

**PRESS RELEASE – 25 July 2012**

Upon the application of the Legal Profession Complaints Committee, the State Administrative Tribunal recently made a finding of unsatisfactory professional conduct against Mr Kenneth Bates, the Crown Prosecutor in the trial of Andrew Mallard for the wilful murder of Pamela Lawrence in Mosman Park in 1994. The Tribunal found, with Mr Bates' agreement, that, between September and November 1995, his conduct of the Crown case against Mr Mallard, fell short, to a substantial degree, of the standard of professional conduct observed or approved of by members of the legal profession of good repute and competence. The Tribunal reprimanded Mr Bates and fined him \$10,000. Full details of the finding and the penalty are available on the Tribunal's website: [www.sat.justice.wa.gov.au](http://www.sat.justice.wa.gov.au).

The Committee's application was made following a thorough investigation of the evidence relied upon by the Corruption and Crime Commission in its report in respect of the Mallard case, issued in October 2008. The Committee's investigation took some time to complete, because of the quantity and complexity of that evidence. The Committee also obtained advice from independent senior counsel in relation to the application.

Mr Bates co-operated fully with the Committee throughout its investigation, and accepted responsibility for his conduct. Mr Bates signed consent orders in the same terms as the orders the Tribunal has now made.

The fine of \$10,000 was the maximum fine available under the legislation governing the discipline of legal practitioners in Western Australia at the time the conduct occurred.

**G L Roberts**  
**Law Complaints Officer**