



**SUPREME COURT
OF QUEENSLAND**

Swearing In Ceremony for Lincoln Crowley QC
Banco Court
Monday, 13 June 2022

**The Hon Helen Bowskill
Chief Justice**

We are honoured to have here today Chief Justice Kiefel, and Justices Keane and Edelman of the High Court, as well as many serving and retired judicial officers of Federal and State courts and tribunals. We welcome you all, distinguished guests, members of the profession, ladies and gentlemen.

I also acknowledge the first and traditional owners of this land, and pay my respects to their Elders, those who have spoken for the land in the past and who do so today.

Today's ceremony is an important part of our legal history and tradition. Although it feels as though we have had a few of these ceremonies lately, it must be remembered that our new colleague, Justice Lincoln Crowley, is only the 133rd judge of this Court, in its 163 year history. So it is indeed a very special occasion, including because of the historical significance of Justice Crowley being the first Indigenous person to be appointed a judge of a Supreme Court. It is also an occasion of celebration for Justice Crowley, and his family and friends, for this important professional achievement. We warmly welcome all of them, particularly his Honour's wife, Jacinta, and their children.

On behalf of all the Judges, I congratulate Justice Crowley on his appointment. Almost all the Judges are here, and all join in welcoming Justice Crowley to the court. Justices Fraser, Henry, North and Crow send their apologies as they are on leave. Justice Freeburn join us from where he is on circuit in Townsville. And Justice Applegarth sends his apologies as he is unavoidably sitting in a long trial that had to resume early today. Many others have expressed their regret at being unable to be here today, including three former Chief Justices of this Court, Paul de Jersey, Tim Carmody and Catherine Holmes.

Justice Crowley is, of course, eminently qualified for this position. His Honour is highly regarded as a lawyer with excellent legal skills and acumen, developed over the course of a legal career spanning 25 years so far, first as a solicitor, and then as a barrister, initially serving as a Crown Prosecutor before moving to the private Bar. His Honour has a keen eye for detail and is known to demonstrate an impressive ability to absorb and synthesise large bodies of material in the context of the complex Commonwealth and State criminal trials he has been involved in, including in serious organised crime, Corporations Act, fraud and corruption offences, to name a few. His Honour is also reputed to be a person of great

compassion and collegiality – the latter demonstrated by his mentoring of many junior lawyers. All of those skills and qualities ably equip Justice Crowley for the role he now begins as a member of a collegiate and mutually supportive court.

The trust and confidence of the community we serve in the judicial arm of government is essential to the proper functioning of our democracy. That trust and confidence is only enhanced by the appointment of an eminently qualified lawyer such as Justice Crowley, whose appointment, in addition, broadens the composition of this bench, edging ever closer to the composition of society.

Today is a landmark moment in the history of our nation, an achievement of greater diversity within a Supreme Court. Thirty years ago, two significant things happened. In March 1992, Margaret White was the first woman to be appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland; and in June 1992, the High Court handed down its decision in *Mabo*, another important landmark in our history, involving recognition, albeit belated, of Indigenous rights in land – an aspect of equality before the law. When Justice White was earlier sworn in, as Master of the Supreme Court, she remarked upon the qualities she most admired in judges, “those of calmness, equitableness, moderation, wisdom and courtesy”. With the appointment of Justice Crowley, we add another person of such qualities to our bench, and we reinforce the importance of equality before the law.

Justice Crowley, all of the judges warmly welcome you to the Court. We look forward to working with you, and wish you a long, happy and enjoyable career as a member of this Court.