



Presentation of Commission

Ceremonial Sitting for the Honourable Justice Judith Kelly

Supreme Court of the Northern Territory, Thursday 13 August 2009

His Honour, Chief Justice Brian Martin, welcomed all in attendance for the special ceremonial sitting and invited The Honourable Justice Judith Kelly to take her Affirmation of Office before his Honour, the Administrator.

'I, Judith Clare Kelly, do solemnly and sincerely promise, affirm and declare that I will bear true allegiance to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors according to the law, that I will well and truly serve her in the office of Judge of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory of Australia and that I will do right for all manner of people according to the law without fear or favour, affection or ill will.'

The Master was duly invited to read the commission of her Honour.

"Commission to the Honourable Judith Clare Kelly.

Know ye that reposing full trust and confidence in your loyalty, learning, integrity and ability, I, Thomas Ian Pauling, Officer of the Order of Australia, Administrator of the Northern Territory of Australia,

acting with the advice of the Executive Council of the Northern Territory of Australia in pursuance of s 32(1) of the Supreme Court Act (1979) do, by this commission, appoint you, Judith Clare Kelly, Senior Counsel, learned in the law for the Northern Territory, to be a Judge of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory of Australia from and including the twelfth day of August in the year of our Lord, 2009 to have, hold, exercise and enjoy the said office of Judge of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory of Australia under and subject to the provisions of the Supreme Court Act (1979,) as amended from time to time, during good behaviour with all rights, powers, privileges, advantages and jurisdiction thereto belonging to or pertaining.

Given under my hand and the public seal of the Northern Territory of Australia on the 12th day of August in the year of our Lord, 2009."

Solicitor-General, Mr Michael Grant QC, addressed the court on behalf of the Attorney-General, Ms Delia Lawrie. Speaking with good

humour, Mr Grant recounted her Honour's longstanding family ties with the Northern Territory; careers in teaching and law, her qualities of suitability as a judge and industrious nature which has been likened to that of the Energiser bunny.

President of the Northern Territory Bar Association, Mr Peter Barr QC congratulated her Honour on her appointment on behalf of all barristers; praising her Honour's qualities as an excellent colleague, intelligent, well-researched, hard working and tenacious. Speaking on behalf of her Honour's former colleagues, he recounted the belief that her Honour will make time for all those who come into her Court, whether as parties, witnesses or lawyers.

President of the Northern Territory Law Society, Mr Duncan McConnel recounted how her Honour has earned the respect of the profession for her intellectual rigour as an advocate and advisor; and a great capacity for work. Her Honour is renowned for her ability to grasp difficult concepts and issues, and to produce a considered, inherently sensible response for the benefit of those who seek her counsel, and to do so quickly. The Law Society in particular has had the benefit of her Honour's advice and counsel in the most sensitive area of discipline of legal practitioners. Her Honour has never failed to deliver a balanced, sensitive but firm approach to the issues at hand, at times in the face of extraordinarily difficult and trying circumstances. }

"A solicitor once described working with your Honour in full flight as akin to being locked in a cupboard with the Energiser bunny."