



Presentation of Queen's Counsel; recognition of newly-admitted barristers and traditional exchange of Christmas Greetings Banco Court

Wednesday 17 December 2014, 9:15am

The Hon Tim Carmody Chief Justice

I acknowledge with pleasure the presence of the Honourable the Attorney-General, the Honourable the Attorney-General for the Commonwealth, the representative of the Shadow Attorney-General, the Presidents, Vice-President of the Industrial Court, Judges of the Federal Court and the Family Court, the Chief Judge and Judges of the District Court, members of the Land Court, the Chief Magistrate and Magistrates, Tribunal members and the Director-General and his departmental officers.

Good morning to you all and a warm welcome to the occasion of the presentation of Queen's Counsel, recognition of newly-admitted barristers and traditional exchange of Christmas Greetings.

I thank the talented members of the Crown Law Choir, conducted by Ms Elizabeth Wilson, for their festive contribution this morning. The donated funds go this year to the Queensland Cancer Council.

Announcements by Queen's Counsel

I invite Queen's Counsel appointed this year to make their announcements

Mr John Joseph Allen QC

Mr Phillip (Paul) McQuade QC

Mr David Murray Logan QC

Ms Catherine Claire Heyworth-Smith QC

Mr Peter Robert Franco QC

Dr Jacoba Brasch QC

Mr Jonathan Mark Horton QC

Mr Dominic Bernard O'Sullivan QC



Presentation of Queen's Counsel; recognition of newly-admitted barristers and
traditional exchange of Christmas Greetings
Banco Court
Wednesday 17 December 2014, 9:15am

Mr Michael Cowen QC (Mr Cowen is an apology- he is unable to attend the
Christmas Greetings ceremony)

Now, please come forward to sign the historic roll of Queen's Counsel which dates nearly
150 years to 1865.

*(Queen's Counsel come forward in order of seniority and sign roll. They remain standing
before the bench while the Chief Justice speaks).*

Your appointments reflect exceptional professional achievement and leadership and
significant contribution to the broader community of Queensland.

It demonstrates faith and confidence in you by your peers, the judiciary and the executive.

It is an important office that eludes many. We are confident you have the capacity to rise
to meet its challenge and justify the prestige and prominent status it implies.

(Queen's Counsel return to their seats).

Recently admitted barristers

Mr Doyle

...

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 2014:

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

Mr	Matthew	James	Doyle
Mr	Scott	Thomas	Richardson
Mr	Benjamin	Peter	Strangman
Mr	Logan	Morgan	Campbell



Presentation of Queen's Counsel; recognition of newly-admitted barristers and
traditional exchange of Christmas Greetings
Banco Court
Wednesday 17 December 2014, 9:15am

Mr	James	Robert	Green
Mr	David	James	Ananian-Cooper
Mr	Nathan	John	Shaw
Mr	Stephen	Arthur	Mackie
Ms	Natalie	Lorraine	Morrison
Mr	Leonid (Lonya)	Viktorovitch	Sheptooha
Ms	Bridget	Jane	O'Brien
Mr	Mark	Victor	Guest
Mr	Dane	William	Jones
Mr	Edwin	Donald	Whitton
Ms	Louise	Maree	Syme
Ms	Kirsten	Melinda	Clayton
Ms	Sarah	Elizabeth	Christie
Ms	Tracy	Eliza	Thorp

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

Chief Justice

The Bar works closely with the courts in delivering justice according to law and maintaining the rule of law which has been described as humanity's greatest achievement.

We welcome you to the ranks of the Queensland and Australian Bars in the hope and expectation that you will meet its demands and challenges in the time-honoured tradition.

Christmas greetings

Ladies and gentlemen,

In an era in which many traditions are – for better or for worse – being jettisoned this is one tradition I hope will always remain.....the annual gathering of the legal fraternity to exchange season's greetings.



Presentation of Queen's Counsel; recognition of newly-admitted barristers and
traditional exchange of Christmas Greetings
Banco Court
Wednesday 17 December 2014, 9:15am

This morning it is my pleasure to extend to my colleagues in the judiciary, to the Attorney-General and the government, to all members of the legal profession, to the police, the staff of the courts, and the media who report on the work of the courts, to our community best wishes for a happy and safe Christmas, and a healthy and productive 2015.

These wishes extend throughout the State.

Visiting regional towns has been one of the highlights of the year for me. And what a year it has been.

It would surely be an understatement to describe the year rapidly drawing to a close as an “interesting” one for our judiciary and our legal system!

But in many ways – beyond the “interesting” aspects – the work of the courts has been undertaken with efficiency and in a way the people of Queensland would expect of us all.

I am pleased to be able to thank everyone who has helped ensure that.

In particular I thank my judicial colleagues, and our own staff, who serve us well.

The staff of our courts – at all stations and levels – work willingly and loyally, and for that we are grateful. This, of course, includes our diligent associates of whom much is expected. They are with us for a short time as their careers begin before moving on but they are always fondly remembered.

The interaction between the courts and the police service is extensive and vital. I thank Commissioner Stewart and his personnel, at all ranks, for the contribution they make to the smooth working of the courts, and our system of criminal justice.



Presentation of Queen's Counsel; recognition of newly-admitted barristers and
traditional exchange of Christmas Greetings
Banco Court
Wednesday 17 December 2014, 9:15am

To the Barristers and Solicitors who comprise the broadly termed legal profession, I thank you for your contribution, and for your continued professionalism. I value it, my colleagues value it, and I am sure your clients appreciate it as well.

I also thank the Attorney-General, the Government, and the Legislature, as well as the other arms of federal, state and local government we engage with for your support in our joint task of administering justice. The Director-General and his departmental officers responsible for court support services are owed a special debt of gratitude.

A higher profile - an opportunity more than a challenge

I want to make a couple of brief observations – and I stress “brief” as I do not want to transgress on your patience as a busy year ends in a busy festive season!

This year, the courts and our legal system have enjoyed a significantly higher media, and public profile.

There are a number of reasons for that – well known to you all I am sure.

One reason, the extensive coverage given to what are termed “high profile” cases, will I hope give us all cause to reflect on the future relationship between the courts, the whole legal system, and the community we ultimately serve.

Tens of thousands of citizens walk past this complex – and court complexes across our vast state – every working day.

I sometimes wonder what they think happens within this complex – if they think about it at all that is!



Presentation of Queen's Counsel; recognition of newly-admitted barristers and
traditional exchange of Christmas Greetings
Banco Court
Wednesday 17 December 2014, 9:15am

I especially wonder whether, as they would do when passing police station, an ambulance station or a fire station, they have any appreciation that in a real way this “station” is serving them, and their fellow citizens.

The “mystery” surrounding how the courts function is unhelpful in my view.

The media coverage given to “high profile” cases helps, to an extent, ease the mystery – and that has undoubtedly happened this year.

But it is my strong view that much, much more needs to be done to inform and even educate the community – our diverse community – on the work of the courts and the centrality of the rule of law to our whole legal system and its relevance to their own lives.

I believe the more citizens understand our role, and how we function, the more confidence they will have in the courts, and in key aspects of the work of the courts. The more they will understand the role they have to play, of observing that justice is done, including but not limited to jury service.

We appreciate the role the media has in reporting the work of the courts – and even though coverage generally is probably but a fraction of what it once was – it remains important and valuable.

There are several ways I believe we can enhance the community's understanding – and I hope appreciation – of the work of the courts within the legal system.

One, and this is an on-going debate and a work in progress, the televising and or broadcast of a limited number of court proceedings should in my view actually happen in the coming year.

I know there are varying opinions on this among my colleagues – and in the legal profession.



Presentation of Queen's Counsel; recognition of newly-admitted barristers and
traditional exchange of Christmas Greetings
Banco Court
Wednesday 17 December 2014, 9:15am

Implemented carefully, and sensitively, I believe it can add to the community's understanding of the work of the courts – and enhance their confidence in our work. Public access to the courts is a community-wide right not the privilege of a few. There is also a corresponding social duty to participate even if it is only to self-inform and observe.

Another future challenge is the excess of demand of legal graduates for job opportunities with the profession over supply. The profession's continuing ability to absorb ever increasing university graduates will need to be confronted and debated.

A courteous and civil fraternity

My final point is I believe an appropriate one to make as we enter the season of goodwill.

I do not want to in any way evade reality.

The last few months have been difficult for the judiciary....and there have been flow on consequences of course for the profession.

My one request is that I want us to at all times in our professional association and work maintain a high level of civility and courtesy.

I believe that is the very least the community expects of us.

Our differences, real or imagined, may continue.

I hope they diminish even further – and in the meantime I hope we can always be civil to each other.

On that note of goodwill, I extend to each and every one a Happy Christmas – and a most enjoyable New Year!



Presentation of Queen's Counsel; recognition of newly-admitted barristers and
traditional exchange of Christmas Greetings
Banco Court
Wednesday 17 December 2014, 9:15am

Mr Attorney...

President of the Bar Association of Queensland, Mr Doyle...

President of the Queensland Law Society, Mr Brown...

"Let these proceedings be recorded."

Adjourn the court...