

Attorney General of New South Wales

The **Attorney General of New South Wales**, in formal contexts also **Attorney-General** or **Attorney General for New South Wales** ^[1] and usually known simply as the **Attorney General**, is a minister in the Government of New South Wales who has responsibility for the administration of justice in New South Wales, Australia. In addition, the Attorney General is one of the Law Officers of the Crown. Along with the subordinate Solicitor General, Crown Advocate, and Crown Solicitor, the Attorney General serves as the chief legal and constitutional adviser of the Crown and Government of New South Wales.

The current Attorney General, since 30 January 2017, is Mark Speakman, SC MP.^[2] The Attorney General administers the Department of Communities and Justice and a range of other government agencies.

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History and function

The position of Attorney General has existed since 1824, well before the full establishment of the New South Wales Parliament (in 1856) but coinciding with the establishment of the New South Wales Legislative Council. From the beginning, the Attorney General has been the Crown's advisor and representative in legal matters. It was modelled after the office of the Attorney General for England and Wales. As such the Attorney General advises and represents the Crown and government departments in court. The person appointed to this role provides legal advice to the Government, acts as the representative of the public interest and resolves issues between government departments.

The Attorney General also has supervisory powers over the

Attorney-General of New South Wales



Coat of arms of New South Wales



Flag of New South Wales



Incumbent

Mark Speakman

since 30 January 2017

Department of Communities and Justice

Style The Honourable

Member of Parliament · Cabinet · Executive Council

Reports to Premier of New South Wales

Seat 52 Martin Place, Sydney

Nominator Premier of New South Wales

Appointer Governor of New South Wales on the advice of the premier

prosecution of criminal offences, but is not personally involved with prosecutions. Today, prosecutions are carried out by the Public Prosecution Office and most legal advice to government departments is provided by the Government Legal Service, both under the supervision of the Attorney General. The Attorney General may appeal cases to the higher courts where, although the particular case is settled, there may be a point of law of public importance at issue. The Attorney General is responsible to Parliament for activities of the Department of Justice and has responsibility for the all state's courts and tribunals and the appointment of judges, magistrates and statutory officers in New South Wales.

Term length	<u>At the Governor's pleasure</u>
Formation	14 April 1824
First holder	<u>Saxe Bannister</u>
Deputy	<u>Solicitor General</u>
Website	<u>www.justice.nsw.gov.au</u> (<u>http://www.justice.nsw.gov.au/</u>)

List of attorneys general



Sir William Montagu Manning,
Solicitor-General: 1844–1848;
Chancellor of Sydney University:
1878–1895.



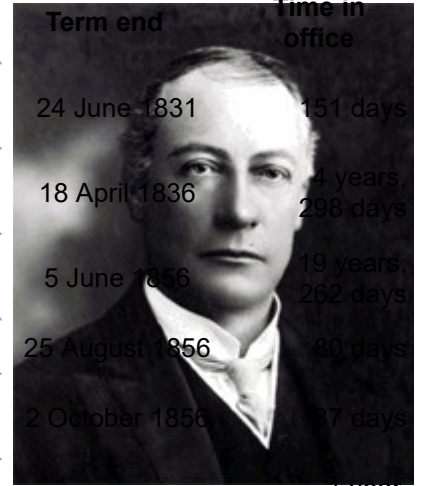
Sir William Charles Windeyer,
Judge of the Supreme Court of New South Wales: 1881–1896;
Chancellor of Sydney University: 1895–1898.



Sir Edmund Barton, Prime Minister of Australia: 1901–1903;
Judge of the High Court of Australia: 1903–1920.

Ordinal	Attorney General ^{[3][4]}	Party	Term begin	Term end	Time in office
1	<u>Saxe Bannister</u>	Not a member of <u>Legislative Council</u>	14 April 1824	13 October 1826	2 years, 182 days
2	<u>William Henry Moore (acting)</u>		13 October 1826	31 July 1827	291 days
3	<u>Alexander Baxter</u> ^[6]		1 August 1827	24 January 1831	3 years, 176 days

Ordinal	Attorney General ^{[3][4]}	Party	Term begin	Term end	Time in office
–	<u>William Henry Moore</u> (acting)		24 January 1831	24 June 1831	151 days
4	<u>John Kinchela</u>	Prior to responsible government	25 June 1831	18 April 1836	4 years, 298 days
5	<u>John Plunkett</u>		17 September 1836	5 June 1856	19 years, 262 days
6	<u>William Manning</u>	No party	6 June 1856	25 August 1856	80 days
7	<u>James Martin</u>		26 August 1856	2 October 1856	37 days
–	<u>William Manning</u>		3 October 1856	25 May 1857	1 year, 80 days
8	<u>John Darvall</u>		26 May 1857	7 September 1857	104 days
–	<u>James Martin QC</u>		7 September 1857	8 November 1858	1 year, 62 days
9	<u>Alfred Lutwyche QC</u>		15 November 1858	21 February 1859	98 days
10	<u>Lyttleton Bayley</u>		21 February 1859	26 October 1859	247 days
11	<u>Edward Wise</u>		27 October 1859	13 February 1860	109 days
–	<u>Sir William Manning QC</u>		21 February 1860	8 March 1860	16 days
12	<u>John Hargrave</u>		2 April 1860	31 July 1863	3 years, 120 days
–	<u>John Darvall QC</u>	1 August 1863	15 October 1863	75 days	
–	<u>James Martin QC</u> ^[a]	16 October 1863	2 February 1865	1 year, 109 days	
–	<u>John Darvall QC</u>	3 February 1865	20 June 1865	137 days	
–	<u>John Plunkett QC</u>	25 August 1865	21 January 1866	149 days	
–	<u>James Martin QC</u> ^[a]	22 January 1866	26 October 1868	2 years, 278 days	
–	<u>Sir William Manning QC</u>	21 October 1868	15 December 1870	2 years, 55 days	
–	<u>Sir James Martin QC</u> ^[a]	16 December 1870	13 May 1872	1 year, 149 days	
13	<u>Edward Butler</u>	15 May 1872	10 November 1873	1 year, 179 days	
14	<u>Joseph Innes</u>	20 November 1873	8 February 1875	1 year, 80 days	
15	<u>William Dalley</u>	9 February 1875	21 March 1877	2 years, 40 days	
16	<u>William Windeyer</u>	22 March 1877	16 August 1877	147 days	

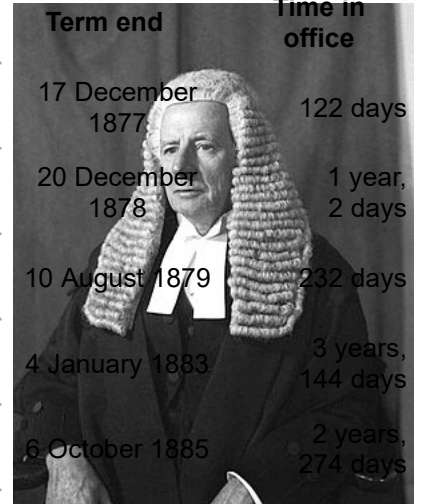


Sir James Spade, Premier of New South Wales: 1907–1910; Judge of the Supreme Court of New South Wales: 1920–1922.



Sir Edward McTiernan, Justice of the High Court of Australia: 1930–1976.

Ordinal	Attorney General ^{[3][4]}	Party	Term begin	Term end	Time in office
–	<u>William Dalley QC</u>		17 August 1877	17 December 1877	122 days
17	<u>William Foster</u>		18 December 1877	20 December 1878	1 year, 2 days
–	<u>William Windeyer</u>		21 December 1878	10 August 1879	232 days
18	<u>Robert Wisdom</u>		13 August 1879	4 January 1883	3 years, 144 days
–	<u>William Dalley QC</u>		5 January 1883	6 October 1885	2 years, 274 days
19	<u>Jack Want</u>		7 October 1885	21 December 1885	75 days
20	<u>George Simpson</u>		22 December 1885	25 February 1886	65 days
–	<u>Jack Want</u>		26 February 1886	19 January 1887	327 days
–	<u>William Foster QC</u>		20 January 1887	18 May 1887	118 days
21	<u>Bernhard Wise</u>	<u>Free Trade</u>	27 May 1887	7 February 1888	256 days
–	<u>George Simpson QC</u>		10 February 1888	16 January 1889	341 days
22	<u>Edmund Barton</u>	<u>Protectionist</u>	17 January 1889	7 March 1889	49 days
–	<u>George Simpson QC</u>	<u>Free Trade</u>	8 March 1889	22 October 1891	2 years, 228 days
–	<u>Edmund Barton QC</u>	<u>Protectionist</u>	23 October 1891	14 December 1893	2 years, 52 days
23	<u>Charles Heydon</u>		15 December 1893	2 August 1894	230 days
–	<u>George Simpson QC</u>	<u>Free Trade</u>	3 August 1894	1 December 1894	120 days
–	<u>Jack Want QC</u>		18 December 1894	18 April 1899	4 years, 121 days
24	<u>George Reid QC</u>		19 April 1899	13 September 1899	147 days
–	<u>Bernhard Wise QC</u>	<u>Protectionist / Progressive</u>	14 September 1899	14 June 1904	4 years, 274 days
25	<u>James Gannon</u>	<u>Progressive</u>	15 June 1904	29 August 1904	75 days
26	<u>Charles Wade QC</u> ^[b]	<u>Liberal Reform</u>	29 August 1904	20 October 1910	6 years, 52 days
27	<u>William Holman</u> ^[a]	<u>Labor</u>	21 October 1910	29 January 1914	3 years, 100 days
28	<u>David Hall</u>		29 January 1914	15 November 1916	2 years, 291 days



Sir Henry Manning, First Viscount of the Opposition in the Legislative Council: 1941–1958.

Ordinal	Attorney General ^{[3][4]}	Party	Term begin	Term end	Time in office
			<u>Nationalist</u>	15 November 1916	23 July 1919
29	<u>John Garland</u>		23 July 1919	12 April 1920	264 days
30	<u>Edward McTiernan</u>	<u>Labor</u>	12 April 1920	20 December 1921	1 year, 252 days
31	<u>Thomas Bavin</u>	<u>Nationalist</u>	20 December 1921	20 December 1921	7 hours
–	<u>Edward McTiernan</u>	<u>Labor</u>	20 December 1921	13 April 1922	114 days
–	<u>Thomas Bavin</u>	<u>Nationalist</u>	13 April 1922	17 June 1925	3 years, 65 days
–	<u>Edward McTiernan</u>	<u>Labor</u>	17 June 1925	26 May 1927	1 year, 343 days
32	<u>Andrew Lysaght</u>		27 May 1927	18 October 1927	144 days
33	<u>Francis Boyce</u>	<u>Nationalist</u>	18 October 1927	3 November 1930	3 years, 16 days
–	<u>Andrew Lysaght</u>	<u>Labor</u>	4 November 1930	16 June 1931	224 days
34	<u>Joseph Lamaro</u>		16 June 1931	15 October 1931	121 days
		<u>Labor (NSW)</u>	15 October 1931	13 May 1932	211 days
35	<u>Daniel Levy</u>	<u>United Australia</u>	16 May 1932	17 June 1932	32 days
36	<u>Henry Manning</u>		18 June 1932	16 May 1941	8 years, 332 days
37	<u>Clarrie Martin</u>	<u>Labor</u>	16 May 1941	23 February 1953	11 years, 283 days
38	<u>Bill Sheahan</u>		23 February 1953	15 March 1956	3 years, 21 days
39	<u>Reg Downing</u>		15 March 1956	13 May 1965	9 years, 59 days
40	<u>Ken McCaw</u>	<u>Liberal</u>	13 May 1965	3 January 1975	9 years, 235 days
41	<u>John Maddison</u>		3 January 1975	14 May 1976	1 year, 132 days
42	<u>Frank Walker</u>	<u>Labor</u>	14 May 1976	1 February 1983	6 years, 263 days
43	<u>Paul Landa</u>		1 February 1983	24 November 1984	1 year, 297 days
44	<u>Neville Wran</u>		27 November 1984	12 December 1984	15 days
45	<u>Terry Sheahan</u>		12 December 1984	26 November 1987	2 years, 349 days
46	<u>Ron Mulock</u>		26 November 1987	21 March 1988	116 days

Ordinal	Attorney General ^{[3][4]}	Party	Term begin	Term end	Time in office
47	<u>John Dowd</u>	<u>Liberal</u>	25 March 1988	6 June 1991	3 years, 73 days
48	<u>Peter Collins</u>		6 June 1991	3 July 1992	1 year, 27 days
49	<u>John Hannaford</u>		3 July 1992	4 April 1995	2 years, 275 days
50	<u>Jeff Shaw</u>	<u>Labor</u>	4 April 1995	28 June 2000	5 years, 85 days
51	<u>Bob Debus</u>		28 June 2000	2 April 2007	6 years, 278 days
52	<u>John Hatzistergos</u>		2 April 2007	28 March 2011	3 years, 360 days
53	<u>Greg Smith</u>	<u>Liberal</u>	3 April 2011	23 April 2014	3 years, 20 days
54	<u>Brad Hazzard</u>		23 April 2014	2 April 2015	344 days
55	<u>Gabrielle Upton</u>		2 April 2015	30 January 2017	1 year, 303 days
56	<u>Mark Speakman</u> <u>SC</u>		30 January 2017	<i>incumbent</i>	4 years, 194 days

- a. Concurrently Premier of New South Wales.
- b. Premier of New South Wales from 2 October 1907

List of ministers for the Prevention of Domestic Violence

Ministerial title	Name	Party	Term begin	Term end	Time in office	Notes
Minister for Prevention of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault	<u>Pru Goward</u>	<u>Liberal</u>	30 January 2017	23 March 2019	2 years, 52 days	^[7]
Minister for the Prevention of Domestic Violence	<u>Mark Speakman</u> <u>SC</u>		2 April 2019	27 May 2021	2 years, 132 days	^[8]
Minister for Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence			27 May 2021	<i>incumbent</i>		^[9]

References

- See, e.g. *Attorney General for New South Wales v Burns & Ors* (http://www.hcourt.gov.au/cases/case_s186-2017), *Leahy v Attorney-General for New South Wales* and *Makin v Attorney General for New South Wales*
- Vukovic, Dom; Gerathy, Sarah; McDonald, Philippa (29 January 2017). "NSW Cabinet reshuffle: Premier Gladys Berejiklian announces big changes to front bench" (<http://www.ab>

c.net.au/news/2017-01-29/premier-gladys-berejiklian-announces-new-cabinet-queanbeyan/8221072). *ABC News*. Australia. Retrieved 29 January 2017.

3. O'Neill, Patrick. "New South Wales Attorneys-General 1823+" (http://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Library/Browse_by_Topic/law/attorneysgeneral#NSW). *List of Australian Attorneys-General*. Parliament of Australia. Retrieved 15 September 2015.
4. "Part 6 Ministries since 1856" (<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/members/formermembers/Documents/Part%206%20combined.pdf>) (PDF). *NSW Parliamentary Record*. Parliament of New South Wales. Retrieved 21 January 2021.
5. "Mr Alexander Macduff Baxter" (<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/members/formermembers/Pages/former-member-details.aspx?pk=269>). *Former Members of the Parliament of New South Wales*. Retrieved 3 May 2019.
6. Baxter was subsequently appointed to the Legislative Council on 30 January 1829.^[5]
7. Vukovic, Dom; Gerathy, Sarah; McDonald, Philippa (29 January 2017). "NSW Cabinet reshuffle: Premier Gladys Berejiklian announces big changes to front bench" (<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-01-29/premier-gladys-berejiklian-announces-new-cabinet-queanbeyan/8221072>). *ABC News*. Australia. Retrieved 29 January 2017.
8. "Government Notices (30)" (https://gazette.legislation.nsw.gov.au/so/download.w3p?id=Gazette_2019_2019-30.pdf) (PDF). *Government Gazette of the State of New South Wales*. 2 April 2019. p. 1088-1090. Retrieved 3 April 2019.
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External links

- NSW Department of Justice (<http://www.justice.nsw.gov.au/>)
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