



**Opening of the Law Year Service, Rockhampton
Friday, 27 July 2007, 9am
St Paul's Cathedral**

**The Hon P de Jersey AC,
Chief Justice**

Because of ordinary human weakness and the preoccupation of our daily lives, there is some risk we may overlook the significance of our professional mission. And so this annual gathering is important. It affords us an opportunity actively to reflect on that mission, and to be seen by the people to be doing that.

Given international conflict and instability, it may seem rather self-indulgent to dwell on our own issues. But it is always helpful to restate these truths: they are rooted in service of our fellow beings.

Conflict, disease and terrorism fracture and destroy communities. But along with attitudes of love, it is the rule of law which binds and develops them. Whether one's personal brief or retainer, today, seems humble, "middling" or grand, its conscientious despatch helps, in its own way, to maintain the rule of law, and thereby the stability and development of society.

And that is an inclusive society, regardless of colour, creed or disposition. It is reassuring to note the presence this morning of our indigenous brothers and sisters.

By promoting and facilitating stable and predictable legal solutions, lawyers promote civilized society. Strong leadership in those respects is something to which our people turn, especially in times of uncertainty.

We reflect on these issues this morning in surroundings which, to many of us, have a particular significance which is predominant and abiding.



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I commend the Central Queensland profession, from Judge to novice clerk, for this vibrant demonstration of commitment to our pivotal mission, and the high ideals necessary to ensure its fulfilment.

I commend our related agencies, especially today the Queensland Police Service, whose members daily endure risk to personal security, in the selfless protection of the security of us all. I respectfully mention the tragic passing on 18 July of Const Brett Irwin, whom we honour with gratitude, and whose family has our sincere sympathies.

Sometimes inevitable difficulties will beset the legal profession, the courts of law, the legal system generally. It is our persisting, conscientious dedication to our mission, which guarantees such difficulties, when they arise, in time subside.

On behalf of the Central Queensland community, and the State, I thank you all for your continuing high commitment.