



Admissions Ceremony (5.) 28 January 2003

Chief Justice's observations

It is, for the Judges, particularly refreshing to begin the court's calendar year by admitting new members of the profession. Although we have ourselves been admitted for many years, recollection of the excitement of the moment of admission remains vivid. It signifies enormous personal achievement, and the realisation – which should not be daunting – that you have now taken on substantial public responsibilities: not the least, these days, a moral commitment to assist those otherwise denied access to justice according to law, the weak, the financially poor, the friendless, the marginalized. The profession in this State has enthusiastically embraced a commitment to pro bono work: participation in that should be one of your primary intentions.

We frequently emphasize that service of the public is of the essence of the membership of the profession, what distinguishes your new position from following equally respectable callings. Those who unfortunately allow material interest to overwhelm that, falsely present themselves as professional. Do not become unduly self-absorbed as you move on from this point: look to a goal of true public service, benefit from collegial interaction within the profession, or company, or law school, and never overlook the wonderfully down to earth influence of family and friends.

As the world becomes increasingly insecure, the role of the true professional will become correspondingly more important. Enjoy your personal achievement, certainly, but recall always your duty to your fellow human beings, and your community.

You go forward with our congratulations and warm encouragement.