



SUPREME COURT
OF QUEENSLAND

Queensland Law Society Christmas breakfast

Sofitel Hotel

Thursday 6 December 2012

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

“Congratulations: felicitations”

We join this morning primarily, in accordance with the tradition now of many years, to acknowledge, indeed honour, those of our colleagues who have, following rigorous examination, proved that they are true specialists.

While the analogy is not perfect, there is some room for comparison with the position of general practitioners and medical specialists. Even less perfect, perhaps, is comparison with the translation from junior counsel to senior counsel, where the elevation is not dependent on success in competitive examination, but the success of one's practice and the imprimatur of the Chief Justice. But while those analogies are not perfect, the comparisons are reasonable, and they tend to illustrate the substantial achievement which this accreditation involves.

QLS Specialist Accreditation depends upon success in demanding examination undertaken after some years in practice, and the standards are high. What should be appreciated, also, is that the practitioner has been acknowledged by the Society as an expert in an entire field of law, not just a limited compartment.

It is reassuring to see solicitors determined to refine their professional footprints, an increasingly challenging endeavour with the expanding complexity of the law. I warmly congratulate you all.

Queensland Law Society Christmas breakfast
Sofitel Hotel
Thursday 6 December 2012

At this event last year, I spoke of the Supreme Court's sesquicentenary celebrations which had occurred in August, and we looked forward to the events surrounding the opening of the new metropolitan courthouse this year. The Queen Elizabeth II Courts of Law have been in operation now for more than three months. The establishment of the courthouse was obviously the most momentous event in the legal history of the State in recent years, and Queenslanders now boast the best State court facilities in the nation.

It has been especially pleasant to join the District Court in the new building, and that the Supreme and District Courts are now so close geographically to the Magistrates Court, and indeed the Federal Court. The buildings, together with the professional offices nearby, establish a true legal precinct. If you have not visited the new courthouse, I urge you to do so: you will be amazed.

Thus far, we have survived a momentous grand opening of State, national, indeed international dimension; an unintended attack by flying objects from a neighbour during the storm in late November; and an unwelcome evacuation.

Meanwhile, all court users have appreciated the grand public spaces, the light-filled courtrooms, the beauty of a wondrous new public building of inspirational proportion – and we welcome all who bask on our lawned plaza during the day: I hope they are protected with 30+ - we don't encourage claims.

It has been a good year for the profession, generally speaking, and I hope the "lift" of the new courthouse has been an expression of that.

May I conclude these brief remarks this morning by wishing all present, and all practitioners wherever, a very happy festive season, a prosperous New Year, and continuing professional and personal fulfilment.