



Swearing-in ceremony of  
the Hon Justice Glenn Martin as a Judge of the Supreme Court,  
to sit in the Trial Division  
Banco Court  
Tuesday, 4 September 2007, 9.15am

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**The Hon Paul de Jersey AC  
Chief Justice of Queensland**

I warmly welcome Justice Martin to our ranks upon his appointment as a Judge of the Supreme Court.

In saying that, I speak on behalf of all Judges of the court, including those who, for one reason or another, cannot be present. Justice Kiefel of the High Court of Australia has asked me especially to mention her regret at her inability to be present, because the High Court is sitting today in Canberra, likewise Justice Daubney who is sitting in Townsville. The welcome today is comprehensive, evident from the large attendance.

I particularly acknowledge the presence of the Honourable the Attorney-General, the Chief Judge and Judges of the District Court, Judges of the Federal and Family Courts, the Chief Magistrate and his colleagues, Tribunal members, the Director-General, and retired Judges.

Justice Martin joins the Trial Division following the recent appointment of Justice Muir from the Trial Division to the Court of Appeal.

Appointment to either division of the court is a matter of weighty public consequence, and that is reflected in the calibre of the appointees, upon which I commend the Executive Government.

May I speak for a moment of the work of the Trial Division to which Justice Martin has been appointed?



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Its Judges preside over trials of charges of the most serious crimes committed in the State, notably homicides and major drug crime. Trial Division Judges give judgments on civil claims falling at the highest echelon of public and private consequence. They regularly adjudicate at the interface between citizen and State on issues of high ramification, above all personal liberty. They routinely sit, with the permanent Judges of Appeal, on the hearing and determination of appeals.

The Judges of our Trial Division, like those of other Australian courts of congruent jurisdiction, regularly determine issues of utmost gravity to citizen, State and nation. Hence the serious significance of the appointment we acknowledge today.

Justice Martin is well qualified and experienced to discharge the substantial obligations of this high office.

His Honour holds the degrees of Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Laws and Master of Laws. He has been in practice as a barrister since the year 1979, and was in 1998 appointed Senior Counsel. He has enjoyed a successful general civil practice, with expert concentration in the areas of employment, administrative, and constitutional law.

Justice Martin's professional career has also been distinctive for its extensive and unstinting application to professional affairs, culminating with Presidency of the Bar Association of Queensland from 2003 to 2005, and his Presidency of the Australian Bar Association for the following two years. He has been actively involved in continuing professional development for the Queensland and Australian bars for the last two decades, in the course of which he has deployed considerable organizational skill. His Honour was instrumental in the organization of the High Court's centenary celebration in the year 2003. I note, Justice Martin, that in four years time the people will be invited to celebrate the sesquicentenary of this court...



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His Honour's professional reach has extended internationally. For example, he is one of the inaugural chairs of the International Council of Advocates and Barristers, a body of which all independent referral bars in the world are members. That Council supports independent observers at trials in countries where lawyers or judges are the subject of oppression. In the year 2004, together with representative of the English, Scottish, Irish and South African bars, Justice Martin visited lawyers in Zimbabwe for the purpose of reporting on the situation in that country, and its effect on human rights and the rule of law.

His Honour has at home been involved substantially over the years with broader community affairs, including the Board of the TN! Theatre Company, The Institutional Ethics Committee of the Royal Women's Hospital, The Edinburgh Trust, and The Queensland Academy of Arts and Sciences, of which he has served as Vice-President.

As may be seen from that brief reference, His Honour brings both professional accomplishment, and a broad and enquiring experience of professional and public life to this role.

We are very pleased to welcome Justice Martin to the court, and his wife Robyn to the court community.