



## Notice to the Profession

### Updated Practice Court procedures (Common Law Division)

This Notice concerns changes to the operation of the Practice Court. While many of these changes have been operating informally, this Notice clarifies those procedures.

These changes seek to create efficiencies arising out of the specialisation of the Court since the creation of the Commercial Court and the restructure of the Common Law Division into specialist lists.

From 29 February 2016, the Practice Court will hear only urgent and certain other applications in proceedings brought in the Common Law Division. Urgent business in relation to proceedings brought in the Commercial Court will no longer be heard in the Practice Court.

A trial judge sitting in the Practice Court (Common Law) will hear all urgent applications including:

- Injunction and freezing order applications;
- caveat removal applications;
- applications under the *Confiscation Act 1997 (Vic)* and the *Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (Cth)*; and
- referrals from an Associate Justice.

Urgent applications, being those which must be dealt with within one to two business days, will be directly listed for hearing in the Practice Court (Common Law). Non-urgent applications will be allocated to the appropriate case management list for hearing. Practitioners should refer to the current practice notes and notices to the profession for each of the Common Law Division specialist lists for further details.

All formal matters, such as the swearing in of interstate legal practitioners, court reporters, transcribers and interpreters, will be dealt with on Monday mornings.

In relation to all Practice Court (Common Law) business, Practitioners should in the first instance contact the Practice Court Coordinator by completing the form on the Supreme Court

website, or in urgent cases on 03 9603 9288 or at [practicecourt@supremecourt.vic.gov.au](mailto:practicecourt@supremecourt.vic.gov.au). After hours and weekend emergency contact details are contained on the Supreme Court website.

In all cases where an urgent hearing is requested, the applicant should be prepared to provide the following information when making contact with the Court:

- Parties names
- Reason for urgency and nature of application
- Preferred date(s)
- Hearing estimate
- Whether to be made on notice
- Name of counsel
- Estimated timeframe for filing of material.

In relation to urgent business regarding Commercial Court proceedings, Practitioners should contact the Commercial Court Registry on 03 9603 4105.