



## **Closing address at the Alexander Christy Freeleagus Oration Friday 22 May 2015**

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**The Hon Justice A Philippides  
Court of Appeal**

Your Honours, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. I am delighted that so many are here this evening on the occasion of the Alexander Christy Freeleagus Oration.

That the first function of the Hellenic Australian Lawyers Association following its Queensland launch earlier this year should be an oration in honour of the late Alex Freeleagus is entirely fitting.

On one famous occasion, over 2,000 years ago, a Greek orator spoke of those whose deeds, when weighed in the balance, are found to be equal to their fame. That is an apt description of Alex Freeleagus.

He was one of those rare individuals whose character, ability and stature illuminated the path for others to follow. As you have heard, for many decades he played an important role in very many different fields: the legal profession; the services; the diplomatic corps; and, of course, the Greek community. He never forgot his Greek heritage, of which he was always immensely proud. His contribution to the Greek community of Queensland will remain unparalleled.

I wish to thank Justice Byrne for his words about Alex. There is perhaps no-one better placed than Justice Byrne to speak of Alex Freeleagus. He was, after all, as someone recently remarked to me, Alex Freeleagus' counsel of choice – although it seems that Alex may not have been Justice Byrne's pilot of choice.



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I am delighted that Justice Kyrrou, the driving force behind the Association, was able to attend to give this evening's oration. Together with Chief Justice Martin, he has played a critical role in the work of the Judicial Council on Cultural Diversity, of which Chief Justice Martin, who chairs the Council, spoke. The Council is a wonderful initiative. I am very glad we have had an opportunity to learn more about its excellent work.

It is essential to the proper operation of our judicial system that has, at its core, the notion of equality for all before the law, that judges and the legal profession are alive to the particular impediments faced by those from differing cultural backgrounds when they encounter the legal system.

I am sure that the Hellenic Australian Lawyers Association will provide a constructive forum for the discussion of issues to do with diversity and the law which are a concern, not only to Hellenic Australian lawyers, but to all who take an interest in improving the administration of justice.

I thank you for your attendance and formally close this evening's proceedings.