

## TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

MAGISTRATES COURT

JUDGE B BUTLER, Chief Magistrate  
HENNESSY, Magistrate

IN THE MATTER OF A WELCOME IN HONOUR OF MAGISTRATE C PRESS

ROCKHAMPTON

..DATE 20/05/2010

**WARNING:** The publication of information or details likely to lead to the identification of persons in some proceedings is a criminal offence. This is so particularly in relation to the identification of children who are involved in criminal proceedings or proceedings for their protection under the *Child Protection Act 1999*, and complainants in criminal sexual offences, but is not limited to those categories. You may wish to seek legal advice before giving others access to the details of any person named in these proceedings.

THE CHIEF MAGISTRATE: Well, this morning, I have the great  
pleasure, here in the company of my colleague, Magistrate  
Hennessy, to welcome Magistrate Press to the Magistrates Court  
Bench at Rockhampton.

In welcoming all present, I acknowledge, with pleasure, the  
presence of the honourable Justice McMeekin, his Honour Judge  
Britton, Acting Magistrate Bradshaw, Mr Jim Sondergeld, the  
district manager of the Department of Justice and  
Attorney-General, Ms Leanne Munson, the acting Principal  
Registrar, members of the legal profession and government  
departments supporting the Court.

I would, in particular, like to welcome the relatives and  
friends of Magistrate Press. I make special mention of  
Magistrate Press' wife, Sheree Press, his children, Erin and  
Courtney, and his parents, Doug and Thea Press. You can all  
be rightly proud on this occasion.

This Court had a close and valued relationship with the  
indigenous community, whose elders participate in the Murri  
Court here in Rockhampton. It is therefore fitting that I  
pause to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land where  
this courthouse stands.

In welcoming Magistrate Press, I do so on behalf of my fellow  
Magistrates, as well as Magistrate Hennessy, also these who,  
today, cannot be with us.

I recently had the great pleasure to welcome his Honour to the Court in a ceremony in Brisbane, in the presence of the Attorney-General, the President of the Bar Association and the President of the Law Society, who each spoke to congratulate his Honour. Today is an opportunity for the Rockhampton legal profession to also welcome him.

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Magistrate Press comes to the Court with a great length of experience as a lawyer, having commenced as a solicitor in Rockhampton in 1985, and after success in that arm of the profession, moving to practice as a barrister. He's practiced as a barrister in Rockhampton over the past 10 years, with a brief interlude as a solicitor.

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His Honour has broad experience across a number of legal areas, but brings to the Court particular expertise in the civil law. With the prospect of increased civil jurisdiction for the Magistrates Court, his Honour's civil experience will be of great value to the Court.

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With the appointment of Magistrate Press, I am very pleased to observe that all Magistrate's positions in Central Queensland have now been filled. I know the announcement that Magistrate Press was the Rockhampton appointee was warmly welcomed by the Magistrates of Central Queensland, and his Honour has already taken his place as a valuable member of this busy Court.

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There can be no doubt that this appointment continues the high quality of recent appointments to the Magistrates Court Bench.

I wish his Honour well in this new phase of his legal career.

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The Honourable The Attorney-General, Cameron Dick MP, could not be here today, but on his behalf, I convey his congratulations to Magistrate Press on the occasion of this welcoming ceremony.

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Mr Lo Monaco, on behalf of the Bar Association?

MR LO MONACO: Yes, thank you, your Honour. May it please the Court, Magistrate Hennessy, Acting Magistrate Bradshaw, I've been waiting to say this for some time, Magistrate Press, Mr Justice McMeekin and Judge Britton.

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Well, I am, of course, honoured and proud to be speaking on behalf of the Central Queensland Bar at this welcome ceremony for our newly appointed Magistrate. I also note and acknowledge the presence of Magistrate Press' family, his wife, Sheree, daughters, Erin and Courtney, who have travelled, I understand, from Blackwater and Emerald to be here. Your son, Jared, apparently, has work commitments, and is here in spirit only.

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I also note that your parents, Douglas and Thea Press, are present, and it must be a very proud moment for all of you to share with us in welcoming Cameron to the Magistracy.

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I think I speak, actually, on behalf of all regional legal practitioners when I say that it's always pleasing to see a

regional appointment made from one of our own number. In  
Cameron, we certainly have this.

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For those that don't know, Cameron was born and raised in  
Rockhampton. He completed his education at the North  
Rockhampton State High School. His dad, for many years, was  
the manager of the Rockhampton Airport.

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On leaving school, Magistrate Press commenced articles of  
clerkship with a long-established solicitors' office and law  
firm in Rockhampton, and I speak of Connolly, Schirmer and  
Batts. I have noticed that Alan Batts is present today.

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He successfully completed his studies, and was admitted to  
partnership with that firm in 1985. He remained there until  
1999, when he was called to the Bar.

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Cameron joined the chambers then known as Trustee Chambers,  
where he practiced as a barrister, and I think my memory  
serves me correct that when he first commenced practice there,  
he would've been sharing chambers with his Honour Justice  
McMeekin and, perhaps, his Honour Judge Britton. If I'm  
wrong, I stand corrected.

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As a result of fairly sudden and unforeseen circumstances,  
Trustee Chambers and Jardine Chambers combined to set up  
chambers from the old Supreme Court building next door, and  
that only happened as recently as January this year.

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We'd barely settled in when Cameron walked into my chambers late one afternoon and informed me that my rent was about to increase, as his appointment to this Bench had just been announced sometime that afternoon.

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He's already sorely missed, not just because our rental premiums have increased, but his former administrative assistant, Collette, was overheard commenting this way just the other day. She needed some nail banged into the wall, and apparently, she said, "I'm going to miss Cameron. He was always the man about chambers, able to do these little tasks." Just as I was hearing this comment passed onto me, Graeme Crow and Tony Arnold walked past, and I was able to understand her sentiments when she said that.

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In practice as both a solicitor and barrister, Cameron has a very broad range of experience and legal knowledge. During his years at the Bar, we all know that he concentrated more in the civil and commercial litigation and law, but it's experience which I'm sure will be put to good use on this Bench, as it readies itself for another increase in jurisdiction.

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He brings with him to the Bench a dedicated and honest approach to life and work. His is a hard worker, and if I might, I sound a warning to young, eager, wannabe courtroom lawyers: Cameron doesn't tolerate fools. It would be wise to stick to the point, and present sound, reasoned argument. Our new Magistrate comes from an era where we were taught to

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respect the law, the Courts and its processes.

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Cameron, in conclusion, on behalf of the Central Queensland Bar, I extend our congratulations to you on your recent appointment, and on your swearing in, which occurred, as I understand it, on the 29th of April this year. Many of us wished to be present to attend that swearing in, but we were unable to do so due to the distance involved and work commitments at the time, but we were thinking of you on that day.

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We know your appointment is a worthy one. May you enjoy your years serving the law in the community as a Magistrate. May your decisions and judgments be short and sound, and may you always remember that whenever Senior Counsel graces you with his or her presence in this Court, his or her argument is usually correct, and to be accepted.

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Finally, our sincere congratulations. Well done on your appointment. It's truly deserved, and as his Honour has just stated, you do bring a lot of knowledge, particularly in the civil area, to this Bench, which hopefully will be well-used by practitioners as time goes on.

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We all look forward to appearing before you, and hopefully, after your two year stint in Emerald, we'll be able to welcome you back to Rockhampton. Thank you.

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THE CHIEF MAGISTRATE: Thank you, Mr Lo Monaco. Mr Siganto,

the president of the Central Queensland Law Association?

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MR SIGANTO: Thank you, your Honour. May it please the Court, your Honour, Judge Butler, Magistrate Hennessy, Acting Magistrate Bradshaw, Magistrate Press, distinguished guests, including our Justice McMeekin and Judge Britton, ladies and gentlemen.

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On behalf of the Central Queensland Law Association, I'd like to congratulate Magistrate Press on his appointment to the Magistrates Court of Queensland. As has been mentioned by Mr Lo Monaco, your Honour is a long-standing member of the Rockhampton legal community, first as an article clerk and solicitor, and more lately, as a barrister. There was, of course, a brief moment of madness when your Honour left the law in Mackay, but we won't talk about that any further.

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It's pleasing to see that another past member of our association has been appointed as a Magistrate, and it shows the scope of candidates available from a regional area such as Central Queensland, available for appointment to the Court.

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Legal practitioners in Rockhampton know each other well, and they know your Honour well. In Rockhampton, members of the legal profession have regular contact, and as a result, local lawyers need to be people of integrity, otherwise, their colleagues will find them out.

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Your Honour not only has the requisite legal skill, as was



mentioned by Mr Lo Monaco, but also, the integrity required to  
fulfil the role of a Magistrate. These attributes of legal  
skill and integrity are important not only to us, our  
association and other legal practitioners, but also to the  
members of the community in Rockhampton, who your Honour will  
serve.

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The changes to the jurisdiction of the Magistrates Court which  
have been mentioned mean that the volume and complexity of  
legal work being undertaken by the Court will grow.  
Therefore, your Honour is a most appropriate and worthy  
appointment to meet these challenges which will face the Court  
in coming years.

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Finally, there is no doubt that the support of your Honour's  
family, particularly Sheree and your parents and children, has  
been instrumental in your appointment. The appointment of  
your Honour is the culmination of years of hard work for you,  
Sheree and your family, and on behalf of the Central  
Queensland Law Association, we would like to wish you all the  
best. Thank you, your Honour.

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THE CHIEF MAGISTRATE: Thank you, Mr Siganto. Magistrate  
Hennessy?

MAGISTRATE HENNESSY: Thank you, Judge. I just wanted to say  
a couple of brief words in relation to the appointment of  
Magistrate Press, to say how thrilled I am that he has been  
appointed to the Bench.

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As those of you that know him well know, he has many personal attributes which make him a perfect candidate for a judicial officer, and I'm sure that he'll fulfil that role with great aplomb.

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On a personal note, it's been very rewarding for me, virtually all of the 11 years that I've been in Rockhampton, to be friends with Cameron and Sheree, and I'm really pleased to be able to be working with Cameron in a much closer capacity now.

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Those of you that think he might be inclined towards the civil, we've made sure that he's already had a curly criminal matter in his early days, just to get straight into it, and he handled that very well, I'm sure.

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So congratulations on behalf of the local Magistrates and Acting Magistrates, and there are a few of us from time to time, but you're certainly very welcome to the Rockhampton Bench.

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THE CHIEF MAGISTRATE: Magistrate Press?

MAGISTRATE PRESS: Chief Magistrate Judge Butler, Magistrate Hennessy, Acting Magistrate Bradshaw, Justice McMeekin, Judge Britton, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

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On the occasion of my swearing in on 29th of April, I remarked that proper administration of justice is a cornerstone of our

democratic society. History does demonstrate that democracies have weakened or even collapsed should the structural integrity of the cornerstone be compromised.

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I therefore approach this role with an attitude of profound responsibility and duty. I am deeply honoured and humbled to be commencing my role as a Magistrate in the city in which I was born, raised, educated, married and raised my children, and practiced as a solicitor and barrister.

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Accordingly, there are a number of people here today I wish to take this opportunity to thank. My parents, Doug and Thea Press, who have loved, supported and encouraged me throughout life, my children, Erin, Courtney and Jared, who continued to provide love and encouragement, and who will, in the future, care for and nurse me in my geriatric days, and of course, my wife, Sheree, whose love and support is just constant and enduring.

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At the swearing in ceremony, I paid particular tribute to my former business partners of the 1980s and 1990s, Alan Batts and the late Al Schirmer. That was because both Alan and Al, in their legal careers, demonstrated two outstanding qualities, their high level of competency and their commitment to always act in the best interests of their clients.

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Throughout my legal career, which began in 1979 as an article clerk, I have endeavoured to emulate their fine example, and I am very pleased to see Alan and Maureen here today.

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I want to particularly thank my colleagues and staff here at the Court. Everyone has been most welcoming and helpful. Thank you.

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Although I have only been sitting for just over three weeks, I am most impressed at the level of competency and dedication of the Court staff. We sometimes forget the integral role that these officers play in the administration of justice. It must be frustrating, though, for them at times when there is a new kid on the block.

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I do apologise for precipitating a security alert last week, when I accidentally pressed a red button. My parents might testify, however, that I have a penchant for pressing red emergency buttons. It all started in a Brisbane department store when I was eight years of age.

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Finally, I want to thank the legal community of Rockhampton for welcoming me to this role with respect and enthusiasm, and I look forward to working with you all in the future. Thank you.

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THE CHIEF MAGISTRATE: Thank you all for your presence here today. You're very welcome to join Magistrate Press for morning tea in the foyer at courtroom number 5. Let the proceedings be recorded. Please adjourn the Court.

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