



# Admissions Ceremony (1)

## 20 March 2006

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### Chief Justice's observations

On behalf of the Judges, I welcome you, ladies and gentlemen, to the legal profession.

You are to be commended for your successful completion of a demanding academic course and substantial practical training requirements. Now you face the challenge of deploying your professional talents to assist those who need expert help in the resolution of their legal problems.

We hope you acknowledge public service as the real essence of your new professionalism, and that you recognize an obligation to assist those without power or privilege in our community – and I mean, by a healthy commitment to pro bono work.

You join a large profession: there are presently more than 6,000 solicitors with practising certificates in Queensland, and more than 800 members of the Queensland Bar Association. Conditions in the practising profession are consequently quite competitive. You should therefore regard your present qualification, important though it is, as but the gateway to an avenue of lifelong professional development. I am confident those of you who do not enter the practising profession will nevertheless always benefit from the intellectual rigour and moral acuity which lie at the foundation of your new qualification.

Your professional development will be facilitated, by the way, through collegial interaction. The more senior members of the profession are generous with their time for novice practitioners, and the professional associations are anxious to assist you.

You are now officers of the Supreme Court, in one sense a rather quaint description, but a description which highlights the primacy of your duty ethically owed to the court, a duty which predominates over even the duty to the client.



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In wishing you well, we acknowledge the important role your parents, families and friends will have played in assisting you to this point. We welcome all of your supporters to the Banco Court this morning, and express thanks for their indirect contribution to the development of the legal system in this State.

Your applications for admission were carefully considered on Wednesday of last week by the Legal Practitioners Admissions Board. The members of that Board devote substantial amounts of time to the conscientious consideration of applications for admission at least six times a year. The practitioner members of the Board carry out this work for no financial reward. The Board is chaired by Mr Greg Moroney, a solicitor. Other members are, from the Bar, Mr James Bell QC, Mr Martin Daubney SC and Ms Jean Dalton SC; and solicitors Ms Joan Bennett and Mr Noel Jensen, the Principal Registrar, Mr Toogood, and Ms Imelda Bradley are also members. Mr Jensen, I may say, usually travels from Toowoomba to attend meetings, although that was not necessary on Wednesday: the Board assembled in Toowoomba, for the first time. Its predecessors, the Solicitors Board and the Barristers Board, never sat outside Brisbane. I applaud the Board for meeting outside the metropolis, and for taking that additional trouble. I sincerely thank the members of the Board for their substantial commitment: it is greatly appreciated by the Judges.

And we wish you all well, ladies and gentlemen, as you move forward from this point.