



# Admission Ceremonies

## 17 December 2009, 10.15am

### 1<sup>st</sup> ceremony

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#### Chief Justice's observations

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

Your personal achievement is substantial. The President, Justice Fraser and I 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. They are also persons who maintain a broad involvement in life, rather than a narrow absorption with the law.

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.

The ethical standards which characterize the profession in Queensland are high, and the court is vigilant to ensure the profession continues to acknowledge and fulfil its high ethical obligation, and the discharge of its duty to clients with competence and expertise.

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.

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 again wish you well in your careers, and the compliments of the festive season.

Before I conclude these remarks, it is important that I acknowledge the voluntary contribution made by the members of the Legal Practitioners Admissions Board. The members of the Board give substantially of their time in examining applications for admission, and their work – very much in the public interest – is of great assistance to the court.

The members of the Board, chaired by Mr Greg Moroney, are Mr James Bell QC (Deputy Chairperson), Ms Jennifer Rosengren, Mr Noel Jensen, Mr Liam Kelly SC, Ms Joan Bennett, Ms Imelda Bradley and the Deputy Director of Courts.

This year, meeting on 8 separate occasions, the Board has considered as many as 795 applications in Brisbane alone, and transmitted its recommendations to the Court. Not only does the Board meet, but its members must spend hours in pre-meeting preparation. The members are not paid for their work.

I again thank the Board for the responsible and willing discharge of this important regulatory role.

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## **Admissions Ceremony 17 December 2009, 11am 2<sup>nd</sup> ceremony**

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### **Chief Justice's observations**

There is a special excitement about being admitted to the profession with Christmas but days away. We congratulate you, and we expect the achievement of this personal success will enhance your festive celebration, especially if you are fortunate enough to be doing so with family and friends.

I was admitted by what we called the Full Court of the Supreme Court on 16 December 1971. That court comprised Mr Justice Wanstall, Mr Justice Hoare and Mr Justice W B Campbell: all of the Judges were male then. I still recall the excitement of the occasion,

fed a little by the frisson of my having to seek an abridgement of time. I hope you may be fortunate enough to enjoy a career in the law as fulfilling as mine has been.

Your personal achievement is substantial, and no doubt the support of family and friends has been a mainstay in securing that. Our advice to you would be to continue to harness that support as time goes on.

We wish you well in your careers, and express our gratitude to your supporters for their indirect contribution to the development of the legal system in this State. We also wish you all the compliments of the season.

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## **Admissions Ceremony**

### **17 December 2009, 11.45am**

### **3<sup>rd</sup> ceremony**

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#### **Chief Justice's observations**

The admission of legal practitioners at the beginning and end of the calendar year is an encouraging signal of the continuity of the legal profession which serves the people of Queensland so well. We welcome you to the ranks of that profession, and wish you well as you exercise new privileges and embrace new responsibilities.

You will be challenged to develop and demonstrate considerable talent as you enter what is a substantial and competitive profession.

Today is not the occasion for a lecture on professional ethics, but I hope you will always recognize that you owe your professional legitimacy to the court, and your overriding duty borne to the court notwithstanding the interests of the client. I hope that you will also acknowledge the goal of public service which underpins your new professionalism, and be astute to the plight of the under privileged within our community: the professional associations, and many of the firms, run active and well-developed pro bono schemes which should be of interest to you.

If you choose not to pursue a practising career, you will nevertheless I am confident always value your qualification: it signifies substantial personal achievement, and bespeaks mental acuity and ethical commitment.

I know you would wish us to acknowledge the contribution made to your present achievement by your families and friends. We welcome them to the Banco Court today. They must remain sources of encouragement, inspiration and wise advice as you move forward.

On behalf of all of the Judges, I again congratulate you and wish you well as you exercise these qualifications, and extend the compliments of the festive season.

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## **Admissions Ceremony** **17 December 2009, 12.30pm** **4<sup>th</sup> ceremony**

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### **Chief Justice's observations**

On behalf of the Judges, I welcome you, ladies and gentlemen, to the legal profession. The warm glow of your festive season will be enhanced.

You are to be commended for your successful completion of a demanding academic course and substantial practical training requirements. Now you face the challenge of deploying your professional talents to assist those who need expert help in the resolution of their legal problems.

We hope you acknowledge public service as the real essence of your new professionalism, and that you recognize an obligation to assist those without power or privilege in our community – and I mean, by a healthy commitment to pro bono work.

You join a large competitive profession. You should therefore regard your present qualification, important though it is, as but the gateway to an avenue of lifelong professional development. I am confident those of you who do not enter the practising profession will nevertheless always benefit from the intellectual rigour and moral acuity which lie at the foundation of your new qualification.

Your professional development will be facilitated through collegial interaction. The more senior members of the profession are generous with their time for novice practitioners, and the professional associations are anxious to assist you.

You are now officers of the Supreme Court, in one sense a rather quaint description, but a description which highlights the primacy of your duty ethically owed to the court, a duty which predominates over even the duty to the client.

In wishing you well, we acknowledge the important role your parents, families and friends will have played in assisting you to this point. We welcome all of your supporters to the Banco Court this morning, and express thanks for their indirect contribution to the development of the legal system in this State.

And we wish you all well, ladies and gentlemen, as you move forward from this point.

Finally, we commend and thank the Registrar and her officers for ensuring logistically that today's sittings have proceeded in a streamlined way.

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