



# Admissions Ceremonies Monday, 10 September 2007

## Chief Justice's observations

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Ceremonies for the admission of legal practitioners form an important part of the work of the Court of Appeal. We always delight in sensing the excitement of those newly admitted to the profession, and the pride of family and friends who will invariably have contributed to your individual successes.

It is a great personal achievement; the precedent course of study is demanding in many respects, as is the required practical training. Completing the requirements for admission demands intelligence, application, fortitude and endurance. We Judges congratulate you, ladies and gentlemen, and acknowledge, on your behalf, the usually unstinting support you will have received from family and friends.

Whether you actively pursue a career of professional practice, or utilize your qualifications in other ways – working for a company, for example, or at a university, that support from others will, I expect, continue to underpin the confidence with which you progress.

The collegial thrusts of the professional associations are designed both to monitor your fulfilment of the stringent ethical obligations to which you are now subject, and to promote your professional development. In our highly competitive contemporary professional situation, you will need continually to hone and expand your knowledge and skills: active participation in the educative initiatives of the professional bodies should facilitate that.

You will ultimately justify the privileged position which attends your newly acquired qualification if you continually recognize the corollary of that privilege, which is service of the public. In an era where courts and the public are, more than ever, vigilant to ensure maintenance of high standards within the profession, we expect your motivation

to surpass the purely personal satisfaction which may come from material things: the lawyer worthy of commendation will work willingly for those deserving clients who cannot afford to pay, contribute talent to community organizations which do good work, and participate in public debate about issues going to the roots of our freedom under the law.

We wish you well as you embrace these substantial public responsibilities, and again, congratulate you on the personal success you and your families rightly celebrate today.

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We endeavour by the ceremonial aspects of today's sitting, ceremony substantially rooted in the tradition of centuries, to emphasize the immutability of our joint mission – the delivery of justice according to law, and the stability of the mechanisms we employ. We also trust those ceremonial aspects render your experience the more memorable, both for you and the many members of your families and circles of friends who join you today to celebrate your substantial personal achievement. We hope your families and friends remain sources of wise guidance and inspiration throughout your professional lives.

The personal achievement we acknowledge today will equip you well for successful practice of the law, or work outside the profession – in companies, for example, or within a law school. The ethical commitment which underpins your professionalism will, we trust, always predominate, as should the public orientation of your new role: work willingly for those who lack the means to meet your ordinary fees; contribute your special talents to community organizations; interact collegially within the profession.

You join a profession of substantial proportions. It is a competitive profession, and the most effective lawyer will assume a commitment to professional development throughout his or her career.

It is also a progressive profession, which conscientiously and effectively complements the work of the courts of law.

We again congratulate you on your personal achievement, and wish you well as your careers progress.

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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 approximately 7,000 solicitors with practising certificates in Queensland, and more than 890 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.

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.

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