



Opening of Law Year Service, Rockhampton
St Paul's Cathedral
Tuesday 14 July 2009, 9am

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

I respectfully commend the Central Queensland legal profession for its annual public acknowledgement, through this service, of the gravity of its commitment.

Our joint mission is ultimately to uphold the lynchpin of civilised society, which is observance of the rule of law. We all play a potentially important part in securing that goal, however pedestrian a particular task may seem.

We join together to reflect on these issues this morning in surroundings which, for many of us, have a particular additional significance which is predominant and abiding. I sincerely thank the Dean for facilitating this service today.

It is a singular honour for me to be invited to Rockhampton each year for this important demonstration of the unity and dedication of the Central Queensland profession. I am grateful that I have been able to accept the invitation, thus far, for each of my years as Chief Justice. This is not the occasion to elaborate on my respect for the Central Queensland profession, beyond acknowledging that it is uniquely collegial, and thereby discharging its role particularly well.

It is important that we note this morning the presence of our indigenous fellow citizens, to be commended in particular for their valuable contribution to the Murri Court, and also representatives of related agencies, the Queensland Police Service, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and Legal Aid (Qld). May I particularly commend the Police, for their courageous daily service in a society which is, sad to say, increasingly volatile.



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Another feature of our mission to deliver justice according to law is that it is timeless. The presence of so many students here this morning is reassuring, as a reflection of the continuity of our commitment. We are all, as human beings, inherently committed to just outcomes. To see our younger citizens acknowledging that is a matter for optimism.

On behalf of the Central Queensland community, and the State of Queensland, I thank you all for your continuing dedication and contribution.

I thank you for taking your role appropriately seriously, and for your preparedness to declare that publicly, as you now do.