



# Admission Ceremonies

## 24 October 2011

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

We congratulate you, ladies and gentlemen, on your admission to the legal profession. You have achieved highly, and no doubt you will have appreciated the substantial contribution to that achievement by family members and friends, so many of whom we welcome to the Banco Court this morning.

You join the profession on a symbolically significant day: Her Majesty the Queen's presence in our State highlights the stable roots of our democracy, in all its branches of government.

So does your admission in this the 150<sup>th</sup> year of the establishment of the Supreme Court – the court to which you now owe your professional lineage.

We hope these circumstances remind you of the richness of the tradition which informs our vibrant democracy.

You all now become part of the mechanism which ensures the linchpin of civil society, the rule of law, and therein rests both your privilege, and your responsibility.

Our other messages to you on this occasion, while important, may be captured briefly: professional standards are very high in this State – natural inclinations assure that, but so do competitive forces, and they are strong; courts receive, and expect ethical standards within the profession at the highest level; and true professionalism carries with it a real, not merely token, commitment to pro bono work of not insubstantial proportion. Please acknowledge those truths, and do your utmost to ensure they are reflected in the way you practise your profession.

Some of you may not enter into legal practice as such. We are sure you will in that event nevertheless continue to appreciate the mental acuity and moral commitment which underpin your new qualifications.

We warmly wish you well as you progress through your professional lives.