



Admission Ceremonies

27 April 2009

1st ceremony

Chief Justice's observations

Welcome ladies and gentlemen, to the legal profession, as you assume today the significant mantle of "officers of the court". We congratulate you on your substantial achievements. In a society where the range of choice of destination is so wide, we are pleased you have chosen the law, and thereby a commitment to service of the public.

No doubt gratitude is due, also, to your families and friends, who will have encouraged and assisted you to this point. We welcome many of them to the Banco Court this morning.

Disastrous events in recent world history have reminded us, particularly in this privileged nation, of the ultimate nobility of assisting our fellow beings. Helping others lies at the heart of your new professionalism. We hope that will extend to those without advantage in our community – the weak, the marginalized, the poor, especially so in what seems, sadly, to be a decreasingly compassionate and tolerant society.

You join a large Queensland profession, commendably influenced by the professional associations. The Bar Association has almost 1,200 members, and the Law Society, more than 7,500. Last year this court admitted as many as 806 new legal practitioners. The situation is consequently competitive.

Optimal performance is necessary, as is a real commitment to continuing professional development. It of course goes without saying that the court expects you to exhibit the highest ethical standards.

Some of you may not enter into legal practice as such. I am sure you will nevertheless value the intellectual rigour and moral acuity reflected by this new qualification.

We wish you all well as you proceed from this point, exercising new privileges and discharging new responsibilities. We trust you may continue to draw inspiration from the support and example of others – those whose friendship you value, and those whose professional achievement you respect.

Admissions Ceremony

27 April 2009

2nd ceremony

Chief Justice's observations

You today join a vibrant Queensland legal profession, a profession which has adapted well to the quite substantial changes in approach which have occurred in recent years. Examples are the embrace of the mechanisms of alternate dispute resolution with consequent retreat from adversarialism, and the extent to which court presentations are now reduced to writing with consequent limitation on oral advocacy; and in the solicitors' offices as in the courts, electronics have provided almost indispensable new tools facilitating the disposition of our work. As you enter this exciting new world, we urge you to rise above the utilitarian: always remember the essence of your newly acquired professionalism, its embrace of the ideal of public service; recognize the critical importance of continuing legal education; suffer no dereliction in your dedication to the highest ethical standards; look broadly towards the community, participate in pro bono schemes and voluntary community endeavour; and recognize that every human being, to survive and flourish, depends on the support of others, especially so with professionals subject to the pressured demands of contemporary life. You have to this point achieved very highly and that leaves us sanguine as to your future prospects. You leave with our congratulations, and our acknowledgement of the undoubtedly valuable assistance which will have been given to you by your parents, family and friends. You have our warm good wishes for your future professional careers.
