



## **Admissions Ceremony 2 June 2014 1st ceremony**

### **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.

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# Admissions Ceremony

2 June 2014

2<sup>nd</sup> ceremony

## Chief Justice's observations

On behalf of all the Judges, we welcome you, ladies and gentlemen, to the legal profession.

You are to be commended for your successful completion of a demanding academic course and substantial practical training requirements. Now you face the challenge of deploying your professional talents to assist those who need expert help in the resolution of their legal problems.

We hope you acknowledge public service as the real essence of your new professionalism, and that you recognize an obligation to assist those without power or privilege in our community – and I mean, by a healthy commitment to pro bono work.

You join a large profession: there are presently 10,303 solicitors with practising certificates in Queensland, and 1,099 practising barristers. Conditions in the practising profession are consequently quite competitive. You should therefore regard your present qualification, important though it is, as but the gateway to an avenue of lifelong professional development. I am confident those of you who do not enter the practising profession will nevertheless always benefit from the intellectual rigour and moral acuity which lie at the foundation of your new qualification.

Your professional development will be facilitated, by the way, through collegial interaction. The more senior members of the profession are generous with their time for novice practitioners, and the professional associations are anxious to assist you.

You are now officers of the Supreme Court, in one sense a rather quaint description, but a description which highlights the primacy of your duty ethically owed to the court, a duty which predominates over even the duty to the client.

In wishing you well, we acknowledge the important role your parents, families and friends will have played in assisting you to this point. We welcome all of your supporters to the Banco Court this morning, and express thanks for their indirect contribution to the development of the legal system in this State.

And we wish you all well, ladies and gentlemen, as you move forward from this point.

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