Admissions Ceremony (3.)
28 January 2003

Chief Justice's observations

We endeavour by the ceremonial aspects of today's sitting, ceremony substantially rooted in the tradition of centuries, to emphasize the immutability of our joint mission – the delivery of justice according to law, and the stability of the mechanisms we employ. We also trust those ceremonial aspects render your experience the more memorable, both for you and the many members of your families and circles of friends who join you today to celebrate your substantial personal achievement. We hope your families and friends remain sources of wise guidance and inspiration throughout your professional lives.

The personal achievement we acknowledge today will equip you well for successful practice of the law, or work outside the profession – in companies, for example, or within a law school. The ethical commitment which underpins your professionalism will, we trust, always predominate, as should the public orientation of your new role: work willingly for those who lack the means to meet your ordinary fees; contribute your special talents to community organizations; interact collegially within the profession.

You join a profession of substantial proportions. The Bar Association has 901 members and there are, State-wide, 5,777 solicitors with practising certificates. It is a competitive profession, and the most effective lawyer will assume a commitment to professional development throughout his or her career.

Do not be deterred from a vibrant and confident introduction to the profession by recent problems which have emerged and which have attracted substantial publicity. So far as they concern individual persons, those problems are being duly addressed. So far as they concern systems, refashioning is proceeding. The reality is that you join a profession which is progressive and which conscientiously and effectively complements the work of the courts of law.

We again congratulate you on your personal achievement, and wish you well as your careers progress.