



Admissions ceremony 1 14 July 2014

Chief Justice's observations

Congratulations to you all on your admission as legal practitioners. This is a commendable achievement of which you are rightly entitled to be proud and celebrate with your families and friends whose contribution is to be acknowledged.

Today is also the first day of your professional future. A career in the law can be as demanding as it is rewarding. There will be many challenges in store for you in coming years. How you rise to meet them will be the true mark of your professionalism.

It is important to strive to achieve career goals but do not waste time – or too much of it at least – dwelling on those not reached. As feature writer, Nikki Gemmell, recently reminded us, failure is no bad thing. It humbles us and eventually we learn to laugh at our failures and to learn the lessons of them. The only true failure is in doing nothing.

Another thing – knowledge, hard work and talent justify commensurate financial reward but the true professional does not only work for a fee – commitment to pro bono work will bring other important non-monetary gains and benefits.

Doing something for someone else in need for free helps not only them but ourselves and the community as a whole.

Again, warm congratulations on your significant accomplishment we acknowledge here today in these imposing surroundings. All the very best in however you choose to put your new qualifications to use from now on.

Admissions ceremony 2 14 July 2014

Chief Justice's observations

Ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of all my judicial colleagues, I welcome you to the legal profession.

Today we formally recognise the culmination of your past achievements and practical training, both academic and vocational, in these imposing surroundings befitting the significance of this accomplishment. Your dedication to the pursuit of excellence has served you well. This dedication will also serve you well in the future. No matter the direction your careers take – and the directions available to you are diverse – you are the most recent inheritors of a tradition of public service, independence and professional values that stretches back centuries.

The essential features of this inheritance are, in short: service to the court to ensure the efficient administration of justice; honesty, integrity, and adherence to the highest of ethical standards in all dealings; and the principled use of your specialist knowledge.

This entails a particular responsibility to make the complex machinery of the justice system accessible to the public and, in so doing, guard that fundamental feature of our democratic society, the rule of law.

Undoubtedly the support of friends and family, some of whom are present in the Banco Court today, has been instrumental to achieving your successes. It is wise not to forget that. We extend to them our congratulations. Our thanks also to those practitioners moving today's admissions for aiding in the continuation of this proud tradition of both the court and the profession.

And finally, congratulations to you today's newly admitted practitioners. You now have the formal professional qualifications required to take charge of your inheritance. We trust that you will do so in a manner befitting true professionals, including helping those who need your services but do not have the economic means to adequately reward them.

Admissions ceremony 3 14 July 2014

Chief Justice's observations

Congratulations to you all – and to your family and friends who have also contributed to this outstanding achievement.

As you now know eligibility for admission to the legal profession is not easy to attain. Qualification requires more than mere approved academic performance and demonstrated levels of practical competence. There are important personal and professional qualities

needed as well. High standards of honesty, integrity and discipline are also indispensable qualities for practising law.

Lawyers represent and reinforce the authority of the legal system and respect for the rule of law.

Their professional conduct informs and often determines the level of community confidence in the courts' ability to administer justice fairly and equally.

You will – quite rightly – use your specialised knowledge for personal reward and career advancement, but you have a particular responsibility to uphold the traditions and values of this honourable profession in all respects and at all times.

This includes helping when it is truly needed but cannot be paid for, at least, in financial terms. Commitment to a fair share of pro bono work has its own, non-monetary, benefits. A professional life driven by a sense of public service is preferable to one driven by greed and ambition.

Finally, a word of advice, arrive on time – whether for court, a business meeting or social engagement – it's respectful.

All the very best to you all in your careers wherever they may lead you.

We acknowledge your families and friends and those practitioners who moved your admissions. Always appreciate them.

Admissions ceremony 4 14 July 2014

Chief Justice's observations

The court warmly and sincerely congratulates you all on achieving this significant professional milestone and welcomes you all to the legal fraternity.

You have been admitted to practice law in Queensland. That is no mean attainment. Your hard work and self-discipline has paid dividends. You can be justly proud of that.

The significance of your achievement is not diminished by acknowledging the contribution of your family and friends or the important role played by your professional mentors.

The law is a demanding but highly rewarding career. It has a long tradition and expects the highest ethical standards. It values public service, honesty, integrity and a genuine commitment to pro bono work.

Again, many congratulations and best wishes for the future whatever that might be.

Remember always that your paramount duty is to the court. Don't forget why you chose this profession, the people who helped you arrive at this point in your career or the abiding importance of a reputation for honesty, hard work, and integrity.

Admissions ceremony 5 14 July 2014

Chief Justice's observations

Many warm congratulations on your admission to practice and welcome to the legal fraternity. The court sincerely hopes that your career in the law is a rewarding one.

Your hard-earned knowledge and practical training will equip you well for the demands and challenges which lie ahead.

So will the ongoing support of your family and friends and others in the profession who you will find are usually only too willing to help.

Uphold the traditions and values of the profession. Put public service ahead of the pursuit of monetary reward or personal ambition. Aim to excel and do right in all your dealings. Value honesty and integrity and a commitment to the proper administration of justice. Try to strike a balance living for work and working to live.

Be true to your oaths.

Again, congratulations, welcome and best wishes.