

David Heilpern

Dean of Law, Southern Cross University and former Magistrate of the Local Court of NSW

Before becoming a magistrate, Mr Heilpern was a litigation lawyer on the NSW North Coast where he co-founded the Southern Cross Law School in 1992, subsequently teaching a range of subjects including constitutional law, criminal law and procedure and contracts. He maintained his litigation practice during this period and represented high profile clients such as the North East Forest Alliance and Nimbin Hemp.

Mr Heilpern graduated with a Master of Laws from Southern Cross. In 2005 was pronounced Alumni of the Decade for the University. He was the youngest magistrate in Australia when first appointed in 1998 and continued through to 2020 sitting in the criminal, mining, family, industrial, coronial and children's jurisdictions of the NSW Local Court. He was the Senior Civil Magistrate for five years and during his time on the bench, Mr Heilpern was the principal educator for new magistrates throughout Australia and the Pacific.



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