



Dinner to mark the sesquicentenary of the  
Supreme Court of Queensland  
Queensland Art Gallery, Watermall  
Saturday 6 August 2011

---

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

**Welcoming remarks**

Your Excellency and Mr McCosker, Premier and Mr Withers, Deputy Premier and Attorney-General and Ms Smith, Chief Justice and Mrs French, Chief Justices, Lord Mayor and Mrs Quirk, Your Honours including the Chief Judge and Chief Magistrate, retired Judges and retired Master Weld, Deans, Far Northern Judge Designate, Presidents of the Bar Association of Queensland, the Queensland Law Society and the Australian Bar Association, our esteemed colleagues from the bar and the solicitors' branch of the profession, ladies and gentlemen,

I welcome all present this evening, on this historically significant occasion in the life of the Supreme Court and the State.

I now particularly thank Her Excellency the Governor for enhancing the lustre of this occasion by her most distinguished presence. Likewise, the presence of the Honourable the Premier and the Honourable the Deputy Premier and Attorney-General, and the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, serves to underline the high significance of the occasion, anticipating as it does tomorrow's anniversary.

So does the attendance of so many of my valued colleagues from the Council of Chief Justices of Australia and New Zealand: the Chief Justice of Australia, and the Chief Justices of South Australia, the Australian Capital Territory, Victoria, the Family Court of Australia, the Federal Court of Australia; and Justice Kiefel of the High Court of Australia. I thank them all for the honour they do the court.



Dinner to mark the sesquicentenary of the  
Supreme Court of Queensland  
Queensland Art Gallery, Watermall  
Saturday 6 August 2011

---

I have received a number of apologies, including from Justice Hayne of the High Court of Australia, from the Chief Justices of Western Australia, Tasmania, the Northern Territory and New South Wales, from the Chief Justice of New Zealand and from Sir Gerard Brennan former Chief Justice of Australia, who for various reasons cannot be present this evening.

Against his wishes and I crave pardon, but I must acknowledge that we are this evening the grateful beneficiaries of the creative and meticulous organizational talents of Justice Glenn Martin, with the redoubtable administrative support of my Personal Assistant Mrs Marie Bergwever, to both of whom I express gratitude.

And now, I wish you all a most pleasant and memorable occasion.

**Response to toast**

I sincerely thank Chief Justice French for his most gracious words, and I thank you ladies and gentlemen for acknowledging the court as you have, both by your presence and by your response to the toast.

I asserted in the Banco Court yesterday that each of the 110 judges appointed to the Supreme Court over its century and a half history will have regarded it as an immense privilege, and corresponding responsibility, to discharge the duties of this high office, and in constituting the Supreme Court, to become part of the fabric of a significant body politic.

Notwithstanding justice has been administered in this land for thousands of years, and you face this evening a gallery of important indigenous art, a century and a half of stable judicial government certainly warrants lively acknowledgement.



Dinner to mark the sesquicentenary of the  
Supreme Court of Queensland  
Queensland Art Gallery, Watermall  
Saturday 6 August 2011

---

It is appropriate that I express gratitude to the other branches of government represented this evening, for their respect for the judicial branch of government epitomised in our Supreme Court, for their respect for the separation of powers and the independence of the judiciary, and for providing adequate resources to ensure the efficient operation of the court. Thanks must also go to the profession for its sure and constant support of the court.

This is a momentous year for the court, as will be the year 2012, with the move alongside the District Court into the new courthouse which will provide such a graphic reminder to all our citizens of the high significance of both courts' public mission.

In celebrating the Supreme Court's contribution, over the last 150 years, to the good government of the people of Queensland, I speak for all Judges in acknowledging an unswerving commitment to the continuing discharge of that mission, a commitment which I am confident will always characterize the operation of this truly fine institution.