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7 December 2018

Senator the Hon. Ian Macdonald
The Senate
Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee

By email: legcon.sen@aph.gov.au

Re: Invitations for Judges to appear at hearings into the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia Bill 2018 and related bill

Dear Senator

Thank you for your letter of 5 December 2018. I do not think it is appropriate for any judge of the Federal Court of Australia to appear before the Committee. The issues involved in the proposed legislation are ones of jurisdictional policy for the Parliament concerning family law. The Court is satisfied with the consultation that has taken place to date with the Government. Your letter makes reference to a "Federal Court of Australia appeals division judge". There is presently no such appeal division. The present arrangements for the Court's appellate work are that the Court sits four months a year (February, May, August and November) as a full court on appeals.

Yours sincerely

The Hon James Allsop
Chief Justice