



Admissions Ceremony (1.) 28 January 2003

Chief Justice's observations

The first and last admission ceremonies of the year have come to involve the admission of large numbers of practitioners. Today, the court is to entertain applications by 5 prospective barristers and 172 prospective solicitors. Currently there are, in Queensland, 901 members of the Bar Association and 5,777 solicitors holding practising certificates.

You join a large profession which serves a vast State. While we hope that your natural inclination is to regard your admission today as but the first step in a professional lifetime of continuing development, the stark reality is that with a profession of this size, competition militates that for success, you will necessarily have to work hard to reach the highest pinnacle of professional expertise of which you are capable. We wish you well in that regard.

The optimal delivery of legal services assumes the courts will always receive the most competent assistance from the profession, and that clients seeking advice may be confident it will be informed and balanced.

Last year saw an historically significant focus on the standard of the profession within this State. Questions about the performance of some practitioners remain unresolved, as do some other serious systemic issues. These matters will be duly determined, and that they have arisen does not warrant any general diminution in public confidence in either the profession or the courts.

The profession remains, to use a somewhat old-fashioned term, noble, and the courts remain indubitably committed to the efficient delivery of justice according to law. You should be joining the profession with confidence and enthusiasm; acknowledging your newly assumed public responsibility – including assisting the underprivileged, weak and friendless; and conscious that you now become part of the mechanism which assures civil society, that is, the rule of law.

These are enormous responsibilities, but you have, by these qualifications, demonstrated a capacity to discharge them – whether in private practice or otherwise.

We warmly congratulate you and wish you well.