

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

MAGISTRATES COURT

JUDGE IRWIN, Chief Magistrate
KILLEEN, Magistrate
BARRETT, Magistrate
C J TAYLOR, Magistrate

IN THE MATTER OF A VALEDICTORY
CEREMONY FOR RETIRING MAGISTRATE
KENNETH O TAYLOR AS A MAGISTRATE OF
QUEENSLAND

MAROOCHYDORE

..DATE 03/10/2007

On behalf of the office of the Attorney General and Minister
for Justice:

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Mr K Shine

On behalf of the Sunshine Coast District Bar Association:

Mr O'Connor

On behalf of the Queensland Law Society:

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Mr Tony Pattinson

On behalf of the Sunshine Coast Bar Association:

Mr S Courtney

On behalf of the Sunshine Coast Law Association:

Mr Crew

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On behalf of the Queensland Police Service Police Prosecutions
Section:

Sergeant Tony Hurley

HIS HONOUR: Good morning. I have much pleasure in welcoming
everyone to this valedictory ceremony for Magistrate Ken
Taylor. I would firstly like to acknowledge the traditional
owners of the land on which we gather today, and pay my
respects to their elders.

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I also acknowledge the presence here today of the Honourable
Kerry Shine, MP, Attorney General and Minister for Justice,
and Minister assisting the Premier for Western Queensland. We
very much appreciate the efforts, Mr Attorney, that you have
made to travel to Maroochydore today to take part in this
special occasion.

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I also acknowledge the presence at the Bar table of Mr O'Connor, the Chief Executive Officer of the Bar Association of Queensland; Mr Tony Pattinson, representing the Queensland Law Society; Mr Courtney, representing the local Bar; Mr Crew, representing local solicitors, and Sergeant Tony Hurley of the Queensland Police Service Police Prosecutions Section.

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I also recognise Magistrate Taylor's colleagues; Magistrates Killeen, Barrett and Taylor - that is to say, Cliff Taylor who sits with him at Maroochydore. Unfortunately Magistrate Fingleton from Caloundra is on leave at the present time and she sends her apologies.

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It is also a pleasure to have with us today the Deputy Chief Magistrate, Magistrate Hine; also our Children's Court Magistrate, Magistrate Dowse; and Magistrate Parker, who will be well know to many of you in this area, but who takes up an appointment at the Gympie Magistrates Court tomorrow. I also understand that retired Magistrates Brian Williams and John Bloxsom are with us today.

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A special welcome also to Magistrate Taylor's wife, Patricia; it is good to have you with us today, Pat, and of course I welcome all of you, our distinguished guests, which I am pleased to say, are almost too many to mention individually today.

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As I said, this is a special occasion and it is also a sad one. It is special because I believe that this is the first

occasion that a valedictory ceremony of this nature has been held for a retiring Magistrate in Maroochydore. There are many Magistrates who would have liked to have been here today, in person, but I am sure you will understand that given the wide jurisdiction of our Court, and the fact that Court must go on, they will be here in spirit today, wishing you well, even though they cannot be here in person.

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My remarks today are on behalf of all Queensland Magistrates. I note that Magistrates Buckley, Kennedy, John Smith, Tonkin, Tynan and Quinlan have all expressed their apologies for being unable to attend today, as has the former Chief Magistrate, Mr Stan Deer, and as do Judges Dodds and Robertson and their Associates; they are sitting in other parts of Queensland today. Judge Robertson has particularly mentioned the enormous respect that he has for you.

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This is a view that is obviously shared by many others, given the numbers in attendance here today and also given the diverse range of backgrounds from which everybody comes.

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I am sure that we will hear a lot of Ken's history this morning; I will simply observe that he has served this Court with distinction for the past 44 years; the last half of that as a Magistrate. So long in fact that I could not find volume 1 of your employment history.

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But that time was also punctuated by service to your country, as you were called up for National Service in 1968 and, like

Magistrate Killeen, saw active duty during the war in Vietnam. Attorney, you will be happy to know that there are a number of links with Toowoomba, including schooling and the fact that Magistrate Taylor first entered the Court in 1963 in the then Court of Petty Sessions in Toowoomba.

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He progressed through the ranks, being a depositions clerk and then a clerk of the Court, at places such as Landsborough, Cunnamulla, Warwick and Mackay before being appointed 22 years ago as a Magistrate and Mining Warden to Clermont; then followed Townsville, Brisbane, and the last five years at Maroochydore.

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During your time in Brisbane you served for a period as Industrial Magistrate, a role which requires the production of a higher proportion than usual of written decisions. I am sure, knowing you, that you enjoyed this because you have always enjoyed the challenge of a big trial. More recently you have enjoyed the challenge of being directly involved in the launch of the innovative Q-Merit program in Maroochydore for the diversion of persons whose offending is related to their drug use, and I very much appreciated the advice and assistance that you gave to me during the formative days of that program.

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You are highly regarded, also, as a mentor to Magistrates, as Magistrates Kennedy and Buckley, whose initial appointments were to Maroochydore, have recently reminded me. It has been my good fortune as Chief Magistrate, to have the confidence

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that you were here, discharging your functions fairly and
impartially and courteously - in other words, professionally -
without any need for attention from me. As one of your
colleagues put it to me recently, you have been a terrific
Magistrate and a terrific bloke, and I do not think I can put
it much better than that.

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Your collegiality is demonstrated by the fact that you gave
over two months notice of your decision to retire and the fact
that you put the interests of the Court first in overcoming
your natural modesty and initial reluctance to have a fuss
made about you on your last day; but I hope you enjoy it.

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Therefore your retirement has been accepted with regret by me,
and by the Court, but it is accepted as a decision which has
been made with the careful deliberation and consideration that
we have come to expect from you; and tomorrow Magistrate
Callaghan will transfer from Gympie to take your place on the
Bench here and, as I said, Magistrate Parker will take her
place in Gympie.

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It is time for you to retire and enjoy, with Patricia, the
many other attractions that life has to offer. I know that
this will include involvement in the Regan Thorne Foundation,
which is named after your much-loved grandchild, and which is
focussed on mitochondrial myopathy.

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This is also an opportunity to acknowledge you, Patricia, and
the many sacrifices that you have made in supporting Ken's

career. You can retire knowing that you have made a
significant contribution to the Queensland Justice System and
to the community. So on behalf of all your colleagues, the
Magistrates of Queensland, please accept our best wishes to
you and to Pat, for a long, happy, healthy and fulfilling
retirement. Mr Attorney?

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THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: May it please the Court, I first of all
acknowledge as well the traditional owners of the land at
which we gather today. Chief Magistrate Marshall Irwin and
Magistrate Ken Taylor, the other Magistrates who have come
here today to support you including the Deputy Chief
Magistrate, Magistrate Hine, Mr Dan O'Connor representing the
Bar Association of Queensland, Mr Tony Pattinson representing
the Queensland Law Society, Mr Steve Courtney of the local Bar
and Mr Shane Crew of the local Law Association and Sergeant
Tony Hurley of the QPS Prosecution section.

We join here today to farewell from the Court a very long-
standing and highly respected Magistrate in Ken Taylor and to
acknowledge with gratitude your distinguished service to the
Magistrates Court. Magistrate Taylor, as the Chief Magistrate
said, you hail from my neck of the woods having been born and
completed your schooling in Toowoomba. In fact, both you and
your wife Patricia come from large Toowoomba families.

Magistrate Taylor, your father and until she passed away, your
mother, lived in Toowoomba since World War II where they
raised their family. Your oldest brother who I know, Graham,
was until his recent retirement, the Deputy CEO of the
Toowoomba City Council and one of Graham's sons Andrew, is a
solicitor with Groom and Lavers, a very long-standing firm in
Toowoomba. Patricia has six siblings I believe still living
in Toowoomba.

You first joined the Magistrates Court service as a youthful
and enthusiastic clerk in 1963 in Toowoomba. You served in

that capacity there and Wynnum until you were called upon to undertake military service under National Service. Magistrate Taylor, you served in the armed forces including over 12 months in Vietnam and returned to the Magistrates Court at Toowoomba in 1970 to continue your career.

You also undertook the Solicitors' Board examinations completing this course in 1975 and being admitted as a solicitor in 1976, a barrister in 1988. Never one to be idle however, you also graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from University of Queensland in 1990.

After many placements, as Judge Irwin has indicated, at centres around the State, you were appointed as Magistrate and Mining Warden at Clermont in 1985. You served as well in Townsville and Brisbane, finishing your career on the Bench here at Maroochydore.

You were married, of course, to Patricia and her commitment and support together with that of your daughters, Belinda and Katrina, enabled you to transfer to various centres throughout Queensland playing an important role in the administration of justice in what is a very large and diverse State. We are delighted that Patricia has been able to join us today for this very significant ceremony in your life.

Magistrate Taylor, to say that you are one of the most respected and admired members of the Bench of the Magistrates Court may have that hint of flattery on an occasion such as this and yet though, it is true. You are admired by both your

colleagues and those practitioners who appeared before you alike. Your knowledge and appreciation of the law are noted by colleagues and you have been called upon to share your views on a wide range of topics that affect the Magistracy.

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Additionally, you bring to your role of Magistrate a deep understanding and appreciation of the situations which can result in a person appearing before this Court and your thoughtful consideration and reflection are welcomed by both defendants and their representatives.

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What many would not know about you Magistrate Taylor, is that you are a Francophile. You love anything to do with France especially French food and wine and you are particularly enamoured of French Cognac, I am led to believe. To compliment your retirement will enable you to pursue those interests with some vigour and enthusiasm.

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Magistrate Taylor, I also note your intention to share your not inconsiderable talents with the Regan Thorne Foundation, a charity which is currently being established to assist families of children afflicted by the disorder referred to by the Chief Magistrate. I feel confident that they will benefit greatly from your involvement.

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It is truly with regret that we do farewell you, Magistrate Taylor. Your contribution to the judicial life of the State I feel honoured to be asked to recognise. It is with regret because it is always a shame when the wisdom and experience

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gained over many years is lost to the Bench. For this reason I introduced amendments to the Magistrates Court Act earlier this year to permit retired Magistrates to act as acting Magistrates.

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Magistrate Taylor, I wish you all the best for a long and healthy retirement and I hope that we may be able to entice you back to the Bench at some time in the future, in consultation of course with the Chief Magistrate, as an acting Magistrate.

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To you Magistrate Taylor and to your wife, Patricia may you take with you our most sincere thanks and warmest good wishes.

HIS HONOUR: Thank you, Mr Attorney. I endorse those remarks in particular the last part of those remarks that you just made as part of the consultation process. Mr O'Connor, could I please invite you to address the Court.

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MR O'CONNOR: May it please the Court, your Honour the Chief Magistrate, your Honour the Deputy Chief Magistrate, Magistrate Taylor, your Honours, the President of the Bar. Mr Hugh Fraser has asked me to convey his regret at his inability to attend today but his absence means I have the pleasure of appearing to farewell your Honour and to acknowledge your significant contribution not only to the administration of justice in Queensland but to the community and the people of Queensland and to extend to you the Bar's best wishes for your retirement.

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Your Honour's achievements and personal history were well-covered by his Honour, the Chief Magistrate and The Attorney and by other speakers, but what is abundantly clear is that you have served the people of Queensland well and the Magistrates Court system. I noticed at the swearing-in of Magistrate Parker that reference was made then to your Honour's extended leave and on reflection I was intrigued by that period of leave. I ask myself now whether that was a period of preparation for retirement or just a holiday.

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As is the want of a modern barrister I have dispensed with asking people what they know of you. Instead, I Googled you and what I discovered unsettled me; it was an E Bay entry which confirmed that indeed, Magistrate Taylor, you spent those few months creating personal fitness videos. The video in question is called Fighting Fit with Ken Taylor. I know that it could not have been another Ken Taylor because of the description in support of the video. It says, "A 60 minute video will take you through a complete fighting fit training program including combinations where kicks, punches and jabs build the pace for a complete cardiovascular workout". It goes on to state, "The step-by-step instructions let you work at your own pace as you increase your stamina, flexibility and fitness levels". But disturbingly the E Bay entry concludes with the advice in large capital letters, "PLEASE NOTE ITEMS ARE NEW BUT CARTON SHOWS WEAR".

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Magistrate Taylor you have, in all truth, made an outstanding contribution to the Magistracy in Queensland since your appointment to the Bench in 1984. I had, as you know, the distinct pleasure of appearing before your Honour, mainly in the industrial jurisdiction. Your Honour's Court was characterised by courtesy, fairness and learning. The industrial jurisdiction, as you know, is one in which matters are often complex; they have significant implications for either employer or employee and monetary limits, particularly in wages cases, are often large.

It was said by the Honourable Mr Justice Moore of the Ontario Court of Appeal that a mark of a good Judge is a person who has passion to do justice combined with the knowledge and skills necessary to give effect to that passion. If this is the measure then your Honour can retire with the satisfaction that you have indeed been a good Judge. On behalf of the counsel and members of the Bar Association of Queensland may I extend to your Honour our best wishes on a happy, healthy and fulfilling retirement. May it please the Court.

HIS HONOUR: Thank you, Mr O'Connor. I now invite you to address the Court, Mr Pattinson.

MR PATTINSON: Thank you, your Honour. May it please the Court, the Honourable Attorney-General Kerry Shine, the Honourable Chief Magistrate Judge Marshall Irwin, your Honour, Ken Taylor and fellow Magistrates, fellow practitioners, guests, ladies and gentlemen. Having had the pleasure of

appearing before your Honour on many occasions, it is with
great pleasure that I appear here today in my role as counsel
member of the Queensland Law Society on behalf of the
President, Mrs Megan Mahon, and the some 7000 solicitors in
Queensland to mark the retirement of your Honour and to
celebrate your long and distinguished career. Mrs Mahon
regrets her inability to attend today due to a prior
engagement, particularly since your Honour was born and bred
in Toowoomba which she assures me is the centre of the legal
profession in the known civilised world.

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Your Honour began your long career as, happily, an increasing
number of distinguished and popular judicial officers do, as a
solicitor having been admitted more than 30 years ago. Your
involvement with the Magistrates Court covers a remarkable 44
years beginning as a clerk at what was then called the
Toowoomba Petty Court - sorry, the Toowoomba Court of Petty
Sessions and later you transferred to the Court at Wynnum.

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Certainly, your Honour has served the Magistrates Court throughout the State; Landsborough, Cunnamulla, Warwick and Mackay, through the 70s and 80s while you studied and then qualified as a solicitor via the Solicitors' Board.

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Your Honour is one of the last of a very distinct and honoured breed of Magistrates, those who came up through the ranks who, by dint of private study and long and dutiful application, reached the Bench and who unselfishly put the administration of justice before everything else.

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Certainly, we salute you, thank you and wish you a long and happy retirement. Thank you.

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HIS HONOUR: Thank you, Mr Pattinson. Mr Courtney?

MR COURTNEY: Thank you, your Honour. Your Honour, Magistrate Taylor, Judge Irwin, other members of the Judiciary, colleagues at the Bar table and ladies and gentlemen. Your Honour Mr Taylor, I can say personally, on behalf of the local Bar, your retirement is a loss to the Magistracy.

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You arrived on the Sunshine Coast with an excellent reputation amongst the Brisbane Bar. I know that for a fact because when I heard you were coming, I made some phone calls. When you

did arrive on the Sunshine Coast you brought with you those
qualities that gave you that excellent reputation in Brisbane.

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You are renowned for the judicial, insightful and fair way you
approach matters that come before you. Personally, it has
always been a pleasure to appear before you, particularly the
way that you engage when legal argument or factual argument
comes before you. Sometimes that finds me out, but most times
it is enjoyable. You will be missed, Mr Taylor.

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So, on behalf of the local Bar, I wish you a happy and healthy
retirement.

HIS HONOUR: Thank you, Mr Courtney. Just before I call on
you, Mr Crew, I notice that hidden down the back in the
audience - it is always hard to tell who is here on occasions
such as this - is the Court Administrator, Mr Marshke, and the
Regional Services Manager for this area, Mr Butel, and they
have both made the effort to come up from other commitments in
Brisbane to be part of this occasion today, so I thank them as
well.

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Yes, Mr Crew, I now invite you to address the Court.

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MR CREW: Thank you, your Honour. May it please the Court,
the Honourable Judge Irwin, Chief Magistrate, your Honour

Magistrate Taylor, members of the Magistracy, fellow practitioners, ladies and gentlemen. It is my pleasure and honour to speak on behalf of the members of the Sunshine Coast Law Association on this special occasion.

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Magistrate Taylor, you have made a significant contribution to the administration of justice, not just on the Sunshine Coast, but in many parts of Queensland in your long and distinguished career. In the past five years you have called the Sunshine Coast home and have added to the stable a very busy and hardworking Magistrate for this jurisdiction.

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Being a large regional jurisdiction with enormous population growth, the Magistrates Courts in the area see a diverse range of criminal, civil and industrial matters with the amounts ever increasing. In dealing with such matters, you have done so with consideration, knowledge, fairness and commitment to the law.

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In preparing my words for today, I have spoken with some of our members who have been appearing before you regularly since your arrival on the Coast. Collectively, your Honour was described as being one of the best Magistrates on the Bench in Queensland, with your decisions being well considered, learned and based on a thorough knowledge of the law and that your matters were conducted efficiently, courteously, and

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thoroughly. The full membership of the Sunshine Coast Law Association endorse those words.

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You have earned the respect of all members of the profession who have appeared before you. Your retirement will be a significant loss to the administration of justice on the Sunshine Coast, but will no doubt be a significant gain for your family and friends.

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I have been made aware of your interest in furthering the aims of the Regan Thorne Foundation, and on behalf of the Sunshine Coast Law Association, we offer our help in any way we can in the future.

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All members of the Sunshine Coast Law Association wish you the very best in your well earned retirement and hope that your future endeavours are as fulfilling as your years spent within the Court. Thank you.

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HIS HONOUR: Thank you, Mr Crew. And now, Sergeant Hurley, I invite you to address the Court.

SGT HURLEY: May it please the Court, Attorney-General the Honourable Mr Kerry Shine, Chief Justice Judge Irwin, Deputy Chief Magistrate Mr Hine, our esteemed retiree, your Honour Ken Taylor and your wife, Patricia, your Honours; Supervising

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Magistrate Killeen, Parker, Barrett and Dowse, Mr Dan O'Connor
from the Bar Association and Mr Tony Pattinson from the Law
Society and members of the legal fraternity and distinguished
ladies and gentlemen and friends. I am privileged and proud
to address on behalf of the Queensland Police Service and more
particularly, on behalf of the Prosecutors to my left here.

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I can recall as a fresh faced Prosecutor in Brisbane
Magistrates Court in the mid to late 80s first appearing
before your Honour in Traffic Court hearings and tearing my
hair out on many an occasion where defendants were acquitted.
A finding of guilt was my only goal at that time, but many
years teaches one the pursuit is towards justice and not a
relentless quest for conviction.

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In a forum that resolves approximately 96 per cent of all
criminal matters throughout the State and represents the coal
face of the Queensland judicial system, the Magistrates Court
deals with the most complex and most simplistic of matters and
is truly at the cutting edge of humanity.

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Mr Taylor, you have seen Court technology transform from one
fingered typing to state of the art electronics which can see
a witness from England being televised live and giving
testimony. However, the extent and complexity of this
jurisdiction is often misunderstood and undermined by parties

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who have no comprehension of the intricacies involved in modern day sentencing.

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You have successfully performed duties as a Magistrate which demands a balancing act where one is juggling precedents, common sense, antecedents, compassion, fairness, community expectations and severity of the offence, and you have performed all of these duties most admirably.

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Bobby Kennedy, one of the world's great Attorney-Generals once said,

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"Let no-one be discouraged by the belief that there is nothing one man can do about the enormous array of the world's ills against misery and ignorance and justice and violence. Few will have the greatness to bend history itself. Each of you can change a small portion of events and then the total of all those acts will be written in the history of this generation."

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I believe that is a philosophy which should guide the Bench, whether it be Magistrates Court, District Court or Supreme Court. You should pride yourself on being a champion of the people's Court and be content in knowing that you have made a difference.

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We wish you good health and happiness in the future.

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HIS HONOUR: Yes, thank you, Sergeant Hurley, for those well considered words. And now I invite Magistrate Taylor to deliver just one more judgment from the Bench.

MAGISTRATE TAYLOR: Thank you, Chief Magistrate. Mr Attorney, members of the magistracy, retired Magistrates, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen; and I would at this stage like to also acknowledge the several persons, in my view, surprisingly many number of persons, who have expressed their apologies for being unable to be here today. It was somewhat unwise of me to choose a Wednesday as my last day. At that stage I did not have a valedictory in mind, so I never addressed that problem. I thank you all for your very kind and generous remarks.

When I joined the magistracy some 22 years ago, I was confident that I was going to take the legal world by storm. I was going to astound all with my brilliance of my legal reasoning in my mind. Of course, I mellowed very quickly. I learned quickly, especially in the light of the brilliance brought to the Court by advocates before me, that there was nothing special about my mind at all. But having heard what I have heard today, I am beginning to think I had it right in the first place.

Mr Dan O'Connor, I was somewhat astounded to learn that
apparently there is another Ken Taylor in the world. It does
come as a surprise. I thought I had the name all locked up,
but I assure you that person, as would be obvious to everybody
who knows my state of fitness, was not me.

In 1980 the Chief Judge of the Manhattan Court of Appeals, who
was then celebrating 30 years on the Bench, Judge Korfman, was
quoted in an address he gave to celebrate that occasion in
Time magazine of the 5th of May 1980. That, of course, is a
long time ago. I only came across this again when I was
cleaning out the desk, which has taken some two weeks to do,
and I am quite satisfied that it is as relevant today as it
was then.

You will forgive me if I quote selectively and also, perhaps,
at some length. He said and I quote,

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"What is it like to be a Judge?" "Most of time it is very satisfying. One enjoys the prestige. Courtrooms contain every symbol of authority that a set designer could imagine. Everyone stands up when you come in. You wear a costume identifying you as, if not quite divine, someone special. Attendants twitter all around."

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I just pause to say I have not observed a great deal of twittering in my last 22 years but Judge Kaufmann obviously did. Returning to the quote:

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"Most striking at every sitting, at least, two highly trained lawyers whose job it is to talk - who love to talk - allow you to interrupt them whenever you want. Much tension accompanies the job of deciding the questions that all the rest of the social matrix has found too hard to answer but the effort is worth it for the job of adjudication is to decide those questions according to particular rules and free of the influences that often affect decisions made outside the courtroom."

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We represent a third value that is not and is trusted not to be the prisoner of either wealth or popular prejudice. The ideal is to have the losing party feel that he is not the victim of the Judge but simply, the object of a process that is the same for all. Thus, all the pleasing mummery in the courtroom, all our political insulation, indeed, all our power, is designed to support a message. That message is, whichever side you're on we are not on your side or your opponent's side.

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You must persuade us not that you've got money or that you've got votes, not that your cause is lawful and just; that is a role worth fulfilling. This does not always work. Judges are not saints but, by and large, we succeed."

We do not succeed on our own. Many are essential to our success. Our colleagues, it has been my privilege to work with many fine dedicated Magistrates. Most of those are my colleagues who have been appointed to the Bench from the

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Magistrates Court service and have, like myself, come from modest, if not, humble backgrounds and have had to overcome considerable obstacles to advancement in the law.

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In many cases, those obstacles denied them the opportunity of achieving the academic accreditation that their demonstrated abilities proved them capable. In 1990, almost five years after my appointment to the Bench, the University of Queensland conferred on me, the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Preparation for that academic honour was done entirely externally and entirely in the time allowed me after the demands of a young family and professional duty were met.

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There is nothing unique nor even remarkably meritorious about that. I mention it only to give proper perspective to the fact that I have worked with colleagues who, despite little formal accreditation, have demonstrated very astute, analytical and judicial skills and I have learned much from their advice and example.

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I am sincerely grateful for the companionship of the many colleagues with whom I have worked. Court staff, who have the unenviable task of accommodating our task obsession; our impatience and our egocentric idiosyncrasies.

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The nature of our adversarial system is such that a judicial officer must decide alone that for which a decision is required. That is certainly the case with the Magistracy.

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The superior courts sometimes get the help of a jury when issues of fact and criminal trials are to be decided.

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I would like to express particular gratitude to colleagues and court staff who have, by their assistance, ensured that the loneliness that attaches to the job has been limited to those critical periods in each case when I must be left alone.

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Lawyers - and in that term I include police Prosecutors - who, as of our court staff, have the onerous task made even more difficult by the individual demands of Magistrates. Court support agencies, community correctional officers, mental focus teams, voluntary court support agencies, to name some; their services are essential not only to an efficient disposal of cases, but much more importantly to adjust outcome.

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The community through its parliament, through parliament's agencies such as the Queensland Police Service and other government agencies, through other community agencies, many of them voluntary, and the many thousands of individuals that I have called upon daily for assistance to the courts; the media for keeping the community aware of the essential nature of our role.

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No less important are family and friends. Some suggest that judicial officers exist in some rarefied bubble that insulates them from the real world and inadequately prepares them to sit in judgment upon those who live ordinary lives. They overlook the fact that judicial officers spend much more time in the

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real world than they do in court or chambers. If there is any risk of developing exaggerated notions of your own importance, teenage children will quickly restore perspective.

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A balance to the negative and sometimes depressing experience in the criminal jurisdiction is well provided by a family gathering, a neighbourhood barbecue, a P and C meeting, or one of the many other outlets for social service and social interchange, but most valuable is the sound emotional foundation provided by family and friends. It has been a foundation that has allowed me to undertake a difficult daily task confident that there is refuge and recuperative relief at the end of the day.

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It is almost 22 years since I was appointed to the Bench. I regularly performed the task in an acting capacity for several years before that. I have throughout enjoyed the love and support of a wonderful family. My wife, Patricia; my daughters, Melinda and Katrina; my parents; my siblings; those who have joined to my family through marriage; and I have enjoyed the support of many wonderful friends.

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Could I have done it without them? I do not know. But I am so very, very grateful that I have not had to try. It is through the sacrifices of family that I have been able to maintain, or I am able to attain and to maintain my position on the Bench, and words cannot adequately express my gratitude to them.

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It is a great privilege to have been able to serve the community through the Magistrate's Court Bench. Over that time many of Queensland's leading lawyers have appeared in my Courts. Some have since gone on to the Bench. Indeed, I believe a Bench of all the Queensland and Federal jurisdictions, including the High Court, has enjoyed the tenure of judges who have, as advocates, appeared in my Courts.

It is an exhilarating experience to be addressed by some of the most brilliant intellects in the nation. It is a humbling experience that having been so addressed it is left to me to decide.

I have enjoyed watching young lawyers develop beyond first nervous steps to confident and competent advocacy. That enjoyment has continued to today.

Over the past five years I have been assisted in Court by
dedicated and competent lawyers on the Sunshine Coast. I will
avoid the risk of offending some by naming any, but I must say
how impressed I am by the number of young lawyers who have
quickly developed their skills in the criminal jurisdiction,
not only in advocacy but also in practice management. To all
who appear in our Courts, I congratulate you and thank you for
your assistance.

There have been many changes in the law in 22 years. There
have been great changes to the magistracy in that time.
Several lawyers present at an occasion in Mackay to celebrate
my appointment nearly 22 years ago could not have been
appointed to the magistracy, not then. Not because of any
deficiency in ability, but simply because they were not public
servants. The most significant change to the magistracy since
then is illustrated by the fact that one of those lawyers is
now a colleague.

Opening up appointment to the magistracy was a welcome reform
which reinforced the fundamental principle of independence of
the judiciary and ensured a magistracy that reflects the
diverse nature of our society. I said 22 years ago that I
felt honoured to be joining the magistracy. That sense of
privilege has remained throughout. I am fortunate to have
been able to play my part in this essential public service.

Judge Korfan was speaking of the judiciary of the United States of America. I am speaking of the Australian judiciary when I join him in saying by and large we succeed. I feel proud and honoured to have been part of that success and I again sincerely thank all who have made and continued to make that success possible.

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Finally, I sincerely thank you all for honouring me with your attendance today and to those who addressed the Bench honouring me by your remarks. Thank you.

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HIS HONOUR: Thank you, Magistrate Taylor, and we have been proud and honoured for you to be a part of our Bench and I have been privileged for you to be part of the Bench during the four years that I have held this position.

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I would also like to thank everybody who has taken the time out of their busy schedules to attend this ceremony this morning. That again says a lot for Magistrate Taylor to look around and see the variety of professions and walks of life of the people who have come here today do come from and to hear personal testimonials from a number of people who appeared in your Court over the years.

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To all of you who have attended this morning, if you do have time I hope that you will be able to join us for an early morning tea in the jury assembly room on level 3. There will be some more presentations but not many speeches there but I hope that you will be able to join us to be a part of that

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event as well. It only remains for me to direct that these proceedings be recorded by Stuart Martin Irving and Court is now adjourned. Thank you.

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THE COURT ADJOURNED

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