

# News Release Deputy Premier John Rau

Attorney General  
Minister for Planning  
Minister for Industrial Relations  
Minister for Business Services and Consumers

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## First legal profession Commissioner appointed

Attorney General John Rau has today announced the appointment of Mr Greg May as the State's first Legal Profession Conduct Commissioner.

The office of the Commissioner will replace the Legal Practitioners Conduct Board from 1 July 2014. The Commissioner and his staff will investigate and deal with claims against legal practitioners for unsatisfactory professional conduct and professional misconduct.

Mr May, who will take up a five-year appointment on 1 February 2014, will oversee the establishment of the Commissioner's office prior to the commencement of new laws governing unprofessional conduct by legal practitioners.

"The new office of Commissioner is a key component of the State Government's legal profession reforms," Mr Rau said.

"Mr May is one South Australia's most experienced and well regarded commercial lawyers.

"With nearly 30 years in private practice, more than 20 of these as a partner in the Adelaide office of the national legal firm Minter Ellison, he was the stand-out candidate in a field of excellent applicants.

"In addition to his extensive experience in legal practice, Mr May served as a member of the Legal Practitioners Complaints Committee for more than five years.

"I am delighted that a legal practitioner of Mr May's experience and standing has agreed to take on this important role."

"What amounts to professional misconduct will be broadened and the powers of the investigatory and disciplinary bodies, the Commissioner, the Legal Practitioners Conduct Tribunal and the Supreme Court, will be strengthened.

"New provisions will also streamline complaints against lawyers for overcharging."

Mr May said that he is honoured to be the first Commissioner under the new laws.

"I look forward to making sure that South Australian legal services consumers are well protected as a result of these reforms and to working with the legal profession to ensure that," he said.

"Complaints of unsatisfactory professional conduct or misconduct against legal practitioners will be dealt with fairly and professionally by my office."