



# Admissions Ceremony (4.) 28 January 2003

## Chief Justice's observations

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Effective work by the legal profession is indispensable to the fulfilment of the judiciary's role as the third arm of government: it is also indispensable for the protection of rights short of litigation. Popular jibes may for some forestall a proper appreciation of the critically important role of the profession. I expect there is no doubt in your minds as to the significance of the step you have taken today, both in the public interest and your own.

Criticism last year, and ongoing, of the conduct of some practitioners, and of aspects of the approach of the Law Society, and outstanding issues in relation to judicial officers: none of those matters, which are being addressed, warrants anything but confident enthusiasm as you embrace your new role.

The Court will today entertain as many as 178 applications for admission: the infusion of so much comparatively youthful talent gives cause for great optimism.

This year the Bar Association of Queensland will celebrate its centenary. Such events remind us of the immutability of our joint mission – the delivery of justice according to law. While the approach of the profession and the courts gradually evolves, the mission remains the same, and it is reliably fulfilled.

The persistence of these great institutions gives cause for reassurance in a deeply troubled world. The turbulence of the contemporary scene contrasts dramatically with the atmosphere of 1971 when I was admitted to practice. The Vietnam War apart, the most distinctive features which indulged final year university students in 1971 would probably have been the Builders' Labourers Federation "green bans" and the introduction of the "R" classification for certain movies. Today we face global issues of critical complexity.

Thirty years on, I join with you in an indelibly acute perception of the essential role of the courts and the profession in promoting and upholding the rule of law as the ultimate safeguard of civilized

society. That is a grandly important responsibility. But you also assume others of great importance, particularly a disposition towards those less fortunate, including the financially underprivileged. I urge you to employ your new qualifications not only to secure your personal position, but also for the benefit of others, and the wider community.

We congratulate you on your substantial personal achievement, we acknowledge the contribution of your family and friends, and we wish you well as you proceed from this point.