



Valedictory ceremony upon the retirement of
the Honourable Justice White AO
Banco Court
Monday 3 June 2013, 9:15am

The Hon Paul de Jersey AC
Chief Justice

We join to acknowledge with gratitude our departing colleague's substantial judicial commitment, over many years, to the good government of the State.

It is fitting we are joined by the State's first law officer, the Honourable the Attorney-General, the Shadow Attorney-General, Ms Annastacia Palaszczuk, Her Honour the Chief Judge and her colleagues, Judges of the High and Federal Courts, including Justice Kiefel and Justice Keane, the leaders of the profession – the Presidents, and retired Judges and tribunal members.

Those Judges who cannot be here regret that circumstance. The President of the Court of Appeal, Justice Margaret McMurdo, especially asked to be associated with my remarks, as did Justice Logan of the Federal Court.

Undoubted modesty has, over the years, led some retiring Judges to eschew these ceremonies. Justice White kindly agreed to my urging for the sitting, subject to two constraints she imposed, brevity and accuracy.

Well as to brevity, prolixity is not I hope my style; as to accuracy today, there is simply no need for hyperbole.

Her Honour's record speaks for itself. After two years as Master from 1990, she was appointed as a Judge in 1992, and after 18 years, as a Judge of Appeal in 2010. She



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retires on reaching the statutory retirement age. Her judicial work has been characterized by wisdom, learning, discretion, courtesy and grace.

The wisdom has been augmented by her extensive and most commendable extra judicial commitments, with the Churchill Trust since 2003 – now as National President, with the University of Queensland Senate for 16 years, and with the Royal Australian Navy, concluding as a Deputy President of the Defence Forces Disciplinary Appeals Tribunal from 2008, and I note with pleasure the presence today of the President of the Tribunal, Justice Tracey.

May I be permitted to say, in my respectful view as Chief Justice, that Justice White has epitomized the most desirable qualities reasonably expected of members of the Supreme Court.

We regretfully farewell her, with gratitude, and Mr Michael White QC, from our own immediate midst, and wish them both well as they enter into a new chapter of their lives together.