



**SUPREME COURT  
OF QUEENSLAND**

**Valedictory ceremony on the retirement of  
the Hon Justice Mackenzie  
Banco Court  
Monday, 8 December 2008, 9:15am**

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

We join to farewell our distinguished colleague, Justice Mackenzie, upon his retirement. We congratulate His Honour upon his celebration, today, of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth.

I note with pleasure the presence of Justice Kiefel, Justice of the High Court, the Chief Judge and Judges of the District Court, Judges of the Federal and Family Courts, Magistrates, retired Judges and Tribunal members. Some of the judges of the Supreme Court cannot be present today, but all would wish to be associated with my remarks, and the Northern Judge, Justice Cullinane, asked that I mention him in that regard.

Justice Mackenzie has been a judge of this court for 19 years. He was sworn in on 10 April 1989. Apart from the demanding ordinary work of a Supreme Court Judge, His Honour also, during that period, occupied with distinction the position of President of the Industrial Court of Queensland, and in more recent years, Chair of the Supreme Court Library Committee, and Acting Judge of Appeal.

To his judicial role, the Judge has brought great wisdom borne of substantial experience over many years.

He has invariably been immensely helpful to me, as a source of indubitably wise guidance.

I speak for all of the Judges in acknowledging with gratitude His Honour's contribution over so many years, distinctive for its concise expositions of the criminal law in particular, but



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also notable for the great friendship he has brought to the collegial side of the life of the court.

We will miss him professionally, and as a friend, and also his mainstay Mrs Mary Mackenzie, who likewise has been a great friend and an enduring supporter of beneficial relationships within the court community.

Justice Mackenzie has completed 19 years service as a judge. It should not be overlooked, however, that his span of public service covers a much longer period – on my calculation some 45 years, almost certainly one of the longest spans of public service through formal employment and judicial appointment which this State has ever known.

The Judge's public service career began in 1958 when he took up a position in the Supreme Court Registry, followed by time in the Solicitor-General's office and as Assistant Public Defender in the mid-1960's. He served as Crown Prosecutor for four years to 1970, and then for eight years in the advisory section of the Solicitor-General's office, advising the Crown on a wide-range of issues, especially high order constitutional matters. He was Northern Crown Prosecutor from 1978 to 1980, then Crown Counsel, Crown Solicitor, and from 1985, Solicitor-General. In that year he was appointed as Queen's Counsel. He was the first serving Queensland Solicitor-General to be appointed to the Supreme Court.

Unsurprisingly with that background, His Honour was soon acknowledged on this court as a trial judge of exemplary application. With his experience of the criminal law, he came to be something of a mentor for barristers with limited criminal court experience upon their appointment to this court – including me.

In acknowledging Justice Mackenzie's judicial and other public service career, in which his contribution has been of the highest quality and distinction, we warmly offer our colleague and Mrs Mackenzie every best wish as they enter a new chapter of their lives together.



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I conclude by mentioning the departure from the court, also today, of Justice Jerrard, Judge of Appeal. His Honour has resigned following lengthy periods of ill-health, although the present prognosis is fortunately favourable. His Honour eschewed a valedictory ceremony, but I do not think I abuse his trust in at least acknowledging, on this occasion, his extremely dedicated work as a Judge of Appeal since his appointment in mid-2002, following his service as a Judge of the Family Court of Australia over the preceding four years. We all greatly regret his departure from the court and offer him, and Ms Bronwyn Jerrard, every best wish as they move forward.