



Australian  
Bar Association

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**Political attacks on the judiciary undermines the independence, integrity and impartiality of Australia’s legal system.**

The Australian Bar Association (ABA) has the highest respect for the independence, integrity and impartiality of the judiciary across Australia and is very concerned by recent political attacks on the Victorian judiciary.

The ABA President, Mr Noel Hutley SC said “Attacks on judicial officers undermine democracy and the rule of law and erode public confidence in the courts.”

“The reputation of the judiciary of Victoria for integrity and independence is both entirely justified and vital to the maintenance of the rule of law.”

“Whilst this abuse is not a threat to that integrity or independence due to the quality of the judges, it is improper that a Federal Minister would engage in it.”

Australia’s democracy relies upon mutual respect between the governing and judging branches of the government. Courts should be free from unfounded political criticism.

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