



Admissions Ceremony - 1

Monday, 8 July 2013, 11:45am

Chief Justice's observations

With my colleagues, I congratulate you, ladies and gentlemen, upon your admission to the legal profession. You will rightly be experiencing the exultation of finally having secured this important qualification, after years of sometimes arduous application to disciplined academic study – no doubt with the enthusiastic support of your families and friends. Congratulations, and although I speak of past achievement, you of course identify that as but the gateway to an avenue of lifetime professional development. We hope you continue to draw on the wise inspiration of family and friends as you progress along that avenue, as well as drawing on the experience of your professional colleagues and that of the professional associations.

The courts of law greatly value and depend upon the true professionalism of barristers and solicitors. To assure justice according to law, which is the mission of the courts, the courts must be able to rely on the high quality of those who advise in solicitors' offices, and those who present clients' cases in the courtroom. Now of course integrity is an absolute given. But so is the capacity of the advocate, for example, to support the administration of justice, when necessary, independently of the interests of the client. I mention this for emphasis, while acknowledging this is not the occasion for an ethics lecture.

It is however the occasion to remind you, as you enter the profession, of its essence: public service. Whenever you act for a client, you advance the public interest in a sense, for you make your professional expertise available to those lacking it. But public service should extend more broadly. For example, you should not expect all of your application as a lawyer to be remunerated. We hope that you will be prepared, for no financial reward, to deploy your newly recognised qualifications in aid of those without privilege in our community – the weak, the marginalised, the friendless, those lacking means. That will be essential if you are to acquire true professionalism, as that condition is understood in this contemporary life.

You have reached an important milestone. Whatever your particular professional destination, this qualification will serve you well. The challenge, is that you ensure its deployment for the beneficial service of the community. We wish you well as you rise to that challenge, which we are now confident is certainly within your grasp.

Admissions Ceremony - 2

Monday 8 July 2013, 12:20pm

Chief Justice's observations

Congratulations, ladies and gentlemen, on your accession to the legal profession. You will, perfectly reasonably, be basking in the lustre of this considerable achievement, the culmination of years of disciplined study and demanding practical legal training.

Congratulations to you, and also to your families and friends – your supporters – many of whom we welcome to the Banco Court today.

Our messages to you on this occasion, while important, may be captured briefly: professional standards are very high in this State – natural inclinations assure that, but so do competitive forces, and they are strong; courts receive, and expect, ethical standards within the profession at the highest level; and true professionalism carries with it a real, not merely token, commitment to pro bono work of not insubstantial proportion. Please acknowledge those truths, and do your utmost to ensure they are reflected in the way you practise your profession.

We wish you well as you move forward in your professional lives, and repeat our sincere congratulations to you, and your supporters, upon your attaining this very significant qualification.

Admissions Ceremony - 3

Monday 8 July 2013, 2:15pm

Chief Justice's observations

Ceremonies for the admission of legal practitioners form an important part of the work of the court. We always delight in sensing the excitement of those newly admitted to the

profession, and the pride of family and friends who will invariably have contributed to individual successes.

It is a great personal achievement; the precedent course of study is demanding in many respects, as is the required practical training. Completing the requirements for admission demands intelligence, application, fortitude and endurance. We Judges congratulate you, ladies and gentlemen, and acknowledge, on your behalf, the usually unstinting support which you will have received from family and friends.

Whether you actively pursue a career of professional practice, or utilize your qualifications in other ways – working for a company, for example, or at a university, that support from others will no doubt continue to underpin the confidence with which you progress.

The collegial thrusts of the professional associations are designed both to monitor your fulfilment of the stringent ethical obligations to which you are now subject, and to promote your professional development. In our highly competitive contemporary professional situation, you will need continually to hone and expand your knowledge and skills: active participation in the educative initiatives of the professional bodies should facilitate that.

You will ultimately justify the privileged position which attends your newly acquired qualification if you continually recognize the corollary of that privilege, which is service of the public. In an era where courts and the public are, more than ever, vigilant to ensure maintenance of high standards within the profession, we expect your motivation to surpass the purely personal satisfaction which may come from material things: the lawyer worthy of commendation will work willingly for those deserving clients who cannot afford to pay, contribute talent to community organizations which do good work, and participate in public debate about issues going to the roots of our freedom under the law.

We wish you well as you embrace these substantial public responsibilities, and again, congratulate you on the personal success you and your families rightly celebrate today.

Admissions Ceremony - 4

Monday 8 July 2013, 2.50pm

Ladies and gentlemen,

My colleagues and I welcome you to the legal profession. Your admission today bespeaks intellectual application and moral commitment. It will usually also reflect substantial support from parents, siblings and friends, and we welcome many of them to the Banco Court this afternoon. And we congratulate you on your personal achievement.

The hallmark of our profession is the deployment of our particular talent and knowledge to assist those who lack those things. We would hope that those you assist in that way will include persons without means or position in the community. That will reflect true professionalism.

You join a truly noble profession, and it is fitting you have been admitted in such grand, contemporary surroundings. Our joint mission, the delivery of justice according to law, is indeed a grand mission. It is integral to maintenance of the rule of law.

We warmly wish you well as you proceed now to exercise new entitlements and embrace new responsibilities.
