



Admissions Ceremony (1)

13 December 2007

Chief Justice's observations

Welcome ladies and gentlemen to the legal profession, and congratulations on your intellectual and personal achievement. Congratulations also to those many family members and friends who will have helped you to this position. We judges wish you well in your professional lives, noting, as we hope you will, its altruistic orientation. We encourage you to embrace a pro bono commitment, recognizing the essence of our professionalism as public service, not material advancement.

This is the eighth admissions ceremony this year. To the end of today, the court will have determined more than 135 admission applications. We expect by this evening to have admitted 776 new practitioners in Brisbane and 60 in North Queensland, a total of 836 new practitioners this year. That demonstrates the competitiveness of the profession, and the need for continual application to professional development.

Today is also the occasion for me to acknowledge the work, the valuable work, of the Legal Practitioners Admissions Board. Its members are Mr Greg Moroney (Chair), who is present today, Mr James Bell QC (Deputy Chair), Mr Liam Kelly SC, Ms Jennifer Rosengren, Mr Noel Jensen, Mrs Joan Bennett, Ms Imelda Bradley (the Attorney's representative) and Ms Julie Steel (Registrar). This year the Board has met eight times, for durations of up to three to four hours. Its members carefully assess applications for admission. But for the comprehensive and dispassionate consideration of this Board, the courts' assessment of so many applications would be practicably impossible. That the practitioner members of the Board do their work for no financial reward should be noted. It demonstrates the professionalism of those practitioners. The work of the Board illustrates a general application within the profession to pro bono work, which is most commendable. We express sincere thanks to the Board, as always.

And to you, ladies and gentlemen every best wish in your professional lives.



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We also wish all present a happy, restful and safe Christmas season.