

CHIEF JUDGE

MR JOHN PASCOE AO CVO

Mr John Pascoe was appointed as Chief Judge of the Federal Circuit Court of Australia (formerly known as the Federal Magistrates Court of Australia) in 2004.

John Pascoe is a graduate of the Australian National University and, after admission as a solicitor, became a partner in the legal firm, Stephen Jaques & Stephen (now Mallesons) in 1977. Prior to his appointment as Chief Judge, Mr Pascoe was Managing Director in the national law firm, Phillips Fox. His practice has been in insurance law, risk management and government regulation. He has broad commercial experience, including a period as CEO of a public company and has been Chairman of a number of listed companies and statutory authorities.

Chief Judge Pascoe was Deputy Chancellor and a member of the Council of the University of New South Wales. He is Deputy Chair of the Institute of Early Childhood Foundation and a Patron of the LAWASIA Family Law and Family Rights Section. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees and the Advisory Board for the Cambodian Children's Fund Australia.

He is a former member of the Board of Trustees of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Foundation (UK) and is an Honorary advisor and Regional meeting Chairman of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association (Asia Pacific). He is a founding member of the Alumni of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award in Australia.

He was appointed a member in the General Division of the Order of Australia in 1994, an Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia in 2002 and was awarded a Centenary Medal in 2003. He was appointed a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order in January 2010.

Chief Judge Pascoe has a particular interest in the causes of family violence, including mental illness and how better to deal with these issues. He also has an interest in the elimination of human trafficking in all forms but has developed considerable expertise in the trafficking of newly born children.

The Federal Circuit Court of Australia deals with 90 per cent of all family law filings in Australia and has major human rights jurisdiction.

Chief Judge Pascoe has a number of published papers on family violence and the effects of mental illness.