



# Admissions Ceremonies

## 29 March 2005

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### **Chief Justice's observations**

Welcome ladies and gentlemen, to the legal profession, as you assume the mantle of officers of the court. We congratulate you on your substantial achievements. No doubt gratitude is due, also, to your families and friends, who will have encouraged and assisted you to this point. We welcome many of them to the Banco Court this morning.

The disastrous tsunamis of recent world history have reminded us of the nobility of assisting our fellow beings. Helping others lies at the heart of your new professionalism. I hope that will extend to those without advantage in our community – the weak, the marginalized, the poor.

You join a large profession, commendably influenced in this State by the professional associations. The Bar Association has more than 800 members, and the Law Society, more than 6,000. Last year this court admitted as many as 617 new practitioners. The situation is consequently competitive.

Optimal performance is necessary, and a real commitment to continuing professional education. It of course goes without saying that the court expects you to exhibit the highest ethical standards.

Some of you may not enter into legal practice as such. You should nevertheless value the intellectual rigour and moral acuity reflected by this new qualification.

We wish you all well as you proceed from this point, exercising new privileges and discharging new responsibilities. We trust you may continue to draw inspiration from the support and example of others – those whose friendship you value, and those whose professional achievement you respect.