



Admissions Ceremonies

3 September 2012

Banco Court

Chief Justice's observations

We congratulate you, ladies and gentlemen, upon your admission to the legal profession. We wish you well as you embark upon new chapters in your lives.

Welcoming your families and friends this morning, we also thank them for supporting you, and for their own consequent contribution to the delivery of legal services in this State.

Whether you join the practising profession, or deploy your qualification into other areas, corporate law or academia for example, you will always, we hope, value the intellectual discipline and moral commitment which underpin this new qualification. We also hope that whatever your destination, you will recognize and promote the ideal of public service which characterizes your newly-acquired professionalism. A good illustration of that feature would be your preparedness to extend your legal capacities to assist those in our community without privilege or financial means.

We have generally used the ceremonial courtroom as the venue for admission ceremonies. The former courthouse, which operated for 31 years, witnessed almost 300 such ceremonies in its Banco Court, with the admission of almost 18,000 practitioners. Today's ceremonies are the first in the life of this imposing courtroom, the centrepiece of the Queen Elizabeth II Courts of Law.

Now I know that many newly-admitted lawyers have over the years enjoyed being photographed in the company of "Themis". Yes, she is here, now resident in refurbished condition on the George Street frontage at the western end of the building. It is but a short walk!

We warmly wish you well as you now set about exercising this important new qualification.