



Opening of new office of the Bar Association of Queensland  
Inns of Court  
Friday 7 October 2011  
5:30 pm

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

Mr President, Your Honours, ladies and gentlemen

I am greatly honoured to have been given this most pleasant task this evening.

Dan O'Connor kindly gave me an introductory tour last week. I was most impressed, and I am confident you will have been as well.

The elegant functionality of the space is what one would expect for a Bar of the significance of ours. We have ventured very substantially beyond the expectations of an era of which Glenn Martin recently reminded me, when the sole Bar Administrator, Mrs King sat at her desk in what was little more than an alcove. The association of an 1,100 strong Bar should be housed in premises of this quality, a quality which will inspire professional pride in its membership. May I mention these particular features?

First, the teaching room. Its technology will be the envy of the universities. The sound experts, I am told, are those retained also for the new metropolitan courthouse project.

The former common room was never especially efficient for teaching purposes. This room will certainly overcome that deficiency. Importantly, the new facility will streamline transmission to the regions.



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Another new feature is the elegant, purpose-built council room, with its superb table of Queensland timbers by local craftsman, Stuart Bywater.

The important heritage collection – lectern, furnishings, portraits and sculptures – has been refurbished and redisplayed with great effectiveness.

And then there is the overarching feature of the exposure of those within to the entry of natural light from without: while not diminishing the quiet serenity of the space.

The Council and Barristers Services have ensured a very good return for the outlay of which the President spoke at the Bar dinner a fortnight ago.

I congratulate the President Richard Douglas and the Chairman of Barristers Services Jim Murdoch on having brought the initiative to its completion, and commendation is also due of course, as ever, to Dan O'Connor.

Mr President, as your leadership of the Association draws to an end, you will rightly regard this project as one of the highlights of a most successful and effective presidency.

I understand that the Australian Bar Council met here recently. While of course we would eschew any competition in relation to accommodation, it is nevertheless reassuring that the members of that Council were apparently very impressed with what they saw, and I was pleased to receive Dan's assurance that the Association now enjoys the most elegant and streamlined Bar offices anywhere in the nation.

These Inns of Court approach the silver anniversary of their opening, and the contribution of Barristers Chambers to this project was no doubt greatly appreciated. The establishment of this space for the Association denotes a considerable enhancement in what has always nevertheless presented as an appropriately fine



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home for a large proportion of the Queensland Bar. That the Association is at last appropriately housed also reflects the significant role it discharges, in administering the Bar and ensuring the continuing professional development of its members.

It is with great pleasure, therefore, that I now declare open this fine new office of the Bar Association of Queensland, with warm congratulations to all who have contributed to the production of such an excellent result.