



Supreme Court of Queensland Seminar
Banco Court
Saturday 4 August 2012, 9:15am

The Hon Paul de Jersey AC
Chief Justice

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

I welcome you all to the courts' opening seminar.

It is fitting that the seminar be held in this remarkable courtroom.

I particularly welcome our most distinguished guest speakers, the Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia, the Honourable Robert French; the Right Honourable the Lord Neuberger, Master of the Rolls and President Designate of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom; the Chief Justice of New Zealand, the Right Honourable Dame Sian Elias; the Chief Justice of Hong Kong, the Honourable Mr Justice Geoffrey Ma; and the Right Honourable Lady Justice Hallett of the Court of Appeal of England and Wales.

They will be joined by a distinguished array of commentators: Professor Carney, Dean of Law at the University of Queensland, the Honourable Justice Kiefel of the High Court of Australia, the Honourable Patrick Keane, Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Australia, the Chief Justice of Victoria the Honourable Marilyn Warren, and the Chief Justice of Western Australia the Honourable Wayne Martin.

May I also take this opportunity to record my personal gratitude, and that of the courts, to Justice Glenn Martin who has been instrumental in organizing the splendid building opening ceremony which occurred yesterday, this

Supreme Court of Queensland Seminar
Banco Court
Saturday 4 August 2012, 9:15am

important seminar, and the closing dinner at Old Government House which we are to enjoy this evening.

It is interesting that we will have accomplished so much in two days, whereas the nations of the world are taking two weeks: I suspect our guests from London may be slightly relieved to be absent from even that wonderful city at this particular time.

I should also mention that a little later in the year the Supreme Court Library will publish Mr John McKenna's History of the Supreme Court. You may be interested to look through the random selection of pages from the publication available at the registration desk: they give some idea of the flavour of what I consider to be a truly excellent production. As part of that history, Justice White reminded me yesterday that Sir Samuel Griffith, our legendary Queensland jurist, was appointed Attorney-General on 3 August 1874. I venture he would have been immensely proud of the achievement we celebrated on his anniversary yesterday.

We have included biographies in the seminar programme booklet so that they need not be rehearsed.

I should also acknowledge and thank our generous sponsors: Lexis Nexis, Thomson Reuters, the Bar Association of Queensland and the Queensland Law Society. They have become part of an important event in Queensland's legal history.

Needless to say we are honoured that the Chief Justice of Australia graces this occasion, as he did the sesquicentenary celebration of the Supreme Court last year. The genesis of the Chief Justice's paper rests in an interesting paper he prepared last year to generate discussion at a meeting of the Council of Chief Justices of Australia and New Zealand.

Supreme Court of Queensland Seminar
Banco Court
Saturday 4 August 2012, 9:15am

In inviting Chief Justice French to deliver his paper this morning, I mention that he has generously agreed to receive questions and comments following his presentation.

Chief Justice French...