

New CEO for legal regulator

Michael Pelly *Legal editor*



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Heather Moore was this week named as the ultimate head-honcho for about 65,000 lawyers when it comes to conduct complaints.

The actual title for Ms Moore, who comes from the NSW Greater Cities Commission, is commissioner for uniform legal services regulation and chief executive officer of the Legal Services Council.

The LSC is the governing body for the national legal profession, a grand title given to the Legal Profession Uniform Law scheme, which NSW and Victoria instigated in 2015. After WA finally joined in July this year

[<https://www.afr.com/companies/professional-services/three-boosts-for-national-legal-profession-20200318-p54bi7>], about 75 per cent of the 90,000-odd solicitors and barristers in Australia are covered.



Lawyers in NSW, Victoria and WA operate under uniform laws. **Peter Rae**

Some other states, notably South Australia, have made noises about joining. Not so Queensland

[<https://www.afr.com/companies/professional-services/queensland-resists-national-legal-profession-push-20181120-h1853p>], who have always regarded it as plot by NSW and Victoria to run the whole show.

It might have something to do with the fact that the LSC and the commissioner have oversight of all the state-based bodies which handle complaints about the profession.

The media release which carried the news said the scheme aimed “to extend its reach to more jurisdictions in Australia, standardising regulatory obligations,

cutting red tape and creating a common market". Those who have national practices, like the big commercial firms, will be cheering that on.

Ms Moore replaces Megan Pitt and will start her five -year term on November 1. Before joining the Greater Cities Commission as director of the CEO's office in July 2021, she worked for Law Society of NSW and held various senior policy and leadership roles in the NSW Department of Justice.

The LSC chairman is lawyer and former ASIC chairman Alan Cameron.

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