



Swearing-in ceremony
The Hon Justice H B Fraser
Banco Court
Wednesday, 30 January 2008, 9.15am

The Hon Paul de Jersey AC
Chief Justice of Queensland

We join in welcoming Justice Fraser to the ranks of the Supreme Court. His Honour has been appointed a Judge of Appeal following the retirement of Justice Williams from that division of the Court.

I note with pleasure the presence of the Attorney-General, the Chief Judge and Judges of the District Court, Judges of the Federal and Family Courts, the Deputy Chief Magistrate and his colleagues, Tribunal members, the Acting Director-General and Departmental officers, and retired Judges. Some members of the court cannot be here, although all would wish to be associated with the remarks I am about to make. Justices Wilson and McMeekin in particular, have asked that I record their apology.

Justice Fraser comes to the Court from a distinguished and lengthy career at the Bar. In 1979 His Honour graduated in law with honours from the University of Queensland, and was admitted to the Bar. He commenced full-time practice in 1981, and was appointed Queen's Counsel 11 years later. Especially in recent years, His Honour's practice has been concentrated in the commercial arena, where his specialty is distinctive and well-recognized. But it would be wrong to suggest his work has been confined to commercial matters. His practice suggests a much more catholic orientation: topically, he was involved in most of the leading native title cases determined by the High Court. Volume 175 of the Commonwealth Law Reports records Mr H B Fraser acted as Junior Counsel to Mr G L Davies QC, for the State of Queensland, in *Mabo (No 2)*.

Justice Fraser comes to the Court at the conclusion of a year's effective presidency of the Bar Association of Queensland, the culmination of many years of application to



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professional affairs in Queensland and nationally. Married with children, he brings to his judicial office a broad experience of life in addition to an acute legal mind.

On many occasions I have emphasized the high importance of appointing, to this State's highest court in particular, lawyers of outstanding talent. It is reassuring the Attorney-General plainly shares that view. I commend the Executive Government for its apparent dedication to maintaining the high quality of the Supreme Court.

We welcome Justice Fraser to high public office as a Judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland and Judge of Appeal, and his wife Margie into the court community.