



CLARKE AND KANN 40TH BIRTHDAY PARTY
Cutting Edge, Cnr Riverside Drive and Jane Street, West End
Tuesday, 15 February 2005, 6pm

**The Hon P de Jersey AC,
Chief Justice**

It is a great pleasure to add my congratulations and commendation this evening. Four decades of quality service: the amount of careful application, expertise and hard work which have assured that, must not be underestimated. I congratulate the firm, and express gratitude. Performance of this quality serves the clients very well, and also, it complements our State.

Kaye and I hark back to the early years of the firm, though not, I should say, the very moment of its foundation. My very slightly older colleague Martin Moynihan may however recall that earthshaking moment!

I think some reflection of the firm's high achievement and standing rests in its attractiveness to partners from very large national firms – this has been so for as many as four of the present seven partners. There is great advantage, and comfort I would think, in being part of a Queensland firm which really can control its own destiny; and there is also great reassurance for clients, in knowing that these seven partners are not only experts in a variety of fields, but also get on well together.

And as well as expertise and friendship, those seven partners share even the vibrancy of youth: an average partner age of 42, apparently: there's potential energy to burn.

That the firm is not huge contrasts with the breadth of the work it accomplishes, and the quality of that performance is illustrated by the loyalty of the clients – some of whom have I think been with the firm since its foundation.

I am told the firm has moved premises only three times over its life to date: from its original home in what is now the Manor Apartments, then diagonally across Post Office Square to the Westpac building, and most recently back laterally to HSPC: as you may



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visualize, they have simply moved around the Square. But that is not the way they think, which is outside the square. Another curiosity is that they have always resided on the seventh floor, which is probably not a lucky number in the year of the Rooster. They do however have Chinese clients, and others from Taiwan, Japan, Korea, New Zealand...I would usually say many complimentary things about the New Zealanders, and some are here tonight, but I suppose I must reserve compliments for our hosts.

I have a warm regard for the firm and great respect for its achievement – not just because I was briefed by the firm while I was at the Bar: although Eddie couldn't the other day recall any particular matter – obviously momentous advice! I respect the firm for its achievement, and the quality of its product. Clarke and Kann has always been attended by an aura of glamour, zest, pizzazz, and that is certainly evident here tonight: these lawyers, while measured, are never boring! They even once had an office in Paris!

If I have sounded a tad extravagant tonight, then ladies and gentlemen I invoke the presumption of innocence. I am simply enthused by all Queensland firms which exploit creative talent in this way. You epitomize, Clarke and Kann, the irrepressible drive which makes our State great; that drive which makes southerners ever so predicably cautious of our undeniable grandeur.

Congratulations Clarke and Kann: may you continue, for many decades more, to deliver high level work to your clients, and thereby well serve the interests of the people of Queensland.