



Admissions Ceremony

27 April 2010, 10:15am

1st ceremony

Chief Justice's observations

In welcoming you to the legal profession, ladies and gentlemen, we congratulate you on your substantial achievement, while adding an expression of thanks to those who will have helped you along the way, your families and friends.

What distinguishes a profession from equally respectable callings is that a professional person is committed to serving the public. What distinguishes the legal profession from other professions is that a lawyer owes his or her professional legitimacy to the courts of law.

We hope those axioms will guide your practise of your profession. Recognizing a fundamental obligation to serve the public should shield you from the unduly materialistic approach for which some practitioners are sometimes criticized. Recognizing your curial lineage, as officers of the court, will remind you of the primacy of impeccable ethics.

From the point of view of the courts, the operation of the legal profession is of critical concern. The courts depend on an efficient, ethical profession in which disputants and potential disputants have confidence; along with those who rely on expert assistance in non-contentious matters. But there is a supervening characteristic which is pivotal, and that is the independence of the profession.

Independence is important for public trust in the profession. It is also critical to perceptions of the judiciary which is drawn from the profession. Just as there can be no compromising the independence of the judiciary, there can be no compromising the independence of the source from which it is drawn.

Your devotion to those qualities – public service, efficiency, ethical commitment and independence, will ensure that by serving your clients well, you also play your part in assuring the stipulation upon which our civil society depends, and that is, maintenance of the rule of law.

We wish you well as you undertake these substantial responsibilities.

Admissions Ceremony

27 April 2010, 11am

2nd ceremony

Chief Justice's observations

We congratulate you, ladies and gentlemen, on your admission to the legal profession. As “officers of the court”, you assume substantial public responsibilities. In particular, you now become part of the mechanism which ensures maintenance of the rule of law, essential for the continuing stability of our civil society.

As practitioners, you will enjoy a close association with the courts, which necessarily place substantial reliance on your efficiency and ethical commitment, and your independence. So will the clients who invoke your expert assistance in non-contentious matters.

A material manifestation of the grandeur of our joint mission, the delivery of justice according to law, is emerging at the northern end of George Street, with the growth of the new \$600 million metropolitan Supreme and District Courthouse, a spectacular project which is itself a fitting acknowledgement of the high significance of that joint mission.

In wishing you well, as you enter the legal profession, we add thanks to your families and friends, who will have assisted you to this milestone, and we welcome them to the Banco Court this morning.