



# Admissions Ceremony (1)

## 28 April 2003

### Chief Justice's observations

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On behalf of the Judges, I congratulate you all upon your substantial achievement. Ordinary experience suggests many other people will have contributed to that success. We warmly welcome your friends and relations to the Banco Court today. May they remain important sources of support and inspiration!

Last week, we Judges of the Supreme Court participated in our annual Easter seminar. We have a lively commitment to continuing judicial education. You, likewise, should regard this qualification we celebrate today as but the gateway to a lifelong avenue of professional development.

A lawyer's focus last Friday, Anzac Day, would probably have inclined to factors which inhibit human conflict, and the greatest is the rule of law. I am concerned that even young lawyers in this contemporary society may not sufficiently understand that concept, and other related concepts, like the separation of powers and the independence of the judiciary. I hope you will not let an absorption with the business of the day distract you from a proper appreciation of those basic stipulations.

Your legitimacy as lawyers depends on the approbation of the court. Your value as lawyers depends on your respect for the root of your professionalism; that is serving the public. In particular, I hope your professional work will be marked by a real concern to help the poor, the weak and the marginalized.

These are days when the public monitors the professional performance of lawyers with considerable interest. Our hope, of course, is that you will naturally assume a commitment to high standards of professional excellence.

You go forward with our warm congratulations and best wishes!

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# Admissions Ceremony (2)

## 28 April 2003

### Chief Justice's observations

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We congratulate you on your achievement, and wish you well as you set about employing your new qualification.

We express these wishes at a ceremony marked by a good deal of tradition. Some of the symbolic representation evident today usefully reminds us, not of the 'stuffiness' of the law of which some complain, but of the enduring role of the law in ensuring a civil society. You now become part of that mechanism. I have sensed a risk, with the increasing commercialization of busy practice, that young practitioners may not sufficiently understand basic concepts like the rule of law and the separation of powers. I hope you will take the trouble to reach some reasonable comprehension of them.

You join a fine and noble Queensland legal profession. Last weekend, along with other Judges, I was privileged to attend the Bar Association's centenary conference in Cairns, a vibrant and publicly oriented event of great significance. But a few weeks ago, I launched an on-line, educative facility for legal studies students and teachers, developed by the Queensland Law Society. Both branches of the profession in this State display a lively public commitment. At your 'micro' level, I hope you will be concerned, in particular, about the disadvantaged, the powerless and the financially poor: pro bono work is an important professional commitment in these times.

Again, congratulations, and our best wishes as you go forward now into exciting times!