



Admissions Ceremonies

31 January 2005

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 791 members, and the Law Society, 6,118. 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.



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On these occasions we frequently acknowledge the important voluntary commitment of those members of the profession who constitute the admissions board. Those practitioners examine all applications for admission, and provide most helpful submissions, where necessary, to the court. They spend many hours on the task. Their effort is greatly appreciated.

I mention as well this morning Mrs Estelle Parker, who retires from her employment with the Board on 11 February, after 11½ years of dedicated service. On behalf of the Judges, I thank Mrs Parker for her valuable service, and wish her well in retirement.

Finally, I note with delight the inclusion, in the Australia Day Honours List, of the Principal Registrar and Court Administrator, Mr Ken Toogood, as the recipient of a Public Service Medal. To have been awarded that Medal, in what is a highly competitive arena, bears testimony to the quite extraordinary dedication and achievement of Mr Toogood over very many years. This is, furthermore, the first occasion on which a court officer has been accorded this prestige honour. We are very proud of our Registrar, and most grateful for his invariably efficient application, and helpful breadth of vision.