

Swearing in
Hon Justice Williams as a Judge of Appeal
Hon Justice Philippides as a Judge of the Supreme Court

Banco Court Monday 29 January 2001 9.15am

On behalf of all the Judges of the Supreme Court, I warmly congratulate the Hon Justice Williams on his accession to the Court of Appeal Division of the Court, and wish His Honour well in that new role.

Justice Williams distinguished legal and judicial career, and his substantial community involvement, are well known. There is no need for me now to rehearse their detail.

When the Judge's elevation was effected by executive government on 14 December last, I publicly affirmed delight at His Honour's further appointment, and I did so, unsurprisingly, with the approbation of the Judges. The appointment denotes a sterling addition to the court's appellate division.

Maintaining (at least) the high quality of both divisions of the court is essential to preserving public confidence in the institution, and also significantly, its national reputation. Litigants, and prospective litigants, will find His Honour's appointment both reassuring and encouraging.

I can do no better now than quote in addition from the public statement I made at the time of His Honour's new appointment:

"Justice Williams has been a Judge of the Supreme Court for as many as 18 years. He is demonstrably well qualified for appointment at the State's highest judicial echelon: judicial wisdom borne of vast experience, undoubtedly high intellect, wide community experience and a healthy measure of common sense. He is widely respected as a Judge and as a person. In saying these things, I confidently speak for all the Judges of the Supreme Court."

I sincerely hope, as Chief Justice, that the people of Queensland will, for many more years, continue to benefit from Justice Williams' invaluable judicial contribution to their good government, a contribution in which he is wonderfully supported by his wife, Roberta.

I also welcome the Honourable Justice Philippides to the Supreme Court, Her Honour having been appointed to fill the vacancy arising from Justice Williams

translation from the Trial Division to the Court of Appeal.

Justice Philippides was admitted to the Bar in 1984 and elevated to the rank of Senior Counsel in 1999. Her Honour has outstanding academic qualifications, holding the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws with first class honours from the University of Queensland, and Master of Laws from Cambridge. Upon her graduation in law from the University of Queensland in 1982, she was awarded a university medal.

Her Honour has a particular interest in maritime law. That is reflected importantly in her current presidency of the Maritime Law Association of Australia and New Zealand. It has also led to the publication of articles and other works in that field written by the Judge, and her serving two terms as a director of the Port of Brisbane Corporation.

Her Honour has also been active in the field of tertiary education, having been an adjunct lecturer at the University of Queensland and adjunct assistant professor of law at Bond University.

Our new colleague's diverse application to topical issues has extended to membership of the Equalizing Opportunities of the Law Committee of the Law Council of Australia and the Department of Justice's Aboriginal English in the Courts Project, and her convening the Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Subcommittee of the Bar Association of Queensland.

In terms of community involvement, Her Honour has since 1988 been Vice Consul in Brisbane for the Republic of Cyprus, a position from which she has now necessarily resigned. She is married with children.

The appointment of Justice Philippides, also on 14 December last year was preceded, no doubt, by the executive government's advertizing to a number of meritorious prospective appointees, lawyers of long-standing experience and well established expertise and acumen. It may be that some of those persons now feel a sense of personal disappointment.

Appointment to this court is not, however, directed towards satisfying personal expectations. It is directed to maintaining and enhancing the quality of a high level institution of government which exists only to serve the public.

I am sure that, in light of questions of comparative standing, Her Honour will, through application, seek to demonstrate that her appointment was indeed the best way at this stage of achieving the only relevant objective – at least maintaining, and if possible enhancing, the quality of this institution of judicial government. In that endeavour as she now begins to sit, she has my strong encouragement and support.

