



# **Admissions Ceremony**

## **15 December 2011, 9:15am**

### **1<sup>st</sup> ceremony**

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

On behalf of all the Judges of the Supreme Court, I congratulate you, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome you to the ranks of the legal profession.

Your personal achievement is substantial. Justice Fraser, Justice Chesterman and I were admitted as barristers many years ago, but the demanding course of meticulous study prerequisite to admission as a legal practitioner never departs one's recollection; and in addition, you have completed the required practical training, which we hope you found both interesting and helpful. Your present achievement is however but the herald for a lifetime of professional development. The most effective lawyers – those who best serve their clients - are those who continue, throughout their professional lives, to broaden their professional knowledge. They are also persons who maintain a broad involvement in life, rather than a narrow absorption with the law.

Today you join a noble profession with a substantial commitment to public service including, with increasing reach, the provision of services pro bono to those of limited financial means.

The ethical standards which characterize the profession in Queensland are high, and the court is vigilant to ensure the profession continues to acknowledge and fulfil its high ethical obligation, and the discharge of its duty to clients with competence and expertise.

We hope, ladies and gentlemen, that you rise to these substantial challenges. Your prospects will be enhanced if you continue to draw support from those who have, more than likely, assisted you greatly to this present pinnacle: your families and friends, so many of whom we welcome here this morning to share your sense of fulfilment.

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

We again wish you well in your careers, and the compliments of the festive season.

Before I conclude these remarks, it is important that I acknowledge the voluntary contribution made by the members of the Legal Practitioners Admissions Board. The members of the Board give substantially of their time in examining applications for admission, and their work – very much in the public interest – is of great assistance to the court.

The members of the Board, chaired by Mr Greg Moroney, are Mr James Bell QC (Deputy Chairperson), Ms Jennifer Rosengren, Mr Noel Jensen, Mr Liam Kelly SC, Ms Joan Bennett, Ms Imelda Bradley and Ms Julie Steel, Executive Director, Supreme, District and Land Courts Service.

This year, meeting on 8 separate occasions, the Board has considered as many as 837 applications in Brisbane alone, and transmitted its recommendations to the Court. Not only does the Board meet, but its members must spend hours in pre-meeting preparation. The members are not paid for their work.

I again thank the Board for the responsible and willing discharge of this important regulatory role.

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## **Admissions Ceremony 15 December 2011, 10am 2<sup>nd</sup> ceremony**

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

The admission of legal practitioners at the beginning and end of the calendar year is an encouraging signal of the continuity of the legal profession which serves the people of Queensland so well. We welcome you to the ranks of that profession, and wish you well as you exercise new privileges and embrace new responsibilities.

You will be challenged to develop and demonstrate considerable talent as you enter what is a substantial and competitive profession.

Today is not the occasion for a lecture on professional ethics, but we hope you will always recognize that you owe your professional legitimacy to the court, and your overriding duty borne to the court notwithstanding the interests of the client. We hope that you will also acknowledge the goal of public service which underpins your new professionalism, and be astute to the plight of the under privileged within our community: the professional associations, and many of the firms, run active and well-developed pro bono schemes which should be of interest to you.

If you choose not to pursue a practising career, you will nevertheless we are confident always value your qualification: it signifies substantial personal achievement, and bespeaks mental acuity and ethical commitment.

We know you would wish us to acknowledge the contribution made to your present achievement by your families and friends. We welcome them to the Banco Court today. They must remain sources of encouragement, inspiration and wise advice as you move forward.

On behalf of all of the Judges, we again congratulate you and wish you well as you exercise these qualifications, and extend the compliments of the festive season.

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## **Admissions Ceremony** **15 December 2011, 10.45am** **3<sup>rd</sup> ceremony**

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

On behalf of the Judges, we welcome you, ladies and gentlemen, to the legal profession. The warm glow of your festive season will be enhanced.

You are to be commended for your successful completion of a demanding academic course and substantial practical training requirements. Now you face the challenge of deploying your professional talents to assist those who need expert help in the resolution of their legal problems.

We hope you acknowledge public service as the real essence of your new professionalism, and that you recognize an obligation to assist those without power or privilege in our community – and I mean, by a healthy commitment to pro bono work.

You join a large competitive profession. You should therefore regard your present qualification, important though it is, as but the gateway to an avenue of lifelong professional development. We are confident those of you who do not enter the practising profession will nevertheless always benefit from the intellectual rigour and moral acuity which lie at the foundation of your new qualification.

Your professional development will be facilitated through collegial interaction. The more senior members of the profession are generous with their time for novice practitioners, and the professional associations are anxious to assist you.

You are now officers of the Supreme Court, in one sense a rather quaint description, but a description which highlights the primacy of your duty ethically owed to the court, a duty which predominates over even the duty to the client.

In wishing you well, we acknowledge the important role your parents, families and friends will have played in assisting you to this point. We welcome all of your supporters to the Banco Court this morning, and express thanks for their indirect contribution to the development of the legal system in this State.

And we wish you all well, ladies and gentlemen, as you move forward from this point.

Finally, we commend and thank the Registrar and her officers for ensuring logistically that today's sittings have proceeded in a streamlined way.

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**Admissions Ceremony**  
**15 December 2011, 11.30am**  
**4<sup>th</sup> ceremony**

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On behalf of the Judges of the Supreme Court, we congratulate you on your admission to the legal profession. You join an honourable profession which discharges a publicly significant role. We trust you always recognize that public orientation, and that you are not unduly distracted by the competitive and material pressures which characterize contemporary practice.

The most commendable lawyer is driven to assist his or her fellow citizens, and that extends, with indigent clients, to working for nothing to advance a meritorious cause. We hope you maintain a real concern for those without privilege in our community, and assist not only through the direct provision of legal services, but also by involvement in community affairs and measured consideration of social concerns.

In your work, whether in court or in the solicitor's office, we expect high standards of attention to legal competence and ethical obligation.

There is some cause for concern that young practitioners may quickly these days tend to forget that it is the relationship with the court which gives them that legitimacy, and which distinguishes the legal practitioner from members of other professions. The busy-ness of modern practice, an unfortunate preoccupation with so-called "billable hours", and the intensely competitive nature of the contemporary profession, can shift the focus from measured professionalism to out and out commercialism. We hope you are able to keep your professional balance, and also a balanced lifestyle, for your work-time occupation, although important, is ultimately but one of a raft of important aspects of living.

You rightly bask today in the lustre of these new qualifications, a glow which you share with your parents and friends who will have assisted you to this point of great achievement. We sincerely hope you continue to draw on their well of wisdom and encouragement.

Congratulations and best wishes to you all.

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**Admissions Ceremony**  
**15 December 2011, 12.15pm**  
**5<sup>th</sup> ceremony**

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Congratulations, ladies and gentlemen, on your accession to the legal profession. You will, perfectly reasonably, be basking in the lustre of this considerable achievement, the culmination of years of disciplined study and demanding practical legal training. Congratulations to you, and also to your families and friends – your supporters – many of whom we welcome to the Banco Court today.

Our 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.

We wish you well as you move forward in your professional lives, and repeat our sincere congratulations to you, and your supporters, upon your attaining this very significant qualification.

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## **Admissions Ceremony 15 December 2011, 1pm 6<sup>h</sup> ceremony**

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We endeavour by the ceremonial aspects of today's sitting, ceremony substantially rooted in the tradition of centuries, to emphasize the immutability of our joint mission – the delivery of justice according to law, and the stability of the mechanisms we employ. We also trust those ceremonial aspects render your experience the more memorable, both for you and the many members of your families and circles of friends who join you today to celebrate your substantial personal achievement. We hope your families and friends remain sources of wise guidance and inspiration throughout your professional lives.

The personal achievement we acknowledge today will equip you well for successful practice of the law, or work outside the profession – in companies, for example, or within a law school. The ethical commitment which underpins your professionalism will, we trust, always predominate, as should the public orientation of your new role: work willingly for those who lack the means to meet your ordinary fees; contribute your special talents to community organizations; interact collegially within the profession.

You join a profession of substantial proportions. It is a competitive profession, and the most effective lawyer will assume a commitment to professional development throughout his or her career.

It is also a progressive profession, which conscientiously and effectively complements the work of the courts of law.

We again congratulate you on your personal achievement, and wish you well as your careers progress.