



Admissions Ceremony (2)

20 March 2006

Chief Justice's observations

Welcome ladies and gentlemen, to the legal profession, as you assume today the significant mantle of "officers of the court". We congratulate you on your substantial achievements. In a society where the range of choice of destination is so wide, we are pleased you have chosen the law, and thereby a commitment to service of the public.

No doubt gratitude is due, also, to your families and friends, who will have encouraged and assisted you to this point. We welcome many of them to the Banco Court this morning.

Disastrous events in recent world history have reminded us, particularly in this privileged nation, of the ultimate nobility of assisting our fellow beings. Helping others lies at the heart of your new professionalism. We hope that will extend to those without advantage in our community – the weak, the marginalized, the poor, especially so in what seems, sadly, to be a decreasingly compassionate and tolerant society.

You join a large Queensland profession, commendably influenced by the professional associations. The Bar Association has more than 800 members, and the Law Society, more than 6,000. Last year this court admitted as many as 598 new legal practitioners. The situation is consequently competitive.

Optimal performance is necessary, as is a real commitment to continuing professional development. It of course goes without saying that the court expects you to exhibit the highest ethical standards.

Some of you may not enter into legal practice as such. I am sure you will nevertheless value the intellectual rigour and moral acuity reflected by this new qualification.

We wish you all well as you proceed from this point, exercising new privileges and discharging new responsibilities. We trust you may continue to draw inspiration from the support and example of others – those whose friendship you value, and those whose professional achievement you respect.