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MEDIA RELEASE

NSW OLDEST MAGISTRATE RETIRES

Nicholas Reimer, well-known Lismore magistrate, has retired after almost 20 years on the bench.

The oldest Magistrate to serve in NSW, Magistrate Reimer was the first to take advantage of the change to the Magistrates retirement age from 65 to 72 – an amendment that Magistrate Reimer himself campaigned for in 2003.

Mr Reimer said "I had been campaigning for this amendment to occur, because it was considered to be discriminatory as all other State judges had a retiring age of 72 and the magistrates had to retire at 65. I was not the only person arguing for this, but perhaps because I was so persistent and vocal, some of my colleagues referred to the change in legislation as the "Reimer Amendment".



From Left to right: Magistrate Wayne Evans, Magistrate Chris Bone, Magistrate Kim Pogson, Magistrate Annette Sinclair, Nicholas Reimer, Magistrate Robyn Denes, Magistrate Linden, Magistrate Dakin, Magistrate Col Elliot

At a dinner held last night in his honour, Mr Reimer said "Law has been part of my life for well over 50 years and I am still coming to terms with retirement. I have always loved the sea and look forward to spending more time on my boat fishing".

Mr Reimer began his career as a magistrate in Sydney before coming to the Northern Rivers area 10 years ago. It has been estimated that he sat through approximately 12,000 hearings and adjudicated on 50,000 sentences during his career.

On the Lismore circuit Mr Reimer gained a lot of experience working with the Aboriginal community around Casino, which was able to use the "circle sentencing" option for offenders.¹

¹ Circle Sentencing is a special type of sentencing; an application comes to the court for the person to be referred to a panel of Aboriginal elders, and at a meeting the elders discuss an appropriate sentence.

Hosted by the Far North Coast Law Society (FNCLS), around 100 local solicitors, court staff and official guests attended the dinner at Ballina's Ramada Hotel & Suites to farewell Mr Reimer.

Far North Coast Law Society spokesperson Mr Jim Fuggle wished Nicholas Reimer all the best for the future.

Jim said *"Nick is very well-respected by the local legal profession. He has impeccable legal principals, oozes common sense and has the ability to listen. Magistrate Nicholas Reimer was known as a fair and compassionate man and will be sorely missed in our local court."*



Nicholas Reimer at the dinner held in his honour by the Far North Coast Law Society

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Additional pictures are available should they be required.

ABOUT THE FAR NORTH COAST LAW SOCIETY

The Far North Coast Law Society is the premier professional organisation for law practitioners situated on the Far North Coast of NSW. Members are private practitioners, large and small law firms and law students who work and/or live in the Tweed, Byron, Ballina, Lismore, Kyogle & Richmond Valley areas. Like you, our members are local and serving the community is important to us.

To find a local solicitor contact the Far North Coast Law Society on enquiry@farnorthcoastlawyers.com.au.