



MEDIA RELEASE **ECAJ APPOINTS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



From left: Peter Wertheim AM, Robert M Goot AM SC and Jillian Segal AM

The President of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry (ECAJ), Robert M Goot AM SC, today said that he was delighted to announce the appointment of Peter Wertheim AM as the Executive Director of the ECAJ.

“Mr Wertheim will give up his present position as a consultant lawyer with the law firm of Slater & Gordon and commence work with the ECAJ on 1 September 2009.

“Mr Wertheim is a former President of the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies, a senior lawyer with over thirty years in practice who holds a Masters degree in public international law from the University of NSW and is a statutory board member of the NSW Anti Discrimination Board.

“Peter is a long-time and highly respected activist in the Jewish and wider communities. He brings a wealth of talent and experience to this position.

The ECAJ is indeed very fortunate to have available a person of Peter Wertheim’s calibre to put the ECAJ on an enhanced professional footing and to enable the organisation to optimise the quality and effectiveness of its work, which has become too great a task for honorary officials no matter how capable,” Mr Goot added.

“The ECAJ is the only national Jewish organization that is representative of, and accountable to, the Australian Jewish community. Mr Wertheim’s appointment is a milestone in the organisation’s 65 year history. It recognises the challenges confronting the community and will enable the ECAJ as the pre-eminent national organ of the Jewish community to coordinate the community’s advocacy efforts at the national level so as to strengthen the community’s voice to government, the media and the wider community” Mr Goot concluded.

Comments by Honorary Life Members of the ECAJ on the appointment, included:

Isi Leibler AO CBE, a former President of the ECAJ from Jerusalem: *"Bravo. This is an extremely important breakthrough towards restoring and indeed for the first time creating the conditions for the ECAJ to act as the premier body of Australian Jewry"*.

Dr Joachim Schneeweiss AM a former President of the ECAJ: *"I look forward to a successful expansion of future ECAJ activities, enriched by knowledge, experience, professionalism and passion"*.

Diane Shteinman AM a former President of the ECAJ: *"Kol hakavod Robert on achieving that which your predecessors certainly dreamt about. To Peter best wishes for the future, gratitude for being there, the right person at the right time. Zol zein mit mazal" to all the E.C.A.J"*.

Sam Salcman: *"You are to be congratulated on a stupendous achievement in achieving the wherewithal for a properly run ECAJ. Many have tried but no avail. This certainly marks the beginning of a "new ECAJ " .Peter's appointment is also well merited and deserving"*.

Sydney: 23 June 2009

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