



Admissions Ceremony (2.)

Banco Court

Monday, 19 March 2007

Chief Justice's observations

We congratulate you on your admission to the legal profession.

You have become what we term “officers of the court”. That terminology reflects your predominant duty, to the court and the administration of the law, a duty which predominates over the duty to the client and is important to the court’s discharge of its role – the delivery of justice according to law. That designation also reflects the reality that you owe your professional legitimacy to the court: it is the court which admits you, and it is the court which will as necessary impose sanctions for ethical dereliction. I fear the lawyer’s dependence on the court is often these days regrettably overshadowed by the commercial demands of competitive practice. I hope that for you, it remains an enduring consideration.

You have been admitted today because you have shown the scholarship and practical persistence necessary to achieve the relevant academic qualifications and practical experience. To meet the demands to which the effective

contemporary lawyer is subject, you will need to demonstrate many qualities: qualities which extend beyond up-to-date appreciation of the intricacies of the law, to embrace the more subtle wisdom to be called in aid to solve the ethical conundrums which inevitably arise. Collegial interaction will assist as you progress in the profession. So will the wise counsel of family and friends, which no doubt has already contributed substantially to your reaching this milestone today. And I hope you will display the moral depth to appreciate and demonstrate that the core of your new professionalism is service to the public – not only through the professional skills you will utilize in assisting clients, but also through participation in the host of community and pro bono thrusts currently available.

Whether you practise in a solicitor's office, whether you deploy your talents in the corporate world or the cloisters of academia, you will always appreciate the intellectual rigour and moral underpinning which base this new qualification – of which you are justly proud.

We congratulate you, and your families and friends, and we wish you well as you go forward into this exciting new domain.