



**Townsville District Law Association New and Early Career
Lawyers' Function**
Chief Justice's Remarks
19 September 2014

**The Hon Tim Carmody
Chief Justice**

Many congratulations on this singular milestone in your professional life.

It is a credit to you and all those who supported you through thick and thin.

Today is not a day for long or deep and meaningful speeches from me. This is about you and publicly acknowledging the effort involved in meeting the demanding standards for admission as a legal practitioner in Queensland.

In fact, standards (and meeting them) is what I want to talk about this evening.

Standards are important in the practice of law. Meeting them is essential to doing it properly.

Professional and ethical standards ensure public confidence in the legal system and due administration of justice. Maintaining that confidence is of utmost importance. Without it the law loses its relevance and respect and, in turn, society loses its sense of security and order.

Keeping true to your oaths or affirmations is the easiest and best way of discharging your duty to the law, the courts, clients and the community we serve.

The second standard also relates to that service. Practising law involves the delivery of quality legal services to those needing them most. Satisfying that demand is a social or public service. That is, it is not done solely for reward.



Townsville District Law Association New and Early Career Lawyers' Function
Chief Justice's Remarks
19 September 2014

Helping others in need who lack adequate resources to pay through pro bono community work or gratuitous assistance is an important component of legal practice. It enriches us all in ways mere money cannot. Actively look for and seek out opportunities for that enrichment. It is what real justice is all about.

Finally, standards of competence are no less important than those regulating professional conduct. Having a degree or two is the beginning of a legal knowledge journey, not the end. You should have learned to think and act like a lawyer. From now on you have to be the best lawyer you can be. That means continuing to learn and develop your specialist legal knowledge and skills. Do not be satisfied with good enough. Make a real difference.

I hope that your careers unfold as they should and that when it is over you can look back fondly on it with great pride and satisfaction. It is a real possession in a rapidly changing world.

Remember why you chose to be lawyers. Stay in touch with your friends and family. They are usually the only ones who really care about your personal welfare.

Enjoy your successes and do not waste too much time dwelling on goals not reached. Pursue a happy and balanced life outside law. Serve with dignity, honesty and respect.

Good luck and best wishes.