



# Admission Ceremonies

## 3 September 2013

### Session 1

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#### Chief Justice's observations

Ceremonies for the admission of legal practitioners form an important part of the work of the court. We always delight in sensing the excitement of those newly admitted to the profession, and the pride of family and friends who will invariably have contributed to individual successes.

It is a great personal achievement; the precedent course of study is demanding in many respects, as is the required practical training. Completing the requirements for admission demands intelligence, application, fortitude and endurance. We Judges congratulate you, ladies and gentlemen, and acknowledge, on your behalf, the usually unstinting support which you will have received from family and friends.

Whether you actively pursue a career of professional practice, or utilize your qualifications in other ways – working for a company, for example, or at a university, that support from others will no doubt continue to underpin the confidence with which you progress.

The collegial thrusts of the professional associations are designed both to monitor your fulfilment of the stringent ethical obligations to which you are now subject, and to promote your professional development. In our highly competitive contemporary professional situation, you will need continually to hone and expand your knowledge and skills: active participation in the educative initiatives of the professional bodies should facilitate that.

You will ultimately justify the privileged position which attends your newly acquired qualification if you continually recognize the corollary of that privilege, which is service of the public. In an era where courts and the public are, more than ever, vigilant to ensure maintenance of high standards within the profession, we expect your motivation to surpass the purely personal satisfaction which may come from material things: the lawyer worthy of commendation will work willingly for those deserving clients who cannot afford to pay, contribute talent to community organizations which do good work, and participate in public debate about issues going to the roots of our freedom under the law.

We wish you well as you embrace these substantial public responsibilities, and again, congratulate you on the personal success you and your families rightly celebrate today.

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## **Admission Ceremonies 3 September 2013 Session 2**

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### **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 21<sup>st</sup> 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. Well done!

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## **Admissions Ceremony 3 September 2013 Session 3**

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### **Chief Justice's observations**

We congratulate you, ladies and gentlemen, upon your admission to the legal profession. You will rightly be experiencing the exultation of finally having secured this important qualification, after years of sometimes arduous application to disciplined academic study – no doubt with the enthusiastic support of families and friends. Congratulations, and although I speak of past achievement, you of course identify that as but the gateway to an avenue of lifetime professional development. We hope you continue to draw on the wise inspiration of family and friends as you progress along that avenue, as well as drawing on the experience of your professional colleagues and that of the professional associations.

The courts of law greatly value and depend upon the true professionalism of barristers and solicitors. To assure justice according to law, which is the mission of the courts, the courts must be able to rely on the high quality of those who advise in solicitors' offices, and those who present clients' cases in the courtroom. Now of course integrity is an absolute given. But so is the capacity of the advocate, for example, to support the administration of justice, when necessary, independently of the interests of the client. I mention this for emphasis, while acknowledging this is not the occasion for an ethics lecture.

It is however the occasion to remind you, as you enter the profession, of its essence: public service. Whenever you act for a client, you advance the public interest in a sense, for you make your professional expertise available to those lacking it. But public service should extend more broadly. For example, you should not expect all of your application as a lawyer to be remunerated. We hope that you will be prepared, for no financial reward, to deploy your newly recognised qualifications in aid of those without privilege in our community – the weak, the marginalised, the friendless, those lacking means. That will be

essential if you are to acquire true professionalism, as that condition is understood in this contemporary life.

You have reached an important milestone. Whatever your particular professional destination, this qualification will serve you well. The challenge, is that you ensure its deployment for the beneficial service of the community. We wish you well as you rise to that challenge, which we are now confident is certainly within your grasp.

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## **Admissions Ceremony 3 September 2013 Sessions 4 and 6**

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### **Chief Justice's observations**

We endeavour by the ceremonial aspects of today's sitting to emphasize the immutability of our joint mission – the delivery of justice according to law, and the stability of the mechanisms we employ. We also trust those ceremonial aspects render your experience the more memorable, both for you and the many members of your families and circles of friends who join you today to celebrate your substantial personal achievement. We hope your families and friends remain sources of wise guidance and inspiration throughout your professional lives.

The personal achievement we acknowledge today will equip you well for successful practice of the law, or work outside the profession – in companies, for example, or within a law school. The ethical commitment which underpins your professionalism will, we trust, always predominate, as should the public orientation of your new role: work willingly for those who lack the means to meet your ordinary fees; contribute your special talents to community organizations; interact collegially within the profession.

You join a profession of substantial proportions. It is a competitive profession, and the most effective lawyer will assume a commitment to professional development throughout his or her career.

It is also a progressive profession, which conscientiously and effectively complements the work of the courts of law.

We again congratulate you on your personal achievement, and wish you well as your careers progress.

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# **Admissions Ceremony**

## **3 September 2013**

### **Session 5**

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You today join a vibrant Queensland legal profession, a profession which has adapted well to the quite substantial changes in approach which have occurred in recent years. Examples are the embrace of the mechanisms of alternate dispute resolution with consequent retreat from adversarialism, and the extent to which court presentations are now reduced to writing with consequent limitation on oral advocacy; and in the solicitors' offices as in the courts, electronics have provided almost indispensable new tools facilitating the disposition of our work. As you enter this exciting new world, we urge you to rise above the utilitarian: always remember the essence of your newly acquired professionalism, its embrace of the ideal of public service; recognize the critical importance of continuing legal education; suffer no dereliction in your dedication to the highest ethical standards; look broadly towards the community, participate in pro bono schemes and voluntary community endeavour; and recognize that every human being, to survive and flourish, depends on the support of others, especially so with professionals subject to the pressured demands of contemporary life.

You, ladies and gentlemen, have to this point achieved very highly and that leaves us sanguine as to your future prospects. You leave with our congratulations, and our acknowledgement of the undoubtedly valuable assistance which will have been given to you by your parents, family and friends. You have our warm good wishes for your future professional careers.