

Judge John Nicholson SC was sworn in as a judge of the New South Wales District Court on 23 July 2001. His Honour came to the NSW bar in 1977 after a career in teaching (1959-1971) and in the industrial union of teachers from independent schools. Upon admission to the bar he first went to Wardell Chambers, where he remained until 1984, practising primarily in Industrial Law, Common Law and criminal law.

Judge Nicholson was appointed as a public defender on 1 August 1984 and took silk on 4 November 1994. Two years later His Honour was appointed as deputy senior public defender and in 1999 he became the senior public defender. His practice was primarily Supreme Court trials and pleas, and arguing appeals before the Court of Criminal Appeal. He was instrumental in establishing a scheme to assist Indigenous lawyers to develop a legal practice by being placed at the Public Defenders Office.