

# Opening of Portrait Gallery of Queensland Solicitors-General and Crown Solicitors State Law Building Thursday 12 December 2002, 5.00pm

**The Hon P de Jersey AC  
Chief Justice**

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I am very pleased to acknowledge this very interesting and worthwhile initiative, and to add my congratulations to all who have helped secure it, especially the Crown Solicitor, Mr Conrad Lohe.

Since the days of our first Solicitor-General, T J Byrnes in 1890, to the present incumbent Mr Pat Keane QC, lawyers of pre-eminence have held both posts of Solicitor-General and Crown Solicitor – and now we can be reminded of their demeanours, albeit static. That pre-eminence has been reflected, in recent years, by the appointment of two Solicitors-General from that role to the Supreme Court – Justice Ken Mackenzie in 1989 and Justice Geoff Davies to the Court of Appeal in 1991.

I have a particular affection for this part of the Crown service, having myself been a clerk in the Prosecutions Section of the office in 1969.

The collection, recording and display of the State's legal heritage in this way is to be greatly encouraged. As you know, we have done much in that regard at the Supreme Court over the last few years, including acquiring a fine silky-oak desk used by Solicitors-General Parslow and Mackenzie, and some handsome Crown Law chairs of 1930's vintage: all now on public display and to all of which, by the way, the Court has gained indefeasible title! The public significance of displays like this may be seen in context of the Supreme Court Library's estimate of approximately 25,000 visitors to the Brisbane courthouse last year. This gallery is a brilliant addition to what we are together achieving in this area.

Maybe the next step, Mr Attorney, is a gallery of those who have held and hold the office of the State's first law officer.

I again warmly commend all who inspired and developed this initiative, and am honoured and pleased officially to open the Portrait Gallery.