

Admissions Ceremony

11 June 2002

Chief Justice's observations

You have, today, reached a pinnacle of personal achievement, success which no doubt owes much to the support of your parents, families and friends, many of whom are present this morning. On behalf of the Judges, I express congratulations.

While you have reached a pinnacle, you should regard your present situation as but the gateway to an avenue of career-long professional development: the intensity with which the law is developing demands continual application from those who seek to serve their clients optimally.

You join a profession subject to substantial contemporary pressures: the pressure of largely unfair criticism from insurance companies concerned to distract attention from their own lack of commercial foresight; pressure generated within the profession, by those practitioners, fortunately only a few, careless of their ethical obligations; systemic pressure, as the quest to be professional confronts the increasingly business orientation of modern practice. Acknowledging these and other pressures, you will, we trust, rise through them, ever conscious of your duty to the court and the administration of the law, and astute to the public service which should define your professionalism.

Ideally, that public service should be manifest not only in your delivery of high quality legal services in a context marked by integrity, but also through an abundant concern for those otherwise denied access to our system of justice according to law: the friendless, the weak, the marginalized.

And ultimately, whether or not you practise, you become part of the mechanism which assures the lynchpin of civilized society – the rule of law.

We wish you well as you embrace these significant obligations: we hope you find discharging them both fulfilling, and enjoyable.