



**SUPREME COURT
OF QUEENSLAND**

Reception to welcome new Dean of UQ Law School
Tuesday 20 August 2013, 5pm
The Gallery, Queen Elizabeth Courts of Law

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

Chancellor, your Honours, Dean, ladies and gentlemen

The members of our host this afternoon, the University of Queensland Law Graduates Association, have a particularly strong regard for the TC Beirne School of Law as an institution. It was there that many of us gained the hard-won qualifications which base our professional careers; there we developed enduring friendships – and no doubt one or two antipathies, though we hope they will not have endured.

Those circumstances naturally inspire a great deal of affection for the Law School. They have also led many of us to follow, with considerable interest, the progress of the Law School over many years.

We have been buoyed by what we have heard of efforts within the University to ensure that the Law School rises as necessary to the very first rank in the provision of tertiary legal education and development. And notwithstanding our nostalgic attachment to that goal, there is obvious public interest in securing a practising profession stocked by the very best, including a reservoir of well cultivated talent to feed future judicial ranks.

Vibrant leadership is of central importance to this, hence the grateful expectation with which we have welcomed Professor Sarah Derrington's appointment as Academic Dean and Head of School. Sarah brings internationally acknowledged scholarship and experience, and of particular significance, a great capacity to lead and inspire, and we warmly wish her well as she assumes this substantial responsibility and privilege. I am sure she has the capacity to energize and unite the staff so that the TC Beirne School of



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Law will be acknowledged as reaching the high standard rightly and reasonably expected of it.

It is appropriate that we gather in this spirit of goodwill and support in The Gallery, under the gaze of the images of all former Chief Justices, all 16 of them. Eleven Chief Justices of Queensland have been graduates of the Law School of the University of Queensland. That we come together in this august space reflects the high expectation the Court has of the Law School which produced all except one of the current judges of the Supreme Court, an expectation, Sarah, which we are confident you can and will fulfil. We warmly congratulate you and wish you well.