



Presentation of Queen's Counsel; recognition of newly-admitted barristers
and traditional exchange of Christmas Greetings

Banco Court

Wednesday 16 December 2015, 9:15am

**The Hon Catherine Holmes
Chief Justice**

I welcome the Honourable the Acting Attorney-General and the Shadow Attorney-General, Justice Keane of the High Court, the Chief Judge and Judges of the District Court, Judges of the Federal Court, the Family Court and the Federal Circuit Court, members of the Land and Industrial Court, the Chief Magistrate and Magistrates, retired Judges and Tribunal members, the Presidents of the Bar Association and the Queensland Law Society, the Deputy Director-General of the Department of Justice, Departmental officers and ladies and gentlemen.

I thank the Crown Law Choir, for their glorious singing this morning. The choir is conducted by Ms Elizabeth Wilson, Senior Legal Officer in the Department of Justice, who is not to be confused with Ms Elizabeth Wilson of the Bar (who would not be a likely candidate for the role). The choir's performance is guaranteed to lift your heart and, at the end of a fraught year, make you feel as if it's really Christmas after all. The charity that they are supporting this year is Beyond Blue, so give generously.

Announcements by Queen's Counsel

I invite Queen's Counsel, appointed this year, to make their announcements

Mr Dennis Raymond LYNCH

Ms Madeline Mary BRENNAN



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Mr Adrian William DUFFY
Mr Gareth David BEACHAM
Mr Rowan Peter Sandford JACKSON
Mr Robert James ANDERSON
Mr Glen Peter CASH
Mr David William MARKS
Mr Michael Andrew JONSSON
Mr Ronald Shaw ASHTON

I invite you all to come forward to add your signatures to the roll. You will be adding your names to a list which goes back to 1865. So, if you would proceed to do that in order of seniority.

I have recommended your appointment as Queen's Counsel in accordance with the protocol for the appointment of Queen's Counsel. I have made that recommendation to the Attorney-General, but I should say it's a collegiate process in consultation with my colleagues on this court and on other courts, and it's informed by the consultation undertaken by the Bar Council's Queen's Counsel Consultation Group, so these are widely supported appointments.

You now have the opportunity to wear this deeply unflattering wig, but apart from that, your appointments are something to be gratified about. You are recognised among your peers as reaching a high level of accomplishment and learning and competence and your careers have taken a significant step ahead. More importantly, you are now leaders of the Bar, in positions of influence, and I'm sure that you will take very seriously what you can do in



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that role for the good of the profession. We congratulate you and anticipate stellar performances by you now that you are all silk. Thank you.

Recently admitted barristers

Mr Hughes

“May it please the court. I have the pleasure of announcing the following practitioners, with one exception, present in court today have become barristers of the Supreme Court of Queensland since the 7th of July 2015. Unfortunately, Justin Wade Reuben Sibley could not be present and I have only just found that out:

(As each barrister's name is announced, that barrister stands and bows to the court.)

Mr	Clemens	Joseph	van der WEEGEN
Ms	Katrina	Jeanne	CRAIG
Ms	Polina		KINCHINA
Ms	Borcsa	Elizabeth	VASS
Mr	Nicholas	James	DERRINGTON
Mr	Paul	Gerard	JEFFERY
Mr	Daniel	Kerrod	FULLER
Mr	Daniel	Kevin	WHITMORE
Mr	Charles	David	MARTIN



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

Chief Justice

Congratulations on joining Queensland's independent Bar and the Australian Bar. To do so requires some courage in difficult economic times. I don't mean to deter you by saying that, if it does, but it's a career with a level of excitement and autonomy that you will not find in many other professions. One of the great advantages of practice at the Bar is its collegiality. You will always find support from more senior practitioners who are willing to assist you and guide you. Take advantage of that.

The Judges will rely on you to carry out your role with integrity, independence and competence. We look forward to your appearances in our courts.

Christmas greetings

Ladies and gentlemen,

This has been an eventful year for the Court, but we weathered it and are full of good cheer at the end of it. I thank my fellow Judges who have worked so hard through the year, despite distractions, and have helped me in every way possible in the last three months.

Mr Dick and Mr Walker, on behalf of the Judges, I express our appreciation to both sides of politics in this State who, during the short period of my tenure, have treated the Court with courtesy and, particularly recently, have resisted



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any temptation to let political or populist considerations prevail over the need to respect the Court's integrity and independence. The balance between the executive, the parliament and the judiciary is a delicate one and underpins our democracy. While it may seem expedient in the short-term for one part of the institution to abuse or attack another part, it ultimately has the capacity to damage or diminish the whole institution, which is democratic government. Our discourse has been civil and I have confidence that it will continue to be so.

The Judges appreciate the support of the profession for the Courts and look forward to an excellent relationship with you, Mr Hughes, as President of the Bar. This is your first appearance here. Mr Fitzgerald, sadly, it is your last as President of the Law Society. You will be missed. But at least we judges now know which side of the state of the profession match we have to play in when the great Bar versus Solicitors (Judicial Division) match is finally arranged. Somebody might have to explain the code to me, but I'm sure I'll be fine.

Speaking for myself for a minute, my appointment has introduced me to the world of meetings and meeting-speak, where, apparently I'm a stakeholder. We do things going forward, when I really wouldn't have thought of doing them going backwards, and I'm asked about my visions, so that I feel like Joan of Arc, except it's the language being martyred, not me. But I plan a short TAFE course on buzz words over the summer, and when I come back I should be able to fling around terms like connectivity and KPIs with the best of them. Having said all that, I'm very grateful to the Director-General, Mr Mackie, the Deputy Director-General, Ms Laing, the Registrar of the Court,



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Ms Steel, and the Acting Registrar, Ms Antonsen, for guiding me with dexterity and gentleness through my first steps through the maze.

It's Christmas time and the time for expressing a wish list, whatever the hopes of their coming true. Mine would be for the funding of more positions in the Registry at a higher level, to create a career structure which encourages our bright young people to stay. While I realise that asking for money is never a popular move with government, Mr Dick, and these are straitened times, the ability to maintain continuity, stability and expertise is, of itself, a driver of efficiency and cost-saving. Another area where we can be confident funds would be well spent is in improving the electronic capacities of the court to manage documents, with electronic filing and evidence given in electronic form. Or – buzzword alert – eTrials and eFiling.

Finally, on behalf of the Judges I thank everyone present for joining us on this occasion and I wish you a calm and happy festive season.

Mr Acting Attorney

President of the Bar Association of Queensland, Mr Hughes...

President of the Queensland Law Society, Mr Fitzgerald.

Thank you. Please join us all for morning tea. Let the proceedings be recorded. Adjourn the court.