



# Admissions Ceremony 5 September 2005

## Chief Justice's observations

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Ceremonies for the admission of legal practitioners form an important part of the work of the Court of Appeal. We always delight in sensing the excitement of those newly admitted to the profession, and the pride of family and friends who will invariably have contributed to your individual successes.

It is a great personal achievement; the precedent course of study is demanding in many respects, as is the required practical training. Completing the requirements for admission demands intelligence, application, fortitude and endurance. We Judges congratulate you, ladies and gentlemen, and acknowledge, on your behalf, the usually unstinting support which you will have received from family and friends.

Whether you actively pursue a career of professional practice, or utilize your qualifications in other ways – working for a company, for example, or at a university, that support from others will, I expect, continue to underpin the confidence with which you progress.

The collegial thrusts of the professional associations are designed both to monitor your fulfilment of the stringent ethical obligations to which you are now subject, and to promote your professional development. In our highly competitive contemporary professional situation, you will need continually to hone and expand your knowledge and skills: active participation in the educative initiatives of the professional bodies should facilitate that.

You will ultimately justify the privileged position which attends your newly acquired qualification if you continually recognize the corollary of that privilege, which is service of the public. In an era where courts and the public are, more than ever, vigilant to ensure maintenance of high standards within the profession, we expect your motivation to surpass the purely personal satisfaction which may come from material things: the lawyer worthy of commendation will work willingly for those deserving clients who cannot afford to pay, contribute talent to community organizations which do good work, and participate in public debate about issues going to the roots of our freedom under the law.

We wish you well as you embrace these substantial public responsibilities, and again, congratulate you on the personal success you and your families rightly celebrate today.



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We endeavour by the ceremonial aspects of today's sitting, ceremony substantially rooted in the tradition of centuries, to emphasize the immutability of our joint mission – the delivery of justice according to law, and the stability of the mechanisms we employ. We also trust those ceremonial aspects render your experience the more memorable, both for you and the many members of your families and circles of friends who join you today to celebrate your substantial personal achievement. We hope your families and friends remain sources of wise guidance and inspiration throughout your professional lives.

The personal achievement we acknowledge today will equip you well for successful practice of the law, or work outside the profession – in companies, for example, or within a law school. The ethical commitment which underpins your professionalism will, we trust, always predominate, as should the public orientation of your new role: work willingly for those who lack the means to meet your ordinary fees; contribute your special talents to community organizations; interact collegially within the profession.

You join a profession of substantial proportions. It is a competitive profession, and the most effective lawyer will assume a commitment to professional development throughout his or her career.

It is also a progressive profession, which conscientiously and effectively complements the work of the courts of law.

We again congratulate you on your personal achievement, and wish you well as your careers progress.