

Justice Hilary Penfold PSM

On 1 February 2008, Hilary Penfold PSM QC was sworn in as a judge of the Australian Capital Territory Supreme Court.

Born in 1953 in Dunedin, her Honour was educated at Ascham School and the Australian National University, from which she graduated BA in 1975 and LL.B (Hons) in 1977.

After completing the Legal Workshop at the Australian National University, her Honour was admitted as a barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory in 1977.

In 1977 her Honour joined the Commonwealth Office of Parliamentary Counsel, where she worked as a legislative drafter, and in due course as First Parliamentary Counsel for ten years until 2004. In 2001, she was appointed a Commonwealth Queen's Counsel on the recommendation of the then Attorney-General, the Hon Daryl Williams QC MP.

During her career as a legislative drafter, her Honour drafted legislation covering many subject areas, including taxation, corporations law, defamation, industrial relations, human rights, sex discrimination, and forensic procedures, as well as the constitutional amendments proposed to create an Australian republic in 1999. Her Honour was also actively involved in the work of the Parliamentary Counsel's Committee (covering Australia and New Zealand), and was the President of the Commonwealth Association of Legislative Counsel, representing all legislative drafters in the [British] Commonwealth, from 1999 until 2003. Her Honour was a member of the Board of Taxation from 2000 until 2004, and headed the Migration Litigation Review commissioned by the then Attorney-General, the Hon Philip Ruddock MP, in 2003.

In 2004 her Honour was appointed Secretary of the newly-formed Department of Parliamentary Services.