



Admission Ceremonies

3 June 2013

Chief Justice's observations

The responsibility of protecting and advancing the legal interests of other people is by nature unique, and uniquely challenging.

Although contemporary clients are increasingly well informed, they necessarily lack the capacity ultimately to assess reliably, the accuracy and quality of the specialized assistance a lawyer renders. It follows that lawyers are rightly expected to exhibit scrupulous honesty, and the highest standard of competence and ethical commitment.

What is the broader significance of a lawyer's work? By advancing the interests of the particular client, the lawyer reinforces the authority of the legal system, and thereby, on whatever scale, ensures implementation of the rule of law.

There lies the professional essence: public service; and what is especially challenging in this 21st century, the elevation of public service over the private pursuit of material success.

If we recognize that simple stipulation, that our community orientation transcend personal gain, then we may properly regard ourselves as professionals, and our conduct will help lift public attitudes to our profession beyond the scepticism which in some quarters prevails.

I hope you will always recall that simple truth, and ensure it regulates your approach to professional life. If it does, we will see you serving your clients well, and additionally, the community, as for example by pro bono work, participating in the collegial life of the profession, and lending your skills to the voluntary work of community organizations.

We all hope your professional lives will be a source of great personal satisfaction and substantial public application. Congratulations to you all, while recognizing gratitude must

also flow to the families and friends who have assisted you to this important milestone and will no doubt continue to render valuable support.