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Legal Affairs

**NSW barristers back charter of rights**

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58

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The NSW Bar Associations proposal for a charter of rights for NSW is believed to have won the backing of the states barristers. The association's president, Anna Katzmann, QC, said the charter of rights was endorsed because over the last decade a spate of legislation at federal and state level has trampled over our basic rights. University of NSW academic George Williams said the NSW Bar Associations decision to back a charter was highly significant as the body had previously opposed such a move. NSW Attorney-General John Hatzistergos earlier this year called the push for a charter absurd. Meanwhile, speaking at the University of Queensland this week, NSW Chief Justice Jim Spigelman said he did not want to take any particular position on the desirability, or otherwise, of a statutory human rights act.

Number of Mentions in original article: NSW Bar Association, University of NSW, University of Queensland. John Hatzistergos