



SUPREME COURT
OF QUEENSLAND

Admission Ceremonies

29 January 2013

1st ceremony

Chief Justice's observations

The admission of legal practitioners at the beginning of the calendar year is an encouraging signal of the continuity of the legal profession which serves the people of Queensland 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.

Admissions Ceremony

29 January 2013

2nd ceremony

Welcome ladies and gentlemen, to the legal profession, as you assume the mantle of officers of the court. We congratulate you on your substantial achievements. No doubt gratitude is due, also, to your families and friends, who will have encouraged and assisted you to this point. We welcome many of them to the Banco Court this morning.

You join a large profession, commendably influenced in this State by the professional associations. The Bar Association has more than 1,070 members, and the Law Society, more than 9,400. Last year this court admitted as many as 947 new practitioners. The situation is consequently competitive.

Optimal performance is necessary, and a real commitment to continuing professional education. It of course goes without saying that the court expects you to exhibit the highest ethical standards.

Some of you may not enter into legal practice as such. You should nevertheless value the intellectual rigour and moral acuity reflected by this new qualification.

We wish you all well as you proceed from this point, exercising new privileges and discharging new responsibilities. We trust you may continue to draw inspiration from the support and example of others – those whose friendship you value, and those whose professional achievement you respect.

Admissions Ceremony

29 January 2013

3rd ceremony

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

Your personal achievement is substantial. We judges 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, to hone their professional expertise.

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.

As you would probably already appreciate only too well, you join a competitive profession. There are currently in Queensland 1,078 barristers with practising certificates and more than 9,400 solicitors with practising certificates. Last year the court admitted 947 new legal practitioners. That extent of infusion of talent into an already substantial profession means there can be no doubt, for success, that you must meet reasonably high expectations.

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

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.

We again wish you well in your careers.

Admissions Ceremony

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4th ceremony

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