



# Admissions Ceremony - 1

## Monday, 9 July 2007

### Chief Justice's observations

With my colleagues, I congratulate you, ladies and gentlemen, upon your admission to the legal profession. You will rightly be experiencing the exultation of finally having secured this important qualification, after years of sometimes arduous application to disciplined academic study – no doubt with the enthusiastic support of your families and friends. Congratulations, and although I speak of past achievement, you of course identify that as but the gateway to an avenue of lifetime professional development. We hope you continue to draw on the wise inspiration of family and friends as you progress along that avenue, as well as drawing on the experience of your professional colleagues and that of the professional associations.

The courts of law greatly value and depend upon the true professionalism of barristers and solicitors. To assure justice according to law, which is the mission of the courts, the courts must be able to rely on the high quality of those who advise in solicitors' offices, and those who present clients' cases in the courtroom. Now of course integrity is an absolute given. But so is the capacity of the advocate, for example, to support the administration of justice, when necessary, independently of the interests of the client. I mention this for emphasis, while acknowledging this is not the occasion for an ethics lecture.

It is however the occasion to remind you, as you enter the profession, of its essence: public service. Whenever you act for a client, you advance the public interest in a sense, for you make your professional expertise available to those lacking it. But public service should extend more broadly. For example, you should not expect all of your application as a lawyer to be remunerated. We hope that you will be prepared, for no financial reward, to deploy your newly recognised qualifications in aid of those without privilege in our community – the weak, the marginalised, the friendless, those lacking means. That will be essential if you are to acquire true professionalism, as that condition is understood in this contemporary life.



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Many firms of solicitors are substantially involved in pro bono work, as is the Bar. As Acting Governor I attended on World Refugee Day, 20 June, a breakfast sponsored by Corrs Chambers Westgarth, at which I learnt of that firm's commendable commitment to the provision of legal services on a pro bono basis to refugees in Brisbane. That is one very good example of the good public work of a profession sometimes subjected to ill-informed and blinkered criticism.

You have reached an important milestone. Whatever your particular professional destination, this qualification will serve you well. The challenge, is that you ensure its deployment for the beneficial service of the community. We wish you well as you rise to that challenge, which we are now confident is certainly within your grasp.

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**Chief Justice's observations**

Congratulations, ladies and gentlemen, on your accession to the legal profession. You will, perfectly reasonably, be basking in the lustre of this considerable achievement, the culmination of years of disciplined study and demanding practical legal training.

Congratulations to you, and also to your families and friends – your supporters – many of whom we welcome to the Banco Court today.

Our messages to you on this occasion, while important, may be captured briefly: professional standards are very high in this State – natural inclinations assure that, but so do competitive forces, and they are strong; courts receive, and expect, ethical standards within the profession at the highest level; and true professionalism carries with it a real, not merely token, commitment to pro bono work of not insubstantial proportion. Please acknowledge those truths, and do your utmost to ensure they are reflected in the way you practise your profession.



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We wish you well as you move forward in your professional lives, and repeat our sincere congratulations to you, and your supporters, upon your attaining this very significant qualification.