



Admissions Ceremony (2)

16 June 2008

Chief Justice's observations

On behalf of the Judges, I congratulate you, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome you to the ranks of the legal profession.

Your personal achievement is substantial. We Judges were admitted as barristers many years ago, but the demanding course of meticulous study prerequisite to admission as a legal practitioner never departs one's recollection; and in addition, you have completed the required practical training, which we hope you found both interesting and helpful. Your present achievement is however but the herald for a lifetime of professional development. The most effective lawyers – those who best serve their clients - are those who continue, throughout their professional lives, to broaden their professional knowledge, to hone their professional expertise.

Today you join a noble profession with a substantial commitment to public service including, with increasing reach, the provision of services pro bono to those of limited financial means.

As you would probably already appreciate only too well, you join a competitive profession. There are currently in Queensland more than 900 barristers with practising certificates and 7,000 solicitors with practising certificates. Last year the court admitted 836 new legal practitioners. That extent of infusion of talent into an already substantial profession means there can be no doubt, for success, that you must meet reasonably high expectations.

Some of you may not enter into legal practice as such. I am sure you will in that event nevertheless continue to appreciate the mental acuity and moral commitment which underpin your new qualifications.

We hope, ladies and gentlemen, that you rise to these substantial challenges. Your prospects will be enhanced if you continue to draw support from those who have, more than likely, assisted you greatly to this present pinnacle: your families and friends, so many of whom we welcome here this morning to share your sense of fulfilment. We again wish you well in your careers.