



Admissions Ceremony (2.) 28 January 2003

Chief Justice's observations

Ceremonies for the admission of barristers and solicitors form an important part of the work of the Court of Appeal. We always delight in sensing the excitement of those newly admitted to the profession, and the pride – no doubt also, dare I say, sometimes, relief – of family and friends who will invariably have contributed to the individual successes celebrated today.

It is a great personal achievement; the precedent course of study is demanding in many respects, as is the required practical training. Completing the requirements for admission demands intelligence, application, fortitude and endurance. We Judges congratulate you, ladies and gentlemen, and acknowledge, on your behalf, the usually unstinting support which you will have received from family and friends.

Whether you actively pursue a career of professional practice, or utilize your qualifications in other ways – working for a company, for example, or in the world of academia, that support from others will, I expect, continue to underpin the confidence with which you progress.

My point is that the truly effective practitioner will be affected by John Donne's reminder that we fragile human beings necessarily affect and depend on others. Accordingly, the collegial thrusts of the professional associations are designed both to monitor your fulfilment of the stringent ethical obligations to which you are now subject, and to promote your professional development. In our highly competitive contemporary professional situation, you will need continually to hone and expand your knowledge and skills: active participation in the educative initiatives of the professional bodies should facilitate that.

You will ultimately justify the privileged position which attends your newly acquired qualification if you continually recognize the corollary of that privilege, which is service of the public. In an era where courts and the public are, more than ever, vigilant to ensure maintenance of high standards within the profession, we expect your motivation to surpass the purely personal satisfaction which may come from material things: the lawyer worthy of commendation will work willingly for those deserving

clients who cannot afford to pay, contribute talent to community organizations which do good work, and participate in public debate about issues going to the roots of our freedom under the law.

We wish you well as you embrace these substantial public responsibilities, and again, congratulate you on the personal success you and your families rightly celebrate today.