



Presentation of Senior Counsel; recognition of newly-admitted
barristers; presentation of sesquicentenary Staff by Bar Association
of Queensland; traditional exchange of Christmas Greetings
Banco Court
Wednesday 14 December 2011, 9:15am

The Hon Paul de Jersey AC
Chief Justice

I welcome the Honourable the Attorney-General, the Presidents, the Chief Judge and Judges of the District Court, Judges of the Federal and Family Courts, the Chief Magistrate and Magistrates, retired Judges and Tribunal members and the Director-General and his departmental officers, and I at once thank the talented members of the Crown Law Choir, conducted by Mr Steven Hogg, barrister-at-law, for their festive contribution this morning.

Announcements by Senior Counsel

I invite Senior Counsel appointed this year to make their announcements

Mr Damian Glen CLOTHIER
Ms Elizabeth Sybil WILSON
Ms Susan Elizabeth BROWN

The volumes of the roll of Queen's Counsel and Senior Counsel are steeped in history. They are on display in the corridor outside. The first entry records the appointment as Queen's Counsel of Mr Charles Lilley. Mr Lilley signed the Roll on 27 December 1865. Mr Samuel Walker Griffith signed on 11 May 1876, and Mr Harry Talbot Gibbs signed on 19 February 1957. I have mentioned only those whose portraits usually hang behind us, but it is the fact that the roll showcases a constellation of talent ultimately characterizing our Bar over a span of 146 years. I say "usually" because the portraits of Lilley and Gibbs are absent being refurbished en-route to the western end of George Street.



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I now invite you, Mr Clothier, Ms Wilson and Ms Brown, as Senior Counsel appointed in the Court's 150th year, to come forward to sign this historic roll which your signatures will now augment.

...

It should be appreciated that although I am the nominated appointer of Senior Counsel, the process is intensely collegial, and benefits from the results of the consultation conducted by the Senior Counsel Consultation Group established by the Bar Council.

The appointments are greatly significant to the appointees, in terms of recognition, career advancement and influence within the profession.

You present as Counsel of singular probity, learning and accomplishment. We are confident you have the capacity to rise to the particular challenge which now confronts you. We wish you well...

Recently admitted barristers

Mr Traves

...

The President says:

"May it please the court. I have the pleasure of announcing that the following practitioners present in court today have become barristers of the Supreme Court of Queensland since 1 July 2010:

(As each barrister's name is announced, that barrister stands and bows to the court.)

Ms Tracey-Jane Conaghan

Mr David Charles Fahl

Mr James Brian Masur

Mr Michael Frank Bonasia

Mr Mark Anthony Lyell

Ms Jennifer Anne Sheean



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Ms Shanna Mary Quinn
Mr Lee Philip Clark
Ms Leith Ann Helsdon
Ms Sarah Jane Maleckas
Ms Elizabeth Ann Gaffney
Mr Robert Harry Kenneth Brandon
Mr Caleb Michael Spicer
Mr John-Paul Mould
Mr Chato Alexander Page
Mr Jason Patrick Todman
Ms Dianne Edna Prendergast
Mr Christopher James Kershaw
Ms Susan Margaret Miles

I am pleased to commend each of these barristers to the court.”

Chief Justice

Queensland remains an Australian jurisdiction in which citizens, natural and corporate, still enjoy the benefit of an independent Bar.

All lawyers should present as specialist professionals. Members of the Bar profess a particular specialisation. It is one which allies them closely with the courts in the discharge of the charter of the delivery of justice according to law.

As legal practitioners, you also assume a responsibility for the maintenance of the rule of law. The rule of law is a stipulation which must never be taken for granted, even in a highly developed and sophisticated society like ours. This truth is strikingly evident in parts of the world today.

We welcome you to the ranks of the Queensland and thence the Australian Bar.



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We urge you to discharge the high public duties of your role, as barristers, with independence and high competence, while exhibiting undoubted integrity. We also encourage you to develop a marked degree of expert speciality through your endeavours.

Presentation of sesquicentenary Staff by Bar Association of Queensland

Mr Traves... (Mr Traves speaks, then passes Staff to Chief Bailiff who moves to bench and rests it on cradle in front of Chief Justice.)

Mr Traves, on behalf of the court, I accept this fine Staff. As well as being an exceptionally beautiful work of art created by Mr David Boucher, whose presence we acknowledge, it symbolizes two important matters: first, the esteem in which the bar holds the court, for which we Judges are enduringly grateful; and second, the authority of the court.

We intend that on ceremonial occasions, the Sheriff, carrying the Staff, will precede the Judges into the courtroom, and then position the Staff behind the Chief Justice. At all other times, the Staff will be on public display, in the new courthouse in the Sir Harry Gibbs Heritage Museum on the ground floor.

On the occasion of the 125th anniversary of the court, the bar presented the court with the impressive maquette of Sir Samuel Griffith, displayed in this courtroom. We now accept this additional very fine presentation with considerable gratitude for the recognition of the institution which it implies.

The existence of a strong independent and progressive bar is very much in the public interest, and Queensland has one. The Council of the Bar Association coordinates the development of those qualities, and I use the opportunity not only to welcome you Mr Traves as the recently installed President of the Association, but also to congratulate Mr Douglas on his effective presidency over the last two years.



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Christmas greetings

Ladies and gentlemen,

We welcome you all to this important annual occasion, at which we acknowledge the work accomplished every year by the courts of law, and the devotion of the Judges and Magistrates to that goal.

This has been a remarkable year for the Supreme Court, with the outstanding sesquicentenary celebration, with the retirement of two long-standing regional Judges and the swearing in of three new Judges, and with the steady progress in the construction of the new metropolitan courthouse due for opening on 3 August 2012. And the year has been marked by something else totally predictable, and that is the steady disposition by the court of its unrelenting caseload.

Returning to the sesquicentenary, I mention that the Supreme Court Library has published a most interesting booklet on the anniversary. Justice Martin kindly edited the book. It amounts to what is I think a fascinating record, not only of the two major events, but also of the wealth of historical material put together at that time. That many photographs of living people are included was not designed just to maximize sales, but it is the fact that the Library has a stall outside for those of us wishing to amaze children, and grandchildren, parents and friends when the presents are opened on Christmas Day, or for the real traditionalists, Boxing Day.

Back to the recent past, I note that the 29th November saw the passing by the Parliament of the *Civil Proceedings Act*, which I have described as one of the most significant piece of legislation bearing on the courts' jurisdictions enacted in recent decades, and importantly, this has happened in the Court's sesquicentenary year. The Act reflects more than a decade's work by the Rules Committee in conjunction with the Office of Parliamentary Counsel. I am grateful, Attorney-General, that you were able to secure the passage of this important legislation within the life of the current Parliament.



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President of the Bar, President of the Law Society, the Judges and Magistrates remain deeply grateful for the support of all practitioners, which as we all know is essential to the optimal discharge of our joint mission.

And to you Mr Attorney, and your departmental officers, we express gratitude for your continuing strong support of the courts, especially in the provision of our necessary resources.

On behalf of all other Judges, and for myself, I wish everyone present a most happy, contented and fulfilling festive season, and a year 2011 similarly characterized.

Mr Attorney...

Mr Solicitor...

President of the Bar Association of Queensland, Mr Traves SC...

President of the Queensland Law Society, Mr Bruce Doyle.

Thank you Mr Doyle, and we respectfully congratulate you on your effective Presidency of the Law Society over the last year.

President of the Australian Bar Association, Mr Stewart SC...

“Let these proceedings be recorded.”

Adjourn the court...