



Swearing-in of Mr Peter D T Applegarth SC as a
Judge of the Supreme Court, to sit in the Trial Division
Banco Court
Wednesday, 3 September 2008, 9.15am

The Hon Paul de Jersey AC
Chief Justice of Queensland

We welcome Justice Applegarth to the ranks of the Supreme Court, and together with his wife Janelle, to the court community.

The appointment is made now in the unfortunate, but necessary, acknowledgement of Justice Jerrard's inability to sit for the rest of this year, with the need to co-opt senior members of the Trial Division as acting judges of appeal. The intended permanent complement of the court remains at 25 judges, and lest there be doubt, I confirm no more are needed. Justice Applegarth is a welcome, early addition to the court in that sense.

Before going further, I record another anniversary celebrated today, and that is the 10th anniversary of Justice Atkinson's appointment to the court: congratulations to Her Honour.

I speak today for all judges of the court, some of whom unfortunately cannot be present. Justice Kiefel of the High Court has asked me to note her regret. I take the opportunity to welcome the Chief Judge, Judges of the District Court and Magistrates, Judges of the Federal and Family Courts, and Tribunal members.

Justice Applegarth is in a number of respects highly qualified for this appointment.

He is academically so, having graduated with first class honours in law from the University of Queensland, and having been awarded a Bachelor of Civil Laws from the University of Oxford.

He is also well qualified by experience at the bar, where he has practised for the last 22 years. In the year 2000 I was pleased to appoint him senior counsel. His areas of



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particular professional specialty have been professional negligence, commercial litigation, insurance law and media law.

As well as those qualifications drawn from high academic achievement and substantial professional practice, His Honour has exhibited a commendable public professional orientation, serving, for example, on the board of Legal Aid Queensland and on the Law Reform Commission.

He has also, as with all currently serving members of the court, demonstrated an altruistic concern for his fellow citizens, manifested through a number of community-based commitments.

In welcoming Justice Applegarth to this high office, I commend the Attorney-General for his evident determination to maintain the high quality of the court.