



Admissions Ceremony 14 July 2003 Second Ceremony

Chief Justice's observations

Welcome to the legal profession! You have been admitted on a day of otherwise considerable significance, with the commencement formally of the new court year. Earlier, at the Ann Street Presbyterian Church, representatives of all branches of the legal profession joined in the traditional way to affirm publicly what is the essence of our commitment – public service. While the profession is sometimes criticized for material self-interest, the Queensland profession shows a lively commitment to pro bono work, and other public contribution, and I sincerely hope you will join in that. The dimension of your new qualification is not confined to the intellectual: the moral acuity which has brought you to this milestone will we hope lead you to a real concern for the legal affairs of the weak, the marginalized and the friendless.

These ceremonies are attended by a fair degree of ceremonial tradition. Its purpose is to remind you of high significance of the responsibility you now undertake. Of course tradition is not immutable, as we have seen recently in Britain with proposed abolition of the centuries old post of Lord Chancellor. But the traditions which characterize our professional approach are I believe beneficial. Representing those who in abstruse fields cannot represent themselves is a grand mission, and properly presented as such.

May we finally acknowledge your families and friends. Probably their encouragement has been instrumental in your reaching this point. I hope you will continue to draw inspiration from them. The most effective lawyer is not blinkered: a broad focus on community life is most desirable, and above all, the benefit of exposure to the compassion and common sense of family life is immeasurable. We warmly welcome your families and friends here today.

We wish you well as you go forward now as members of the legal profession in this State.