



**Queensland Law Society – President's dinner**  
**Thursday 31 July 2003, 7.30 pm,**  
**Customs House**

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**Chief Justice Paul de Jersey AC**

There may be a dose of the bromide in my expressing it, but it would be vacuous not to; the Queensland Law Society has had a turbulent year – much criticism, many challenges. The intensity of the public focus has unfortunately masked many of the things the Society does so well: they are regularly catalogued in that excellent publication "Proctor".

I note in passing some current debate about retention of the term "solicitor". It should remain. The term may confuse Americans, but Australians understand it perfectly. Meanings vary with cultures. In Italy, for example, a barrister is a bartender: maybe some are here as well. And possibly the best known Judges are those who mete out punishments after weekend sporting fixtures. No, "solicitor" is a well-understood term. Let Victoria follow America if it likes, but I think we Queenslanders should stick with the word.

Now this evening is the President's occasion, and it must be said that Tom Sullivan steered the Society through that turbulence with great fortitude and effectiveness. His leadership was delightfully idiosyncratic, if I may be so bold, and in the annals of the Society last year may go down as an age of affability. Tom's good humour, and Maree's wonderful support, helped draw the Society back constructively from a number of precipices: they are to be thanked and congratulated for a sterling effort.

And now Glenn, with Debbie's support, will bring an interestingly different style to the leadership of the Society. Many of the challenges remain, and I have every confidence



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Glenn has the capacity and enthusiasm to identify and meet them. The Judges wish you well, Glenn, as, with the Council, you embrace this significant responsibility.

It is significant, ultimately, for its promotion of the public interest, the goal which unites all branches of the profession, a goal more particularly expressed in our joint mission as custodians of the rule of law.

For its 75 years of dedicated service in the interests of Queenslanders, the Law Society deserves favourable recognition: for its reassuring determination to continue to hold to its charter, it deserves our grateful support.

Ladies and gentlemen, would you please rise and join me in honouring... "the Queensland Law Society".