

**Swearing-in of the Hon Justice Philip McMurdo as a  
Judge of the Supreme Court  
Banco Court  
Monday 3 March 2003, 9:00am**

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**Chief Justice's Observations**

On behalf of the Judges, I warmly congratulate Justice McMurdo on his appointment to the Supreme Court. His Honour will sit in the Trial Division of the Court and has been appointed to fill the vacancy arising from the untimely death late last year of Mr Justice Douglas.

Justice McMurdo is in fact the 97<sup>th</sup> judge to have been appointed to this court in its illustrious 141 year history.

The Attorney-General of course wished to be present today, but another long-standing firm engagement elsewhere prevented that. Among those present to welcome Justice McMurdo, I note with pleasure Justice Callinan of the High Court, Chief Judge Wolfe, Judges of the District and Federal and Family Courts, members of Tribunals, retired Judges and members of the Magistracy.

Justice McMurdo brings to the Court undoubted legal perspicacity, vast courtroom experience, and wisdom borne of 48 years' experience of life. He has the added benefit of being a husband and father. He was admitted as a solicitor in 1977 and called to the Bar three years later, where he was pupil to Mr M P Moynihan who went on to become Senior Judge Administrator. After 12 years at the Junior Bar, the then Mr McMurdo was appointed Queen's Counsel. He was a busy and successful Counsel, coming to exhibit very plainly the high level of acumen prerequisite for appointment to this the State's highest court. He served two three year terms as a part-time member of the Queensland Law Reform Commission, and has since 1999 been a member of the Supreme Court Library Committee.

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Justice McMurdo is abundantly well-fitted to discharge with distinction the significant responsibilities which attend membership of this court. We wish him well as he joins us in that high endeavour