



Admissions Ceremony (1.)

Banco Court

Monday, 19 March 2007

Chief Justice's observations

On behalf of the Judges of the Supreme Court, I congratulate you on your admission to the legal profession. You join an honourable profession which discharges a publicly significant role. We trust you always recognize that public orientation, and that you are not unduly distracted by the competitive and material pressures which characterize contemporary practice.

The most commendable lawyer is driven to assist his or her fellow citizens, and that extends, with indigent clients, to working for nothing to advance a meritorious cause. We hope you maintain a real concern for those without privilege in our community, and assist not only through the direct provision of legal services, but also by involvement in community affairs and measured consideration of social concerns.

In your work, whether in court or in the solicitor's office, we expect high standards of attention to legal competence and ethical obligation. Just as the court admits you, it is to the court, as necessary, that the professional boards bring

aspects of alleged dereliction. It is to the court that you owe your professional lineage. We will therefore follow your professional development with interest.

I am increasingly concerned that young practitioners may very quickly these days forget that it is the relationship with the court which gives them that legitimacy, and which distinguishes the legal practitioner from members of other professions. The busy-ness of modern practice, an unfortunate preoccupation with so-called “billable hours”, and the intensely competitive nature of the contemporary profession, can shift the focus from measured professionalism to out and out commercialism. I hope you are able to keep your professional balance, and also a balanced lifestyle, for your work-time occupation, although important, is ultimately but one of a raft of important aspects of living.

You rightly bask today in the lustre of these new qualifications, a glow which you share with your parents and friends who will have assisted you to this point of great achievement. We sincerely hope you continue to draw on their well of wisdom and encouragement.

Congratulations and best wishes to you all.

