



EXCHANGE OF CHRISTMAS GREETINGS AND PRESENTATION OF SENIOR COUNSEL

Banco Court

Wednesday, 15 December 2004, 9:15am

Chief Justice, Paul de Jersey AC

I invite the recently appointed Senior Counsel to make their announcements.

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Would those Senior Counsel please come forward to sign the roll?

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On behalf of the Judges, I congratulate you on your appointments. They signify substantial personal achievement. We are confident you will demonstrate the high level skill and learning which should characterize Senior Counsel, not to mention the integrity, honesty, independence and diligence which are assumed. We wish you well as you embark upon this new important phase of your professional careers.

...

On behalf of the Judges, I welcome you all to the Banco Court on this traditional occasion, and especially the Honourable the Attorney-General, the Chief Judge, Judges of other courts and members of Tribunals, Magistrates, the Director-General, and of course, those who represent particular recipients of our goodwill this morning, the Presidents and members of the professional associations.



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May I at once thank the members of the profession for their continuing support of the work of the courts. That cooperation has helped ensure our timely disposition of a substantial caseload. I add that what could have been a tumultuous year, with the passing of the *Legal Profession Act*, has nevertheless proceeded in a measured and orderly way, and the professional associations are to be commended for their role in bedding down this beneficial new regime.

I note that 9 November next year will see the centenary of the *Legal Practitioners Act* of 1905, under which women were for the first time permitted entry to the profession. We men and women who presently constitute the Supreme Court will celebrate that centenary at a ceremonial sittings in this courtroom on 9 November 2005: we will then have the opportunity to pay tribute to the profession, to the whole profession, and its capacity and willingness to embrace change.

Sitting here in Brisbane, we are always conscious that our courts operate throughout the State. I was very pleased to attend last week the Attorney's opening of the restored Mackay courthouse, now returned to its brilliant 1939 Georgian Revival presentation...though Mr Attorney, I think what the public of Brisbane need is not restoration of these courthouses, but re-construction.

The year 2004 has seen interesting new developments in the Supreme Court: to mention but a few, the promulgation of the Expert Evidence Rules; the publication of the Criminal Bench Book, a major achievement of which the Supreme and District courts are very proud, with the related publication, the "Guide to Jury Deliberations"; the introduction of a counselling service for persons who have served on juries; not to overlook production of the film "Joel's Little Mistake"; and our forthcoming publication of an "equal treatment" benchbook. Acquisition of heritage items continues apace, the most recent



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being the Inson portrait of the late Mr Justice Graham Lloyd Hart, and an original chair from the Queensland Government Steam Yacht "Lucinda", for which we thank Mr Rod Gibson.

We are very pleased to have with us this morning members of the family of the late Mr Justice Hart, a distinguished Judge of this court from 1963 to 1974. The former Judge chaired the Supreme Court Library Committee from 1968 to 1973, and one of his considerable contributions, outside the courtroom, was drafting the *Supreme Court Library Act* 1968, and establishing the Committee as an independent, statutory body corporate. We are extremely grateful to the late Judge's widow, Mrs Helen Hart, for the generous donation of this excellent portrait which many of us who were acquainted with the Judge, believe captures his personality very well.

The display area outside this courtroom is currently graced by a stunning display of ceramics and sculpture by three of Queensland's leading artists: Johanna DeMaine, Fiona McCarron and Georgina Elms. Ms DeMaine's work is represented in more than 20 significant collections, including those of Crown Prince Frederick and HRH Queen Elizabeth the Second. Each of the exhibits is available for purchase, with part of any proceeds being committed to future public programs.

In personal terms, it has been a momentous year, with the death of two former Chief Justices, the retirement of our long-serving Chief Bailiff Philip Lennon, the foreshadowed retirement of Justice Davies, and the appointment of Justice Douglas; all these things calling to mind the continuity of the institution, and its fortunately predictable dedication to its mission.

One need only browse through the court's annual report to appreciate the complexity of the State-wide operation of the court, to which so many people



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contribute so conscientiously and with such efficiency. On behalf of the Judges, I express thanks to all of them.

I particularly thank the Attorney-General for his attention to the needs of the court and his astute recognition of the importance of the separation of powers and the independence of the judiciary; and the Director-General Ms Rachel Hunter and the Deputy Director-General Mr Jim McGowan, who have been so helpful in facilitating our initiatives. In a comparatively short time, the Director-General has done an enormous amount to enhance our capacity to do, what we do well, even better.

With my colleagues, I wish all present a restful, enjoyable and fulfilling festive season.