



Admissions Ceremonies

9 July 2012

Banco Court

Chief Justice's observations

Today is an obviously important day, ladies and gentlemen, in your personal histories. We congratulate you on your achievement, and in welcoming your family members and friends this morning, we also thank them: in supporting you through your studies, they will if indirectly have themselves contributed to the delivery of legal services in this State.

Whether you join the practising profession, or deploy your qualification into other areas, corporate law or academia for example, you will always, we hope, value the intellectual discipline and moral commitment which underpin this new qualification. We also hope that whatever your destination, you will recognize and promote the ideal of public service which characterizes your newly-acquired professionalism. A good illustration of that feature would be your preparedness to extend your legal capacities to assist those in our community without privilege or financial means.

Today is also an historically significant day in the life of this courtroom. This is the final occasion on which the courtroom will be used, in the context of the courts' move to the new courthouse later this month.

This Banco Court has been the scene of countless ceremonial sittings, and the venue for much major trial and appellate litigation. And it has been the traditional venue for admission ceremonies. The courthouse has been operating for 31 years. In that time, 295 admission ceremonies have taken place in this courtroom, leading to the admission over 31 years of 17,377 practitioners. Today, ladies and gentlemen, you augment that band.

We expect you will, as officers of the court, attend for one reason or another at the new metropolitan courthouse at 415 George Street, in which court sittings are likely to

commence on 13 August. Her Excellency the Governor will formally open this courthouse on 3 August. That new courthouse magnificently reflects the grandeur of the mission in which we are all involved, which is the delivery of justice according to law.

We wish you well as you embark upon newly-challenging chapters of your lives.