

Farewell Ceremonial Sitting for the Honourable Justice Sally Thomas

Supreme Court of the Northern Territory, Thursday 30 July 2009

His Honour, Chief Justice Brian Martin, welcomed the court and made a brief tribute to her Honour, Justice Sally Thomas, before the formal addresses from the profession.

"In a few days the legislature will declare that Thomas J is no longer fit for office as a permanent judge. It is commonly, as you all know, called statutory senility. I cannot let this occasion pass however without noting that contrary to her oath as a judicial officer to apply the law faithfully, today, as we all know and can observe, her Honour defies the statute of senility by retaining both her youthful countenance and her active and perceptive mind. This Court and all in it will miss her Honour very sorely".

Attorney-General Ms Delia Lawrie

"a trailblazer for women in the legal profession"

paid tribute to her Honour's service to the legal profession and the wider community, describing her Honour's outstanding career, as "a career brimming with firsts", and "a trailblazer for women in the legal profession".

President of the Northern Territory Bar Association, Mr Peter Barr QC, congratulated her Honour on more than 30 years of service to the legal system of the Northern Territory. During this time her Honour employed great qualities of empathy, compassion; an unerring commitment to achieving justice; and maintaining the delicate balance between providing justice and scrupulously fair trials. Recognition was given to her Honour's extensive support of the wider community,

including education, social, professional, welfare, the arts and even defence.

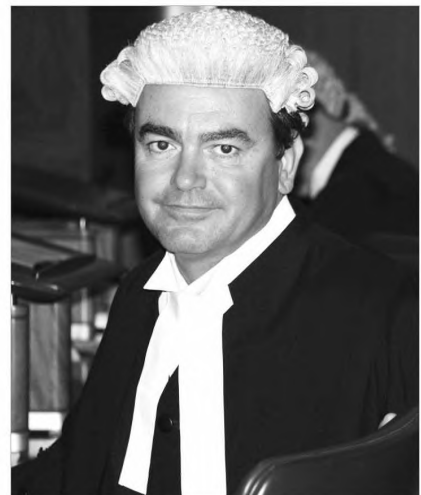
Vice-President of the Northern Territory Law Society, Mr Matthew Storey, reflected on the qualities that make a Court honourable; in particular, the five attributes he considered important for the Judges; namely conscientiousness, intelligence, considerateness, politeness, and effectiveness. A final key attribute is engagement with the community that will lead the community to also recognise their Court as honourable. Mr Storey concluded that with all of these attributes "her Honour's time on the Bench has continued and enhanced the reputation of this honourable Court".



Attorney-General Ms Delia Lawrie



Peter Barr QC



Matthew Storey