

Launch of Sciacca Holding Redlich Alliance
Thursday 27 April 2000
6pm

Chief Justice Paul de Jersey

It is always most encouraging to be associated with the progressive development of Queensland solicitors firms. I am very pleased tonight to add my congratulations and best wishes to Sciaccas as they embark upon this new phase of their approach to the provision of high quality legal services to the people of Queensland.

There are present tonight not only, and importantly, those who constitute the firm, but also high level governmental representatives together with clients of the firm and other supporters. It is important that we use the occasion to set down a little of what has led the firm to its current position.

Sciaccas was founded under the name C A Sciacca & Co by the Honourable Con Sciacca on 1 September 1970, the day Con was admitted as a solicitor. The firm will therefore this year celebrate its 30 year anniversary.

Over the last three decades it has grown from a one room practice in the then Commonwealth Bank building at 259 Queen Street, into the substantial middle order ranking firm it is today. It has an extensive practice in various areas of the law: property, commercial, personal injuries, industrial relations, criminal and many others.

The firm was commendably at the forefront of the establishment of the "first free consultation" scheme, designed to assist the financially less well off in the community. It has for a long time also been prepared to conduct cases on a speculative fee basis. These approaches, we know, are now generally supported by the Law Society and the Bar Association of Queensland.

Very significantly to my mind, the partners of the firm have over many years now made substantial contributions to the advancement of broader community interests: lawyers with lively social consciences.

As is well known, the founding partner, Con, has served for a number of years in the House of Representatives, both as a backbencher and at ministerial level. Another partner, Mr Brian Kilmartin, has for some years been the Attorney-General's nominee on the Council of the Queensland Law Society, together with other community oriented interests, ranging from general charitable work to his role as the Consul for the Republic of Poland in Queensland.

Consistently with its wish to support the Queensland community, and thereby continue to provide a wide range of effective legal services, the firm has, as we now see, determined to enter into this east coast alliance with similarly minded solicitors in Sydney and Melbourne. Hence the banner, "Holding Redlich National Legal Group".

Of course we must always resist any temptation to become parochial. We must always, as Queenslanders, do our utmost to ensure that we can provide optimal services to the people we serve. Sciacca perceives, I believe rightly, that that from time to time necessitates looking more broadly beyond the State, entering into alliances such as this which will enrich the resources from which the firm may locally draw.

And so I confirm my very best wishes for the firm as it enters this important new phase, determined, as it plainly is, to render even better service to its valued clients.

I wish the parties to the venture well for the future.