

MAGISTRATES COURT

JUDGE IRWIN, Chief Magistrate

VALEDICTORY CEREMONY IN HONOUR OF
MAGISTRATE DAVID ROBERT GLASGOW

TOWNSVILLE

..DATE 27/06/2008

Also present

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On behalf of the Bar Association of Queensland and the North Queensland Bar:

Mr Anthony Collins

On behalf of the Queensland Law Society:

Mr Raul Giudes

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On behalf of Queensland Police Service:

Snr Sgt Steve Szendrey

On behalf of the Elders and Traditional Owners of the Land:

Aunty Alice Dowden

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HIS HONOUR: Thank you. Please be seated. Well, good afternoon and welcome to this ceremony to celebrate the birthday and the judicial career of David Robert Glasgow.

I would like to start by acknowledging the traditional owners and the custodians of the land on which we gather. I respect and I am grateful for the wisdom of the elders; past, present and future, and their dedication to their communities and in preserving the knowledge and the rich cultural heritage of Queensland for all.

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In saying that, I adopt the words of the Queensland Murri Court DVD, which has recently been unveiled and which I believe are particularly appropriate words for a ceremony in which David Glasgow is involved.

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I should say as well, that because this is a special ceremonial occasion, I do expressly authorise the taking of photographs in this Court.

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It is a privilege to sit with David on this Bench, with our colleagues and in David's case, former colleagues, from the Townsville Bench of Magistrates who have been able to attend today.

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Magistrates Tonkin and Wadley are on leave and they send their apologies. Magistrates Previtera and Spence have been able to join us from Brisbane and from Cairns, respectively, and I also know that other Magistrates are trying to get here, Magistrate Hennessy from Rockhampton and Magistrate Cull from Brisbane. If they don't join us before the end of this ceremony, I know that they are with us in spirit.

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I also extend my welcome to Judge Durward, to Justice Monteith of the Family Court, and to David's long time walking partner and friend, Federal Magistrate John Coker. As well as the presence of David's good friend and retired Magistrates Gordon Dean and Ian Fisher and their partners Susan and Anne. I also understand that retired Magistrate John Brennan may be with us and also not so retired Magistrate Graham Hillan, who has joined us with his partner, Carol, having recently been reappointed as an Acting Magistrate.

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But I especially wish to welcome and recognise David's wife, Gaye and also his daughter Patti, her husband Steve and their 5 month old grand child Sienna and also David's daughter, Katie, who have been able to attend today.

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Justice Cullinane sends his apologies. He's not in the jurisdiction at the moment, I understand, but I thank him once again for making this Court available on this significant occasion in the history of the judiciary in Townsville.

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I've also received apologies from the Attorney-General - about whom I'll say more later - Chief Judge Wolfe, Judge Wall, Magistrate Tatnell, Acting Magistrate Luxton, The Director-General and The Deputy Director-General of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, and in fact apologies that are too numerous to mention. It's also good to have Judge Richards with us today, having just joined us.

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However, the tone of the apologies that I have received, and the representation here today, from such a broad section of the legal community and the general community, is eloquent testimony to the affection and regard in which you are held, both as a person, and as a judicial officer.

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While the Attorney-General could not be here today, he has asked me to deliver a speech on his behalf. He says that it

is with regret that he is unable to be here today to farewell
from the Court a well respected and popular member of the
Magistrate's Court Bench and to acknowledge in person, his
contribution to date, to the administration of justice in
Queensland, both as a solicitor and in more recent years, as a
member of the Magistrates Courts Bench.

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He says "Magistrate Glasgow, you are a North Queenslander
through and through. Born in Cairns, you completed your
schooling in the north, then undertaking your law studies
externally through the University of Queensland.

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Most of your life as a solicitor was spent in Townsville with
the firm of Roberts Leu and North, where you became managing
partner."

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And if I could just pause for a moment and welcome your old
friend and partner, Mr George Roberts, who I can see has
joined us to participate in this ceremony.

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The Attorney goes on "During this time you played an active
role in the life of the community. As a member of the Faculty
of Law of James Cook University of North Queensland and as
Chancellor to the Bishop of North Queensland, amongst other
things.

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As Chancellor to the Anglican Bishop you were involved in presenting the successful case to the church tribunal for the ordination of women as priests of the Anglican Church.

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Magistrate Glasgow, you were appointed a Magistrate in March of 1998 and were first stationed in Brisbane, where you conducted the circuit through Southport, Beenleigh, Inala and Beaudesert.

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You then returned to the city of your birth, Cairns, where you conducted circuits to remote indigenous communities throughout the cape and the Torres Strait.

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Upon returning to Townsville, where you had spent so much of your professional life, you began involving indigenous elders in the sentencing of juveniles in the Townsville Children's Court and were instrumental in the establishment of the Murri Court and the Youth Murri Court in 2003.

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In addition to your judicial functions, you also had administrative duties as Coordinating Magistrate for Townsville and Regional Coordinating Magistrate for the North Queensland region. This farewell from the Court is really more of a transition than a ceremony, as you take on the important task of Family Responsibilities Commissioner from 1 July.

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Since the 13th of March this year, you have been the interim project leader of the commission, helping to set up the commission for the starting date on the 1st of July. This new role will be an interesting one for you and will no doubt bring many challenges, but will also, no doubt, bring many rewards. I wish you the very best, as you embark on this new chapter of your life.

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And to your wife, Gaye, and your children, we thank you for sharing David with us for the past 10 years. You should feel proud of what he has achieved and I'm certain there is more success in the pipe line.

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Magistrate Glasgow, now you leave the Court with the gratitude of the community for your distinguished service. May both you and Gaye enjoy the challenges of your new life. I extend to you my best wishes and my sincere thanks for your contribution to the administration of justice in Queensland."

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As you would appreciate, not all of the 87 Queensland Magistrates, 25 Acting Magistrates and 5 Judicial Registrars, could join us today. However, I know that I speak on behalf of each of them. Earlier I mentioned your birthday, it is a significant one at least in terms of the Magistrate's Court, because in the normal course of events, you have attained your

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statutory retirement age of 65, at the strike of midnight on
the 30th of June to the 1st of July 2008. It was an occasion
that neither you, nor your colleagues were looking forward to,
although we were hoping it would mean that you would return to
us as an Acting Magistrate.

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The fact that you could have returned in that capacity, due to
relatively recent legislative amendments, suggests that it is
accepted that Magistrates do not magically lose their judicial
skills on turning the age of 65. It gives hope that in the
not too distant future, Magistrates will gain parity with
their Supreme and District Court colleagues in this regard.

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This is further emphasised by the fact that you in fact
retired from the Court about 2 months early, because on ANZAC
Day you were appointed, until the 1st of January 2012, to the
important role of Queensland's inaugural Family
Responsibilities Commissioner, as we have heard.

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This marks a return for you to Cairns from which you arrived
in Townsville as a young solicitor in 1970. Up until that
time I understand you were under the extremely watchful eye of
Sir Thomas Covacevich.

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Within 2 years you had become a partner in Roberts Leu and North. You were also the managing partner of that firm before your appointment as a Magistrate 10 years ago.

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At the time of your appointment you were highly regarded and respected for your legal accomplishments and community service, of which the Attorney-General has spoken. In addition to that you are also a life member of Apex and also the Townsville Greyhound Racing Club.

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Shortly after your appointment as a Magistrate, you returned to Cairns for a little over 12 months, before you spent a short time in Brisbane.

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In keeping with being a Cairns Magistrate, you circuited regularly to the Indigenous communities of Cape York. This made you familiar with the problems within isolated communities having access to justice and the particular problems faced by the Indigenous people in dealing with the justice system. This empathy for Indigenous, and other disadvantaged people, was a constant theme of your career as a Magistrate and is recognised by your appointment as the Family Responsibilities Commissioner.

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In October 2004 you took over from Magistrate Tatnell as the Townsville Coordinating Magistrate and the Regional

Coordinating Magistrate for the Court's northern region. For the next 3 years you continued the work of Magistrate Tatnell in ensuring that our Court is a respected and highly regarded institution, providing a service to the community.

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I wish to publicly express my appreciation to you for the manner in which you performed this role. It always gave me a great deal of confidence to know that my delegated responsibilities for the administration of this Court were in such capable hands.

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The complexity of this position and the extra work involved, for which no-one can be adequately compensated, is highlighted by my recent decision to divide the region in two, by establishing a far northern region, which is responsible for Cairns and its circuit Courts.

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But, I'm sure that you won't mind if I just take some time, on your day, to thank Magistrate Verra, for the way in which he has discharged the responsibilities following you, and to wish Magistrate Smith well, when he takes over those functions on Monday.

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You have brought the qualities of energy and enthusiasm to the discharge of both your judicial and your administrative duties. You have taken the time to implement and innovate in

ways which have improved the delivery of justice, particularly to youth and to Indigenous people.

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For example, you discharged the functions of the Childrens Court Magistrate for over 4 years and you were also a Drug Court Magistrate. This was in addition to your important role which the Attorney has recognised, in the evolution and the establishment of both the Youth and the Adult Murri Courts in Townsville, which have also been influential elsewhere in the State, being an appropriate time for Magistrate Hennessy to join us.

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This was typical of your readiness to be involved in programs with a social focus to address the causes of offending. It is no wonder that the Magistrates Court can be regarded as a Court of innovation which reaches out to the community.

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I also wish to publicly recognise your role in ensuring communications with Court participants, or stake holders, as we tend to call them, and also the community justice groups throughout the region. Your work for the Court in the community did not stop, however, when you left the Court at the end of the day but you continued through involvement in speaking to community groups, presiding at moot Courts, your roles with the James Cook University and your chairing role

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with the Australian Crime Prevention Council, here in North Queensland.

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Your strong advocacy has also laid the foundation for the essential redevelopment of this Court building, to provide access to justice for the increasing number of litigants, who will pass through its doors, in keeping with the population expansion in this area.

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Last week you completed your last case as a Magistrate and Coroner. Fittingly, in your normal understated manner, this was not a case that captured much public attention. However, as you have hung up your robe, for the last time, I am pleased to see that you are not riding off into the sunset, but will be continuing to contribute to the community in the new role that has been mentioned. Personally, I can't think of a better person to address the challenges and to grasp the opportunities of that new role.

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Although the Court and the Commission may be approaching matters from different directions, one of the opportunities presented by your appointment is for us to work closely where it is appropriate to do so. And although we, as a Court, and you as a Commission, may be approaching matters from different directions, what we are both seeking to address are the causes

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of offending and diverting people, in particular indigenous people, from the criminal justice system.

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The Court's honorary archivist, Gordon Dean, writes in a kind of autobiography, published last year "The decade was not very old when there was one joyous occasion which should be mentioned, that was the marriage of David Robert Glasgow to Gabriel Sweeney. At 15 Gaye joined my firm's staff. For many years she was my secretary until becoming engaged to David. I have never forgiven him for taking her from me." I'm sure he has. The firm, of course, that Gordon was speaking about was that well known Townsville institution, Dean Gilman and Thompson.

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I mention this, Gaye, because no-one can achieve what David has achieved and will continue to achieve without the love and the support of a life partner. You have unselfishly and unconditionally supported David. It is truly a partnership and you, like David, will forever remain part of our Magistrates Court family.

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Therefore on behalf of all Queensland Magistrates, Acting Magistrates and Judicial Registrars, I thank you both for a job well done and wish you both every success for a long, happy and fulfilling future.

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Mr Collins, you represent both the North Queensland Bar and the Bar Association of Queensland today, and I invite you to address the Court.

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MR COLLINS: If it pleases the Court, I've been asked by the President of the Bar Association of Queensland, Mr Stewart of Senior Counsel, to speak in his place and on behalf of the Bar. Mr Stewart has asked me to convey his personal best wishes to Commissioner Glasgow, and the thanks of the Bar for his service.

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In the year of our Lord 1215, Pope Innocent III abolished trial by ordeal. This sadly forgotten fact is persuasive evidence for 2 propositions; one, that not all judicial officers are practising Catholics, and second, that the theory of papal infallibility at least in this regard is under challenge.

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It was a remarkable reform. Pope Innocent III had gathered together at the Fourth Lateran Council every Bishop and Abbott in Christendom. They approved the abolition of trial by ordeal and passed some 70 other major reforms. Needless to say the abolition of trial by fire and water threw European legal systems into turmoil. The news reached London in 1218. The unfortunate King Henry III was but 11 years of age, and his advisers were completely at a loss. To prove criminal guilt without resorting to fire or water was beyond their

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comprehension. It was the primary function of judicial officers in the thirteenth century to empty gaols, usually by execution, but of course you'd understand that there was a very high mortality rate amongst litigants at that time.

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The Justices had already left London to bring justice to the provinces. Those who were responsible for governing the realm in the king's minority sent a message to various justices explaining the change and saying, in effect, "For the present we must rely very much on your discretion to act wisely according to the special circumstances of each case". Those words ring down through the centuries, and even today, as a community, we still rely on judicial officers to use their discretion and to act wisely.

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The name of the last person subjected to trial by ordeal is not known, but it is tolerably clear that the first trial resembling a jury trial took place but 2 years later, in 1220. At Westminster, a woman named Alice confessed to a murder and blamed 5 others of complicity. Although trial by ordeal was abolished, trial by combat persisted but because Alice was a woman, and she was accusing 5 men, trial by combat was completely inappropriate.

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A compromise was reached where the 5 men submitted for good or for ill to the judgment of 12 property owning men. The 12

found that one of the 5 was a law abiding citizen, the other 4
were hanged. I hasten to add that trials in the Court
presided over by former Magistrate Glasgow were neither
ordeals nor a battle. Magistrate Glasgow was unerringly
polite with a refreshing and open style. He is renowned
throughout North Queensland for the manner in which he treated
Aboriginal people, the respect which he extended to them and
the improvements which he has rendered to Aboriginal people
throughout North Queensland in his time as a Magistrate.

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He has 5 adult children, each of whom have achieved tertiary
level of education, and as we have heard, he is happily
married to Gaye.

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He was initially articled to Alan McGuinness of McDonald
Harris and Company, was admitted as a solicitor in 1970 and
commenced employment at Roberts Leu & North here in
Townsville. His career extended to that of partner and
managing partner. He was appointed a Magistrate in March of
1998 and in the role of Magistrate, fulfilled the position of
Regional Coordinating Magistrate. As we have heard, you were
appointed the Family Responsibilities Commissioner in April of
this year. You have been a member of the Queensland Law
Society Council, a member of the Faculty of Law of the James
Cook University of North Queensland and a member of the
Supreme Court Library Committee.

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Your community involvement includes being Chancellor to the Bishop of North Queensland, member of the Board of Management of the Anglican Church of North Queensland, a board member of the Queensland Greyhound Racing Control Board, President of the Townsville Greyhound Racing Club, a member of the North Queensland Competitive Employment Service Limited, and President of the Parents and Friends of the Townsville Grammar School.

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Magistrate Glasgow was a wonderful product of the North Queensland legal profession. The profession in North Queensland is rightly proud of your achievements. You are missed already.

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If it pleases the Court.

HIS HONOUR: Thank you, Mr Collins. And now Mr Giudes on behalf of the Queensland Law Society, I invite you to address the Court.

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MR GIUDES: May it please the Court, your Honourable Chief Magistrate, Gaye and family, your Honours, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, it is my great privilege and pleasure to represent the Queensland Law Society at this ceremony for my valued colleague, former Magistrate and

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Commissioner David Glasgow. QLS President Megan Mahon cannot be here today due to a prior commitment, but sends her best regards.

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Your Honour, we worked together closely and forged a common bond when we were both on the QLS Council. You came aboard in 1992 and continued much to our surprise until your appointment as a Magistrate in March 1998, and I will never forget your wise counsel and practical perspectives during that time.

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They were of course of tremendous benefit both to the QLS but also the solicitors of Queensland.

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Whilst we farewell you today as a Magistrate after 10 years, in a very diverse role as you've heard from the Chief Magistrate and from my colleague, it is literally, I'm sorry, a case of you knocking off work to carry bricks. Your new challenge as Family Responsibilities Commissioner to help Far North Queensland indigenous communities get back on track is a formidable one, but given your expertise, your experience and your commitment, if anybody can make this work, it will be you. Certainly, the people of those communities could not hope for a greater champion or a better guide.

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Your experience with indigenous communities whilst a Magistrate has given you an informed insight into their language, traditional laws and cultural values. The fact that

you established a formal youth Murri Court and an adult Murri Court in Townsville some 2 years ago is indicative of your understanding and sympathy measured with your great respect for the rule of law.

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It has been a long road since you were admitted to practise in 1970 and of course, as a solicitor, it has always been in North Queensland. You are and always have been a proud son of North Queensland, and have contributed tremendously to the North Queensland legal profession, but also in the community as President of the North Queensland Law Association in 1982, the former President of the Townsville Greyhound Club as well as the former Chancellor of the Anglican Church. If your Honour will pardon the pun, it proves that your interests are truly Catholic, and your energy quite remarkable.

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Your Honour, your many friends in the whole North Queensland legal profession wish you well in your new job. It is my very great pleasure to wish you, Gaye and your family every deserved success for the future, both professionally and personally.

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May it please the Court.

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HIS HONOUR: Thank you, Mr Giudes. I now invite Senior Sergeant Szendrey on behalf of the Queensland Police Service

to address the Court, noting also the presence here today, I believe, towards the back of the Court, the Assistant Commissioner Mr Paul Wilson who's joined us as well.

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SNR SGT SZENDREY: Thank you your Honour. May it please the Court, your Honour, Chief Magistrate Judge Marshall Irwin, your Honours, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to be able to say a few words on the retirement of Mr Glasgow on behalf of the QPS.

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As Mr Irwin mentioned, there are a number of police officers in the Court and it shows how the QPS hold you in high regard, Sir.

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I have had the honour of knowing Mr Glasgow for 2 and a-half years. I have appeared in the Magistrates Court he has presided over and have always found him to be fair and just. He was a Magistrate in my very first summary hearing in 2006, where a defendant was charged with UIL, where the evidence was only indicia. I prepared all the case law, notes in regards to this type of hearing and was feeling fairly confident in placing all this material before Mr Glasgow. The trial went through its normal paces, with the addition of the defendant giving evidence. Then it was my turn to place submissions before the Magistrate. As I was going to stand, quoting all the relevant case law, Mr Glasgow started to rattle off all my

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cases, so, you can imagine that most of my submissions had
disappeared before my eyes. It went from a 15 minute
submission to a 2 minute submission. At the end of the day, I
won the case, but I thank Mr Glasgow for his direction in my
first summary trial.

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Mr Glasgow is retiring; I hardly think so. He'll be taking up
the post of Family Responsibilities Commissioner for Far North
Queensland, with the brief to assist the Aboriginal island
communities, a task well suited to the abilities of Mr
Glasgow. He is a kind and gentle person with the ability to
see through all the red tape and false bravado. He will make
decisions that will be well informed and relevant to the
problem solving tasks needed. I have confidence in your
ability to help these people.

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I would like to wish Mr Glasgow and his family all the best in
this new stage of his life. He will make a positive
difference to the people of Far North Queensland.

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Just one more thing, Mr Glasgow, the Townsville community have
been calling you your Honour for the last 2 and a-half years,
but now I suspect you'll be known as Father David. Thank you.

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HIS HONOUR: thank you Sergeant Szendrey for those remarks.
And Aunty Alice, it's wonderful to have you with us at the Bar

table today. I understand that you'd also like to speak about
and say some things to Mr Glasgow.

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AUNTY ALICE DOWDEN: Yes, thank you very much. Mr Glasgow and
Mrs Glasgow, Judge Irwin and all our Magistrates, it's a
really sad occasion for us to see Mr Glasgow go, but we're
also happy in one way because we know he'll do a good job
where he's going.

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We started the Murri Court about 5 years ago and that's when
we first met Mr Glasgow and he was such a wonderful man, and
we worked in Children's Court for the last 4 or 5 years and
we've had some little fun times. The kids loved him; they
absolutely loved him even though they grew up there in front
of him, they'd always say, "He's a good fella isn't he?" and
we'd say, "If you keep coming back he won't be such a good
fella".

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This is one story of Aunty Elsie's there, I've got to tell
this story about one day Mr Glasgow had asked Aunty Elsie
Kennedy to go up and take this child outside and talk to him
and bring him back, and so she brought him back in, went up to
the Bench and David was sitting in his chair, and the chair
sort of slipped and he sort of went backwards, and she turned
round to the child, she said, "Now look what you've done now".
We'd just like to thank him from the Justice Group and like

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all the black fellas here in town. They all love Mr Glasgow,
and on behalf of them all, I'd like to say thank you to you,
David, and thank you to Mrs Glasgow for letting him be a part
of our lives, and we being part of his life. We'd like to
thank you for the contribution that words cannot just express
how we feel about him. We love him so much. Thank you very
much.

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HIS HONOUR: Thank you Aunty Alice and I think that you have
just expressed how everybody feels about Father David who's
sitting next to me here, and I thank all of the speakers for
the heartfelt words that you've delivered to us today. You've
got a lot to live up to having heard from Sergeant Szendrey,
but this is your opportunity to give your last decision from
the Bench of a Court.

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MR GLASGOW: Thank you, your Honour. Your Honours,
distinguished guests, family and friends, some of you know
that I declined his Honour's initial invitation to have a
ceremony such as this today. The reason for my change of mind
is that following my appointment on the 25th of April as
Family Responsibilities Commissioner, my good friend Gordon
Dean, our honorary archivist and historian of our Courts,
convinced me that one way to ensure our Magistrates Courts and
all those who work in it are properly recognised is by such

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ceremonies. I have also to say the thought of having the last word also gave me some encouragement.

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I am aware that the generous words expressed today equally relate to a large number of women and men including many of you here who have worked and still work with our Courts. It has been your suggestions, advice, expertise and cooperation which enabled us to build and maintain an efficient and pleasant workplace providing for the management of our ever increasing workload. You will not be surprised to know that many of the system innovations we implemented here in Townsville have been adopted in other centres. I thank each and every one of you and your predecessors in office for that commitment to the effect of administration of justice.

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I have been very fortunate in my life and in every endeavour. My success has only been achieved with the unselfish love and support of my wife, who I love dearly. We have 5 wonderful children of whom we are very proud. We have a great son-in-law and a beautiful granddaughter. Gaye and I come from large families; we have a number of aunts who are in their nineties. I have an uncle who turned 100 on the 10th of June. His son is sitting here today and has travelled from Brisbane to be here; I thank you for being here.

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Many of you know the great store I place in the family and the
duty I believe all our families have to nurture, love and
protect and support their own. I believe our society will be
greatly improved and acceptable standards of public and
private behaviour maintained if we each took that as our first
responsibility.

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Judge Irwin commenced his address today with an acknowledgment
of the traditional owners of the land on which we sit today.
That acknowledgment is often said at times like this and I've
often wondered what we all feel about that tribute. I can
best explain my feeling by telling you that sitting amongst us
today is a lady who's one of the traditional owners and is and
has been an Elder in our Children's Court and Murri Court for
many years; Mrs Alice Dowden is a proud member of our Court
and a lady of integrity and courage, whose humility and good
humour are evidenced daily. She and her many colleagues and I
see some of them today, Aunty Elsie Kennedy and Uncle Monty
and Mrs Kennedy and Aunty Bessie I think, they have little
tolerance of injustice or irresponsibility. They attend our
Courts each Wednesday and Thursday and from where I sat, never
held back in calling defendants to account for their actions,
explaining in the most direct terms exactly where each had
failed and what the indigenous community and our community as
a whole expected of them. Yet after doing that, always came
the offer of help, counsel and assistance during and after the

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sentence was completed. They are a working group of friends,
indigenous men and women who give their time freely and
without financial reward week in, week out. They have taught
me much about the concepts of the extended family and duty. I
acknowledge that they have given me the confidence to take on
my new role and take the challenges which go with it. As
Australians, we should have very good reason to be proud of
the contributions made every day by representatives of our
country's traditional owners. To me, each acknowledgment
reminds me of my friends here and their counterparts in other
places.

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My life before this Court involved over 20 years in
partnership at Roberts Leu & North, 4 of my partners are here
today. I thank Mr George Roberts, Mr Graham Roberts, Mr Peter
Roberts and Mr Rod Barnes for their continuing friendship. My
partners' generosity supported my other interests and
activities such as the membership of the Law Society, the
Faculty of James Cook Law and Chancellor to 2 Bishops of the
Anglican Church and a number of other charities.

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Your Honour, the running of our Courts could not be so
efficient without a great number of people who work quietly
each day to support and make that happen.

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I acknowledge the help and support many of you have given to us and in particular, to Christine McKenzie and her security staff for the contributions for the safe management of this building. Christine stood out in the manner and way she and her staff dealt with many potential confronting situations including the long running Palm Island riot committals which went for 12 weeks and conducted by our dynamo Magistrate Wendy Cull.

After the hearings concluded, Christine received compliments from all parties including a number of offenders for her fairness and even-handed approach. To Anne Frankham and the many volunteers in the Magistrates Court, who daily provide assistance to members of the public, we could not function without you and your team Anne, and I thank you for your continuous support over the past years.

There are a group of happy ladies who I often met about 6 o'clock at night, who clean our courts each day and prepare them for the next day. Your contribution does not go unnoticed. I suspect I may have had some special favours because my chambers are always bright and pleasant.

Your Honour, two registrars stand out in my view as major contributors to our Courts efficiency; Greg Johannson who can't be here today and Susie Warrington. Their contribution

has been significant. I respect both of them for their proven management skills and say I endeavoured to poach each of them to become my registrar of my commission but each, for good family reasons, declined my offers.

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The success of the Magistrates Court role is largely dependent upon the support of our clerks and I acknowledge the assistance I have received. My first clerk was Chris Hoffman in Brisbane. He was proud of his Murri background but was anxious to be seen first as an Australian. A competent computer operator he taught me that a lap top was not an instrument of torture but could be of some use. If he had one failing, it was his habit to always look directly at you when talking. A particularly disturbing fact when he was driving the car.

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Hilda Wilson was my first clerk in Townsville and remained with me for many years. I thank you Hilda for all your courtesies, your patience and gentle corrections. Your knowledge of our systems and of the locals was a great advantage. I recall conversations on many long journeys on circuit when we solved the problems of the Courts.

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To my last clerk, Jill Ryan, who opened the Court today, my thanks to you for your good humour and generous help. You are indeed the most knowledgeable and capable clerk I have worked

with. I enjoyed working with you and I wish you well
educating my colleague, Peter Smid.

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Of my Magisterial colleagues, I wish to acknowledge my
colleagues here in Townsville and those who served before me.
I wish to make special mention of one. At a recent Murri
Court conference I heard a speech delivered by Laurie Verra.
His understanding in those few short words made me accept
fully that he fully acknowledges and understands the system of
the Murri Courts and I'm sure they are in his capable hands.

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To my good friends Gordon Dean, we travelled together as
Magistrates for 10 years. I cannot thank you enough for your
help and advice and your genial and good company over the
years. Gordon's initial monogram of the history of our Courts
is about to be published and I hope you will continue in that
role after you receive an appointment as an acting Magistrate.
I can see you travelling the country picking up the history as
you go. You and Sue are great and irreplaceable friends.

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Tina Previtera was an early volunteer to country service in
our Courts, not a popular choice. A Magistrate of skill and a
dear friend to Gaye and me, I thank you for travelling from
Brisbane for today and for your expert assistance which was
always available to me.

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I recognise one colleague as a lawyer of excellence and a person who has an understanding of people without equal. She was the inspiration of our Murri Courts in Townsville and it was her advice and assistance that Townsville Elders gained the confidence to commence their Court. Annette Hennessy is an acknowledged leader in innovation and excellence at our Court and will, I am sure, go onto greater roles within the judiciary in time to come. Annette, our Townsville Elders have asked me to publicly record their personal gratitude to you for your help and assistance that you gave freely in establishing their Murri Courts here in Townsville. I am glad to be able to do that today.

I can say without equivocation that I have enjoyed every day I acted as a Magistrate. I now move to the Family Responsibilities Commission in Cairns, a role with great challenges and considerable opportunities. I thank those of you who travelled great distances to be here today - time does not permit me to acknowledge you all individually but I hope to do that later at the North Queensland Club.

Your Honour, may I conclude by thanking you for your friendship and generous help you gave me during your term. Your leadership of our Court has been such to bring it from a time of some difficulty to a sound cohesive and collegiate group of women and men. You have helped us build a reputation

for efficiency in the delivery of justice, second to none in
this country.

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I thank you and the speakers today for your generous words.

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HIS HONOUR: Thank you, David. I can't call you "your Honour"
now because as you reminded me before these proceedings when I
suggested that you might wear your robes that you actually
took them off a couple of days ago and you have moved to the
new role as Family Responsibilities Commissioner.

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I would like to thank everybody who has taken the trouble to
attend today, although it doesn't surprise me that there has
been such a representation across such a broad cross section
of the community which speaks volumes for the fair way in
which David has discharged his functions; both as a Magistrate
and also in his other contacts within the community and within
the legal profession in Townsville and also in Cairns and
elsewhere in Queensland.

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In conclusion, I would like to thank the registrar of the
Supreme Court, Ms Robyn Wegner, for her role also with Justice
Cullinane in making this Court available for us today and I
would like to thank Rebecca Griffin for the considerable work
that she has undertaken to organise today, make sure that we

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are all sitting in the right places at the bench and to make
this occasion a success. Thank you, Rebecca.

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All that remains for me to do is to direct that these
proceedings be recorded by Jill Ryan and to adjourn the Court.
Thank you.

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THE COURT ADJOURNED

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