



**Valedictory Ceremony for the  
Hon Justice R N Chesterman AO, RFD  
Friday 20 April 2012, 9:15am  
Banco Court**

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

We join to farewell from our immediate midst the Honourable Justice Chesterman at the conclusion of his most distinguished 14 year judicial career.

I welcome the Honourable the Attorney-General at this his first ceremony in that capacity in the Banco Court. The Attorney is however no stranger to this courtroom, where he was admitted in the year 2008, and which he attended on a number of occasions in his then capacity as Shadow Attorney-General.

I also welcome the Chief Judge and the Chief Magistrate, the Chief Justice of the Federal Court, Judges of the District and Federal and Family Courts, magistrates, tribunal members and retired Judges.

Justice Holmes, Justice Alan Wilson and Justice North of this Court asked me to express their regret that they cannot be present this morning. All Judges of the Supreme Court would wish to be associated with my following remarks.

Justice Chesterman joined the Court in 1998 following a highly successful 30 year career at the Bar, 15 of those years as Queen's Counsel. While on the Court, he constituted the Mental Health Court for four years, was a most respected Commercial List judge for seven years, and has served as a Judge of Appeal since the year 2008. His Honour's talents were nevertheless not entirely lost to the Trial Division, where notably he continued to sit from time to time – very much in the interest of both Divisions of the Court.

The Court and the public are the grateful beneficiaries of his Honour's formidable legal intellect and vast judicial experience, informed by keen involvement in community affairs, especially his Honour's chairing for a decade the Queensland Cancer Council, the State's premier anti-cancer charity. For that and his judicial contribution he was deservedly honoured last year by admission to the Order of Australia.

Throughout his distinguished judicial career, Justice Chesterman has been unstintingly supported by Mrs Robin Chesterman, who rightly and fully shares in the Judge's outstanding judicial legacy which we celebrate today.

They leave the Court with our profound gratitude for a signal contribution.