



SUPREME COURT
OF QUEENSLAND

Ceremony to acknowledge recently recognized barristers

Monday, 8 July 2013, 11.30am

The Chief Justice calls on the President of the Bar Association,

The President says:

“May it please the Court, I have the pleasure of announcing that the following practitioners present in Court today have become barristers of the Supreme Court of Queensland since 1 January 2013.

Kylie Jane Heath

Mark William Turnbull

John Michael Farren

Michael John Smith

Matthew Edmond Bradley Williams

Steven James Forrest

Lynda Gwennyth Body

David James Henschell

Antony James Newman

[As each barrister’s name is announced, that barrister stands and bows to the Court.]

I am pleased to commend each of these barristers to the Court.”



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Remarks by the Chief Justice welcoming the new barristers.

Chief Justice's observations

Queensland is one of a small number of Australian jurisdictions in which citizens, natural and corporate, still enjoy the benefit of an independent bar. We certainly hope that situation persists.

All lawyers should present as specialist professionals. Members of the bar protest a particular specialization. It is one which allies them closely with the courts in the discharge of the charter of the delivery of justice according to law.

The barrister's specialty, in relation to the courts, is dual: first, expert advocacy, both oral, and increasingly these days, in writing; and second, through informed advice to clients, effectively regulating the flow of work to the courts, and hopefully ensuring the courts are occupied only with cases which necessitate adjudication usefully informed by the adversarial process.

In that context, the barrister occupies a position especially close to this court, the court from which he or she derives professional lineage. As part of that, to meet the reasonable expectations of our constituency, we must all operate optimally, while independently.

The rank of barristers is burdened by substantial additional public significance, although it is a burden which is, one gauges, willingly and effectively borne. While, as I have said, barristers owe their professional lineage to the Supreme Court, and while the work accomplished by barristers is indispensable to the courts in the discharge of their mission, the bar is ultimately characterized by a steely independence. The courageous independence of the bar amounts to nothing less than one of the important safeguards of our democracy.



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On behalf of all the Judges, we welcome you, ladies and gentlemen, to the ranks of the Queensland and thence the Australian bar.

We urge you to seek to discharge the high public duties of your role, as barristers, with fierce independence and high competence, while exhibiting undoubted integrity; and importantly in addition, we encourage you to develop a marked degree of expert speciality.

Court closes