



**ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT, REBECCA TRESTON QC
ON THE OCCASION OF A WELCOME CEREMONY FOR
HIS HONOUR JUDGE JEFFREY CLARKE
HIS HONOUR JUDGE ROWAN JACKSON QC
HER HONOUR JUDGE GERALDINE DANN
ON THURSDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 2020**

1. May it please the court.
2. Your Honours share a special day today. It is necessarily the case that sharing a day like this comes with the sharing the allotted time available to speak. In the interests of brevity, may the Bar express to you all a confidence in each of your ability to faithfully discharge your new office.
3. **JUDGE JACKSON.** May the Bar start by welcoming your wife Peta, your sons Jack and Hamish, your mother Pat and your brother Ian today. It is a great pleasure for the Bar to share this happy occasion with your Honour's family.
4. Your Honour came to the law slightly later in life than the average university graduate. By the time you arrived at the Bar, your Honour had studied medicine for a period of time, and before that was a self-trained mechanic and ran a business which specialised in the restoration of Alfa Romeos. Your Honour would have excelled in any one of these professions, but ultimately you settled on life as a barrister. You graduated from the University of Queensland in 1998 with a Bachelor of Laws (first class honours). While at University your Honour was awarded a number of highly coveted University awards and prizes, perhaps most notably the University Medal in Law. Your Honour was an Associate to the Honourable John Dowsett AM.
5. Since you were called to the Bar in 1998, you have practised predominantly in commercial matters. Your work ethic is renowned, often starting your day at 4:00am. With such an early start, it is no wonder your Honour does not take kindly to bad coffee. Many of your commercial colleagues have commented on your Honour's near-photographic memory, with the enviable ability to read a 250 page pleading only once, but still be able to recall what is pleaded in the particulars to paragraph 74(b)(ii) without missing a beat. Many of the same commercial colleagues have had to remove dirty, grease stained car parts from your Honour's desk in order to put down a folder or text book. Their praise for your dedication to both your work and your Alfa car parts comes in equal measure.
6. Aside from your work at the private Bar, your Honour has been an active supporter of the Bar Association of Queensland having held a number of positions including member of the Bar Council, member of the Professional Ethics Committee, the Professional Conduct Committee and the New Bar Committee. You have also been a co-author and maker for the

pre-admission ethics exam for the Bar Practice Course, and a presenter at the Bar Association Annual Conference. The Bar acknowledges your significant contribution, and we value it. The Vice President particularly asks that I record, on behalf of the Bar, how keenly we will feel the loss of you on Bar Council. Your wisdom, fairness and integrity will be much missed.

7. Your chamber mates too, will miss the generosity with which you gave your time to them, especially to the most junior. You always had an open door for difficult legal or ethical issues and you could always be relied upon to give a considered, well-reasoned, and thoughtful response.
8. Your Honour is however, going to the right place for the exercise of sound judgement, fairness and compassion. This is a busy court which will benefit from your intellect and experience. You are unlikely to ever be called upon to fix a car, but given the daily commute from Brisbane to the Gold Coast it might just be a useful skill to have on hand.
9. **JUDGE CLARKE.** Your Honour, is no stranger to the joys and responsibilities of judicial office. Since January 2015 you have expended your time, energy and talents in performing your duties as a Magistrate, which at times required you to conduct court at 5 different centres each 10 day working cycle in addition to being on call for 24 hours a day, each day of the week, for urgent chamber applications. Your demonstrated commitment, and extraordinary capacity for hard work makes you an invaluable addition to this court.
10. The Bar Association extends a particular welcome to your wife Catherine, and your close friends Elizabeth and Graham Gross, who join us here today.
11. Your experience working at the Courts started many years ago, your first introduction to the inner workings of the court and the law being when you were employed as a clerk in the Magistrates Court, travelling between courthouses at Mt Morgan, Sarina, Proserpine, and Gympie.
12. Later, you were employed as an instructing clerk and listing officer at the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. At the time you were working full time and studying law part time. Upon your admission as a Barrister in 1995, you were appointed as Legal Officer, and as a Crown Prosecutor at the ODPP.
13. In 2001, you left the ODPP to join the private Bar in Rockhampton. Your Honour was involved in a wide variety of complex criminal, civil and industrial law matters, and appeared in all courts across Queensland from the Magistrates Court to the Court of Appeal.
14. As a Magistrate, your Honour has been described as thorough and diligent beyond all measure. Your Honour is known to commence hearing matters already well read into the case. Your preparedness, together your understanding of human nature, will continue to serve your Honour well.
15. Outside of work, your Honour has many interests. Amongst them, your Honour is a tragic Wallabies supporter. In recent times your Honour has thrown your support behind the Italian Rugby team, believing that they have a better chance of winning the world cup than the Wallabies. You have been known to love to cycle, attend the gym, and enjoy golf. The Bar Association hopes these endeavours will survive the transition to the District Court.

16. **JUDGE DANN**, Your Honour joins the Court following 27 years of experience in the legal industry. In celebrating today your Honour is joined by your husband Paul, children Douglas, Josephine and Isabel, mother Louise and brother Bill.
17. Your Honour graduated from the University of Queensland with a Bachelor of Arts in 1989, and a Bachelor of Laws in 1991. Your Honour also obtained a Master of Laws from the University of Melbourne in 1999.
18. Your Honour was admitted as a solicitor in 1993. Since then, you have worked in various private legal practices, in Victoria, London and Brisbane. Your Honour was also Associate to Justice Margaret White who joins your Honour today.
19. Your Honour was called to the Bar in October 2008, and practised predominantly in the areas of industrial, employment and regulatory law. Your practice also included coronial inquests, commissions of inquiry and regulatory prosecutions.
20. Your Honour will give Judge Jackson a run for is money in the photographic memory stakes. You are similarly renowned for your ability to read and absorb vast quantities of information and to recall the minute details, without any need for notes. That skill will serve your Honour well on the bench, and allow your Honour to recall, without the benefit of a transcript, the occasional inconsistencies in things said to you, including from practitioners. An even temperament is the gold standard of fine judicial conduct, and your Honour has always displayed an admirable equilibrium, with the possible exception of when Australia is not doing as well at the Gabba as your Honour would hope.
21. Your Honour has also managed to achieve the seemingly elusive goal of work life balance- you have done your best for your clients for nearly three decades, while being an accomplished fisherperson as you like to call it, a cricket tragic, a devoted parent to your adored son and the consummate host of dinner parties.
22. Your Honour's contribution to the Bar Association's various CPD seminars, Conferences and subcommittees over many years has been invaluable, but in particular in the Industrial and Employment Law space. Your most assistance with the recent development of a sexual harassment policy for the Bar was an important step in improving the workplace for the profession. For all this the Bar sincerely thanks you.
23. To each of your Honours, the Bar Association of Queensland and its members extends its sincere best wishes on your well-deserved appointments, and wish your Honours long and satisfying careers on the Bench.
24. May it please the court.