



# Admissions Ceremony

## 14 July 2003

### First Ceremony

#### Chief Justice's observations

---

We warmly congratulate you upon your admission to the legal profession. This milestone in your lives signifies high-level intellectual achievement, and as well, the successful completion of demanding practical training requirements. Congratulations! As I am sure you would wish, we also acknowledge the great support and encouragement you will have received from your family and friends; especially in my own experience (as son, then father), the support of mothers! We welcome your parents, families, relations and friends here today: you all justly bristle with excitement and pride.

You join a large and competitive Queensland profession. To perform optimally in the interests of those you will represent, you should regard your new qualification as but the gateway to a lifetime of professional development. We trust you will continue to draw wisdom and mature support from your families and friends. The professional associations are adept at fostering continuing professional education: you should participate in their programmes, as well as drawing inspiration from the collegial spirit which characterizes our State profession.

We expect much of you, not the least vigilance for the position of those who cannot afford legal services in the usual way: a healthy pro bono commitment should be a natural corollary of the morality which underpins your new qualification. If you do not enter into legal practice as such, you still have the potential to benefit from the intellectual acuity and moral underpinning which base your newly confirmed professionalism.

In this State that professionalism conventionally finds its ultimate expression in judicial appointment. Delivering his end of term address a couple of weeks ago, long-serving Chief Justice Rhenquist of the Supreme Court of United States announced, to the momentary dismay of the pundits: "I have a resignation to announce...that of the Librarian!" Well I am pleased to say our much valued Supreme Court Librarian remains firmly in place. But I regret that as from 11 September this year, we will lose from the court one of its long serving distinguished members, Mr Justice Ambrose, who on 25 June advised the Governor of his resignation as from 11 September. Mr Justice Ambrose epitomizes the level of professional achievement to which you should aspire. I know the Attorney-General will be keen to the need to appoint, as the replacement on this the State's highest court, a lawyer of appropriately outstanding accomplishment.

The legal profession depends for its legitimacy upon the court. Our joint mission is premised on public service. We wish you well as you not only exult in your admission, but seek thereafter to discharge the substantial public responsibility it attracts.

Again, to you and your families, our congratulations and good wishes.