

Aboriginal barrister sworn in

SYDNEY, Friday. — Mrs Patricia O'Shane was sworn in today as Australia's first Aboriginal barrister.

The family watched as she was admitted to the Bar in a ceremony in the NSW Supreme Court.

In Sydney for the occasion were her two daughters, Lydia, 13, and Marilyn, 12, her father Mr Pat O'Shane, her two brothers, Dan, an electrician, and Terry, a seaman, and her sister Margaret, a nurse.

Mrs O'Shane first taught at schools in Cairns but after an illness decided to take up law.

She said that she had experienced racism from fellow students at university, but not from her tutors or established barristers.

A racist remark had also been directed at her recently in Cairns, she said.

She was interested in practising criminal law, but would also like to be able to argue land-rights cases for the Aborigines.

Mrs O'Shane hopes to concentrate on Aboriginal work in the Sydney area.