honour was Deputy President of the Administrative Decisions Tribunal of New South Wales, Head of the Equal Opportunity Division. From 1998 to 2003 her Honour was the first Senior Judge of the Drug Court of New South Wales. In 1999 her Honour was a member of the United Nations Expert Working Group on Drug Courts, Vienna. From 2005 to 2013 her Honour was Deputy Chairperson of the New South Wales Medical Tribunal.

Judicial Education and recent Positions and Memberships

Her Honour has been involved in a number of committees relating to judicial education and is currently a member of the National Judicial College of Australia (NJCA) committee developing program on witness assessment and the committee overseeing the annual sentencing conference program.

Her Honour was the NJCA Regional Convenor for NSW from 2011 to 2013.