



Presentation of Senior Counsel; recognition of newly-admitted
barristers and traditional exchange of Christmas Greetings
Banco Court
Wednesday 12 December 2012, 9:15am

**The Hon Paul de Jersey AC
Chief Justice**

I welcome the Honourable the Attorney-General, the Presidents, the Shadow Attorney-General Senator Brandis, the Chief Judge and Judges of the District Court, Chief Justice Keane and Justice Greenwood of the Federal Court, Judges of the Family Court, the President and members of the Land Court, the Chief Magistrate and Magistrates, retired Judges and Tribunal members and the Director-General and his departmental officers. I at once thank the talented members of the Crown Law Choir, conducted by Mr Steven Hogg, barrister-at-law, for their festive contribution this morning.

And I publicly express congratulations to Chief Justice Keane upon his appointment to the High Court of Australia.

Announcements by Senior Counsel

I invite Senior Counsel appointed this year to make their announcements

Mr Dean Patrick MORZONE

Ms Jenny Deyell HOGAN

Mr Philip Andrew LOONEY

The volumes of the roll of Queen's Counsel and Senior Counsel are steeped in history. They are on display in the Library. The first entry records the appointment as Queen's Counsel of Mr Charles Lilley. Mr Lilley signed the Roll on 27 December 1865. The legendary Mr Samuel Walker Griffith signed on 11 May 1876. The roll showcases a constellation of talent ultimately characterizing our Bar over a span of 147 years.



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I now invite you, ladies and gentlemen, as Senior Counsel appointed in the Court's 151st year, to come forward to sign this historic roll which your signatures will now augment.

...

It should be appreciated that although I am the nominated appointer of Senior Counsel, the process is intensely collegial, and benefits from the results of the consultation conducted by the Senior Counsel Consultation Group established by the Bar Council.

The appointments are greatly significant to the appointees, in terms of recognition, career advancement and influence within the profession.

You present as Counsel of singular probity, learning and accomplishment. We are confident you have the capacity to rise to the particular challenge which now confronts you, and Ms Hogan, yours embraces transition to judicial life: we congratulate you upon your appointment to the Family Court of Australia. We wish you all well.

Recently admitted barristers

Mr Traves

...

The President says:

"May it please the court. I have the pleasure of announcing that the following practitioners present in court today have become barristers of the Supreme Court of Queensland since 1 July 2012:

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

Mr Benjamin Roland WETZIG

Mr Paul Alfred BEEHRE

Mr Glyn James WATSON

Mr Anthony James ANDERSON

Mr Graham Warick DIETZ



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Mr Blair Alfred HALL
Mr Matthew Alexander PEATE
Ms Karen Natelle OAKLEY
Ms Catherine Elizabeth MALUSH
Ms Dina Vinette THOMPSON
Ms Anastacia Rose NICHOLAS

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

Chief Justice

Queensland remains an Australian jurisdiction in which citizens, natural and corporate, still enjoy the benefit of an independent Bar.

All lawyers should present as specialist professionals. Members of the Bar profess a particular specialisation. It is one which allies them closely with the courts in the discharge of the charter of the delivery of justice according to law.

As legal practitioners, you also assume a responsibility for the maintenance of the rule of law. The rule of law is a stipulation which must never be taken for granted, even in a highly developed and sophisticated society like ours. This truth is strikingly evident in parts of the world today.

We welcome you to the ranks of the Queensland and thence the Australian Bar.

We urge you to discharge the high public duties of your role, as barristers, with independence and high competence, while exhibiting undoubted integrity. We also encourage you to develop a marked degree of expert speciality through your endeavours.

Christmas greetings

Ladies and gentlemen,



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The most momentous event in the recent history of the courts of Queensland occurred on 3 August with the opening of these Queen Elizabeth II Courts of Law, and a veritable panoply of supporting events: the meeting of the Council of Chief Justices on 2 August, the Supreme Court Seminar in the Banco Court on 4 August, and the concluding dinner at Old Government House that evening.

On those historic days, as today, the Australian and Queensland flags were joined in the courts' plaza by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags, symbolizing the unity of all Queenslanders. I have asked that the indigenous community flags be flown on all ceremonial days in the life of these courts.

That in August the Council of Chief Justices of Australia and New Zealand, with distinguished leaders of jurisdictions from the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Hong Kong, stayed for the duration – the meeting, the opening, the seminar, the dinner – implied an enormous tribute to the courts of this State and, indeed, the nation; as did the presence of the members of the Council of Chief Judges. We have entered into a new era of enhanced collegiality between the Supreme Court and the District Court, and that all three State Courts and the Federal Courts are now so geographically close is a good thing finally achieved.

Symbolism aside, the new courthouse works spectacularly: our challenge is to ensure the maximum use of the wondrous technology it boasts. We have a metropolitan courthouse truly of the 21st century, the best in the nation, and we must be astute to exploit its capacities to the utmost, in the interests of enhancing accessibility to justice, which has always been the goal.

We are particularly pleased to be joined this morning by the lead architect Professor John Hockings of Architectus Guymer Bailey, and Mr Allan Robertson, senior construction manager of the builder Lend Lease. The last of these ceremonies they attended was, I



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think, four years ago - in “another place”: how indebted we are, to them, for their creative brilliance, so strikingly evident here today.

I suppose from my own judge's perspective, with the advent of this building I have at last seen the light, and I speak literally not metaphorically. One cannot overstate the effect on the well being of all court participants of the exposure, within this building, to the outside. No longer are those who need use these places confined in a claustrophobic cocoon.

With a flair we have come to expect but not take for granted, Justice Martin has kindly edited a publication which appropriately records, in text and pictorially, the official opening and the Supreme Court Seminar held the following day. As with “Celebrating the Sesquicentenary”, we are again grateful to both the Supreme Court Library and Justice Martin for the publication, “A new courthouse”: it will appeal to all with a sense of history, and all worthy lawyers fall into that category. The Library welcomes pre-Christmas orders.

As always, all court staff, led by Ms Julie Steel, deserve commendation for their dedication. The move here, though but a short distance along George Street, according to Google it was only about 300 metres, was massive in overall proportion, and was accomplished most efficiently without intolerable disruption to the delivery of court services. Court staff deserve substantial thanks for making that happen.

In that context, we congratulate and welcome the newly appointed Director General, Mr John Sosso, who is here today. I look forward very much to working with him.

As this Banco Court is the heart of the courthouse, the Sir Harry Gibbs Legal Heritage Centre is a gem within. I again record gratitude for the generous financial support for the establishment of that Centre from the Incorporated Council of Law Reporting for the State of Queensland. Itself exploring innovative responses to declining interest in the traditional print medium – responses which I commend.



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In that historical context I am pleased now to launch Mr John McKenna's excellent history of the Supreme Court, originally intended for publication in the sesquicentenary year. I am glad in hindsight that the publication is more of a stand-alone event, for 2011 and 2012 were otherwise busy years, and this truly excellent publication deserves its own space. I thank the author for his valuable contribution to the preservation of the judicial history of the State. I originally conceived this would be a coffee-table style collection of photographs of the atmospheric courthouses of the State with vignettes on major trials and the like. I was in part conscious of the cost of anything more elaborate. Mr McKenna solved that problem: he wrote this much more substantial history for no personal financial return, and that generosity is conspicuous – with his being a busy leading Counsel.

The result is compendious and scholarly, as one would expect from this author, and above all readable and interesting – to all interested in one of the State's pivotal institutions.

I should add that we are grateful to Chief Justice Keane for his characteristically worthwhile foreword.

The work is most handsomely presented, thanks in large part to the University of Queensland Press Custom Publisher, Lynn Bryan: I gratefully acknowledge Ms Bryan's presence here this morning, and that of UQ Press's CEO, Mr Greg Bain.

Here is yet another book available for purchase from the Supreme Court Library: I am confident it will be a best-seller.

The establishment of the Heritage Centre may suggest, by the way, that the heritage mission has been accomplished with all in place, but the collection of that sort of historical mosaic is never complete, and I urge practitioners to continue to donate interesting historical pieces to the Library.



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Very recently, barrister Mr Tom Bradley most generously donated an extremely valuable article, for which I now express gratitude. It is the earliest recorded letter written from the Moreton Bay District to England, dated 25 November 1841, a letter by Dr S Simpson the first acting police magistrate. Dr Simpson preceded the first permanent Police Magistrate Captain John Wickham, who lived in Newstead House. Mr Bradley acquired Dr Simpson's letter a month or so ago at auction in London.

I acknowledge Mr Bradley's considerable generosity in directing this item, not to the John Oxley Library or the Queensland Museum, but to the Supreme Court Library and the Sir Harry Gibbs Legal Heritage Centre. Of course we could not, and would not, want to compete with those venerable and wonderful institutions, but it is amazing, if I may say, to see our own courts spawning a museum of this calibre, and one which, as this acquisition demonstrates, is living. The letter, together with related material, is on display in The Gallery.

I pass to the profession generally. In addition to what I said at the swearing-in of Justice Jackson on 10 October, this is another occasion for us to welcome the profession to their new courthouse. Unfortunately few practitioners could be accommodated at the opening, and although large numbers participated in the seminar and the subsequent tours, I had some lingering regret that the opening events could not embrace the profession more widely. In that context, I am gratified by the large attendance today.

Also significant to the advancement of our mission this calendar year was the increase of the complement of the court from 26 judges to 27, with the appointment of Justice Jackson. I again thank the Executive Government for that response to the needs of the system, a response which was delivered in a most timely way.

This has been a difficult year for some court officers who have served with dedication, for sometimes lengthy periods. Those who have left and will leave our midst have done so



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with our best wishes and gratitude for their contribution to our achievement – essentially, stability in the delivery of justice according to law in this State.

Today's is the 15th consecutive annual ceremony at which I have been privileged to convey Christmas and Season's Greetings from the judiciary to the profession and the public. My longevity in judicial office has not, I hope, dulled perceptions of the warmth with which I express those greetings. While discharging our judicial role necessarily entails some detachment, we Judges are acutely conscious of our intrinsic involvement with, as part of, the community, and on an occasion like this, the community's sentiments are ours. Hence in this festive season, they are sentiments of mutual encouragement and goodwill.

Mr Attorney...

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

President of the Queensland Law Society, Dr de Groot.

"Let these proceedings be recorded."

Adjourn the court...