

# **T**he good, the bad and the smiling

Justice Sally Thomas accepted appointment as patron of the Northern Territory Women Lawyers Association with a broad smile.

At a "good cop, bad cop" welcoming function held on the Judge's balcony of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory, President of the association, Melanie Little, said it was an honour a person of the calibre of Justice Thomas was to be patron.

In a classic role reversal, Suzan Cox, usually Legal Aid defender of the accused and Jenny Blokland, more commonly prosecutor of the charged, argued the pros and cons of her appointment.

Ms Cox argued that Justice Thomas's persona on the bench was one of serious countenance with expressions of merriment a rarity. This doesn't mean that Justice Thomas is humourless; she has been known to burst into laughter outside the Courtroom

On the other hand, Ms Blokland put that the judge's solemn exterior masked a

rapier wit and failure to even crack a smile from the bench showed, at times, incredible self control and an appropriate level of judicial dignity.

Before an audience of 55 invited guests, Justice Thomas revealed the enormity of that self control, and as she was not bound to exert it on this occasion, accepted a large bouquet with a winning smile.



*Melanie Little, Justice Dean Mildren, Justice Sally Thomas and Jan Whitbread*



*Therese Austin, Chief Justice Brian Martin, Collette Dixon, Gina O'Rourke and Dick Wallace SM*



*Margaret Lyons and Jenni Daniel-Yee*



*Rhona Millar, Justice Dean Mildren, Tracy Reeves, Margaret Bonesmo and Lyn McDade*



*Jenny Blokland, Melanie Little, Alexis Fraser and Justice Sir William Kearney*