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IN THE DISTRICT COURT  
OF NEW SOUTH WALES

THE CHIEF JUDGE

5 THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE D PRICE AM  
AND THE JUDGES OF THE COURT

THURSDAY 28 JULY 2022

10 **SWEARING-IN CEREMONY OF HIS HONOUR JUDGE WILLIAM  
FITZSIMMONS SC AS A JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT OF NEW  
SOUTH WALES**

Ms G Bashir SC on behalf of the NSW Bar Association

15 Ms J Ball Treasurer on behalf of the Law Society of NSW

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HIS HONOUR: Chief Judge I have the honour to announce that I have been  
appointed a judge of this Court, I present my commission.

20 PRICE J: Thank you Judge, I will have the commission read. Judicial  
Registrar would you please read the commission.

(Commission read)

25 (Affirmations of office taken)

PRICE J: The oaths will be placed in the court archives and the Bible will be  
suitably inscribed and presented to you Judge Fitzsimmons as a memento of  
this occasion.

30 Judge Fitzsimmons it is a great pleasure to welcome you to the District  
Court of New South Wales. You bring to the Court a wealth of experience  
particularly in the Court's civil jurisdiction. On behalf of all the judges of the  
District Court, I wish you well and congratulate you and wish you all the very  
best in your judicial career.

35 HIS HONOUR: Thank you Chief Judge.

PRICE J: Ms Bashir.

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BASHIR: May it please the Court. I begin by acknowledging the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet. They are of course but one clan that make up the Eora Nation.

I pay my respects to their elders past and present and I extend that respect to  
5 First Nations people here today. On behalf of the New South Wales Bar, I welcome the appointment of your Honour Judge William Fitzsimmons SC to the bench of the District Court.

Today we acknowledge another accomplished senior counsel from the private Bar with a wealth of experience in criminal law, public liability, personal  
10 injuries and the common law, being appointed to largest trial court in Australia. Judge Fitzsimmons to your many colleagues and friends, you are a disciplined, fearless and driven opponent at the Bar Table, but you are also a mentor to many, a generous, enthusiastic and loyal friend, and a devoted family man. To both clients and opponents alike, you are seen as 'unflappable'. We celebrate  
15 your appointment today.

We welcome your family here, we're happy to see a large turnout from the family today and recognise the contribution that they have made to supporting you on your journey to this great achievement in your professional life, and the next chapter of your life in law.

20 Your Honour was educated at Marist Brothers, Kogarah. You excelled at debating and public speaking. Indeed, it was while your Honour was involved in public speaking that the idea of going to the Bar first formed in your mind. In 1984, straight out of school, you enrolled in a Bachelor of Laws, at what was then the New South Wales Institute of Technology, while at the same time  
25 finding employment as a clerk at Wilshire Webb Solicitors.

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In April 1986 you resigned from the firm and went to the New South Wales Police Academy at Goulburn. By June of that year, you were sworn-in as a constable and stationed at Darlinghurst and Kings Cross. Your Honour may have come across a few colourful characters there. Before long there  
5 was a quick transfer to the police prosecutors, but not even the prosecutors could hold you and by February 1988 you had resigned from the police and returned to the firm of Wilshire Webb. In 1989 your Honour completed your law degree at UTS.

Of course, the brevity of your stint with the police did not mean that your  
10 Honour's proper policing instincts and skills dulled. Shortly after your return to the firm, which was located in Sussex Street, the owner of a handbag shop in the ground floor arcade cried out for help as the store had just been robbed. Your Honour sprang into action, ran down the stairs, identified the thief and pursued him into a grimy alleyway before effecting a citizen's arrest and having  
15 him delivered to a face justice.

Your Honour was shortly afterwards happily called to the Bar in February 1990. You read with James Bennett, as his Honour was then, sharing his room on 13th floor Selborne Chambers, at a time when the head of Chambers was Cecily Backhouse. Having observed his Honour James Bennett as a  
20 senior prosecutor in the Court of Criminal Appeal from the other end of the bar table, albeit some years later, I know that your Honour had a wonderful tutor to guide you in your pupillage. In your Pupillage Report your tutor concluded with the following comment: "Committed to his profession and will, I expect, evolve to the highest standards." Very prescient comments, indeed. After one year  
25 on 13<sup>th</sup> floor Selborne you moved to 9 Windeyer Chambers, where you

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remained until your appointment.

Initially, your Honour practised in criminal law, running jury trials in the District Court and the Supreme Court in manslaughter and arson cases. You were retained as a primary counsel in RSPCA criminal prosecutions, and by  
5 the Commonwealth DPP in complex criminal trials. Over time your practice grew to include a significant amount of work for the major insurers, including public liability and compulsory third-party litigation. You were regularly retained on behalf of CTP insurers in significant liability disputes and catastrophic claims. Your Honour appeared often in the ACT Supreme Court  
10 on common law matters and as an assessor and part-time tribunal member of an appeals tribunal, under the ACT Lifetime Care and Support (Catastrophic Injuries) Appointment Regulation.

Your Honour is reputed to have written a prodigious number of advices and accumulated an enormous number of briefs. Indeed, I am told that news  
15 of your Honour's appointment was greeted with not only hearty congratulations but also a little relief - and in some cases jubilation - because it freed up a considerable amount of work for others at the personal injury Bar.

By my quick estimate, there are 36 of your Honour's cases reported in the *Motor Vehicle Reports* alone. There are countless other unreported  
20 decisions. One notable reported case stood out: *Logar v Ambulance Service of NSW Sydney Region* [2017] NSWCA 274: 84 MVR 216 - in which your Honour appeared for the successful respondent on appeal, with the primary issues being:

– the scope of an ambulance driver's duty of care when on an emergency  
25 run;

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- whether reasonable care was taken by the ambulance driver when approaching and driving through an intersection;
  - issues related to the application of a novel provision of the *Civil Liability Act 2022*; and
- 5       – consideration of the ‘social utility’ of an ambulance driver responding to an emergency when determining whether that person breached a duty of care.

These are all important questions for our emergency services workers and our community.

10       Your Honour had also appeared in the District Court in that matter.

Other cases involved prosecutions for child exploitation offences, importation offences and advices in complex fraud and slavery prosecutions on behalf of the Commonwealth DPP.

In 2003 your Honour was appointed as a CARS Assessor, pursuant to  
15       the *Motor Accidents Compensation Act 1999*, a position which you retained until the formation of the Personal Injuries Commission. Your Honour was reputed to approach that task with objectivity and fairness.

Despite having an extremely busy practice, your Honour gave generously of your time and expertise to mentor no less than nine junior members of your  
20       floor, to be a lecturer in the Bar Practice Course and to present CPD seminars. You were a member of the Bar Association’s Common Law Committee from 2010 - 2019 and regularly represented the interests of the Bar Association at various government and regulatory forums. Your Honour was also a member of the Law Council’s Personal Injuries and Compensation Committee. The Bar  
25       is very grateful, your Honour for these commendable, extensive and voluntary

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contributions.

Your Honour took silk in 2019, next after John Catsanos, and in the same cohort as now Justices Elizabeth Raper and Elisabeth Peden.

Behind your Honour's professional persona there are many and varied sporting interests. I am told you were keen runner and a rugby referee for many year, officiating at school, GPS and Sydney sub-district matches. In what seems to a precursor to both judicial temperament and exhibiting an early penchant for swift ex-tempore judgments, your Honour did not hesitate to make tough calls and not only blew the whistle when necessary, but always took time when issuing infringements to give reasons to the players.

Of course, your Honour is not only happy on dry land, I understand that your Honour has a love of what has been described quite simply as: messing about in boats. When I first heard this, I checked with organisers of the Great Bar Boat Race, but I was told that your Honour's nautical interests did not align with theirs. It was subsequently explained to me that your interests lie in much faster, sleeker craft, and frequently include the addition of water skiing. It seems your Honour's dedication to the personal injury extends beyond your occupation!

My concern that your Honour might in fact *not only* be attracted to potential personal injuries outside the law, *but also* be an adrenaline junkie, grew deeper when I heard that you also enjoyed a sky dive or two. I heard that one sky diving firm reassured customers that they accepted Zip Pay - jump now, pay later. I suppose that might have been enough to inspire confidence in a personal injury barrister, but your Honour - for the sake of the citizens of New South Wales, the Bar requests that you please take good care of yourself

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now that you are a member of this Honourable Court.

Your Honour, for more than three decades you have been a true and loyal friend and a dedicated barrister for your clients. Moreover, you are a caring and supportive husband and father. There is a genuine sense of loss,  
5 at the Bar, particularly among those in your Honour's old chambers. But the Bar's loss is the District Court's gain and that of those who come before this Honourable Court seeking justice.

Your Honour, we wish you every success in the years to come. May it please the Court.

10 PRICE J: Thank you Ms Bashir. Ms Ball on behalf of the Law Society of New South Wales.

BALL: May it please the Court. I too acknowledge the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, the traditional owners of the land on which this Court stands, and pay my respects to their elders, present and emerging. I acknowledge any  
15 Indigenous Australians present today.

I come before the Court on behalf of the solicitors of New South Wales, to offer congratulations and wish your Honour well in your appointment to the District Court.

Mindful of the important role family has played in your Honour's life, I  
20 acknowledge your wife Sue, your beloved three sons, and your extended family and friends who are all joining us here today.

Your Honour is remembered by the solicitors as a brilliant lawyer, a formidable litigator, and one of the most generous mentors around. One of the first cases your Honour took after being called to the bar was a building case,  
25 in which you represented a former mayor in the Local Court. The solicitor that

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instructed your Honour (a long-time friend and now a Member of the Personal Injury Commission) still recalls the eight long days in court and the seemingly endless line of expert witnesses called. It probably wasn't the most exhilarating start to your career. I am told by its end, that both of you felt you  
5 had had enough of building cases for your entire career. However, the friendship endured, and it was just before your appointment to the bench, that your Honour acted as counsel for an injured claimant in the Personal Injury Commission before her - a welcome bookend to your remarkable career at the Bar.

10 Your Honour inspires an enormous degree of loyalty in your colleagues - measured over decades and felt strongly amongst solicitors. Solicitors have spoken about how much they enjoyed instructing you; as prepared as humanly possible, aware of the pressures they faced, and devastatingly effective in the courtroom. Several partners at leading firms have also commented about how  
15 much their junior solicitors grew in stature after working alongside you. Interestingly, when these same partners were asked to describe your Honour, they reached for adjectives more commonly used to describe responders. "Fearless," said one. "Courageous," said another. "He never takes a backward step," observed a third. Your Honour is regarded as one of the State's most  
20 formidable litigators, "a fighter," across a broad range of areas, including criminal law, insurance, personal injury, and common law.

In the world of insurance law, your Honour reportedly once caused something of an arms race. Which is to say there was a race to see who could get your arms around a case. The partner of one leading law firm, which  
25 represents injured claimants rather than insurance companies, said:



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“We just realised he was too effective to have on the other side, so we hired him as our counsel.”

5 This relationship has proven so mutually beneficial, that within that firm, your Honour was given the moniker, “Lovely Bill.” However, that same partner was quick to note:

10 “We wouldn’t have hired him if he wasn’t so personal and down to earth. He’s great working with our clients; he’s the kind of person who can connect with people from every station in life.”

He recalled one particularly charged moment, when a distressed client locked the two of you in reception and stole your phone. Not only did you handle this moment with equanimity, together you got an excellent outcome for your client in court.

Your Honour’s entire career has been a vivid illustration of the New South Wales Bar’s Motto: “Servants of all, yet of none.”

When not practicing law, your Honour still referees rugby and enjoys a weekend bike ride with a small peloton of lawyers. However, the Lycra-wearing litigators have noticed that your Honour’s love of cycling does not extend to riding uphill and all of your suggested rides are of a certain gradient. Perhaps having ascended so many mountains in your legal career, your Honour can be forgiven for avoiding the literal ones on your weekend.

Your Honour now brings a wealth of knowledge, personal integrity, and insight to the District Court of New South Wales. The people of our State are privileged to be served by you in this role, and solicitors have every confidence that you will make an exceptional judicial officer.

On behalf of the solicitors of New South Wales, congratulations, your Honour. As the Court pleases.

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PRICE J: Thank you Ms Ball. Judge.

HIS HONOUR: Chief Judge, Chief Justice Bell, President Ward, Ms Bashir, Ms Ball, fellow judges and justices, former colleagues, family and friends. I would also like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we  
5 meet, Gadigal of the Eora Nation, and I pay my respects to their elders, past, present and emerging.

Thank you, Ms Bashir and Ms Ball, for your kind words. When I was asked to proffer the names of those who may provide some insight in my past, I thought I was circumspect, however it appears not.

10 I first wish to say that I am incredibly humbled and honoured to be now counted as a fellow judge of this Court. I am also grateful for the warm welcome I have received from you Chief Judge and the Judges of the Court. It has given me great comfort in confronting the challenges that will doubt be ahead.

15 I would also like to acknowledge the assistance I received from your Honour's associate Ms Freeman as well as Ms Garvey and Ms Cosmos of judicial support, and the tipstaves. Since the announcement of my appointment their assistance has made my transition to the Court seamless.

20 Growing up as the youngest of seven children, where hand me downs was the norm, and both my parents worked literally day and night to provide for their children, several core beliefs were instilled in me by my parents, which have defined who I am today.

The first was a strong work ethic. It is fair to say that my parents lead by example in this regard. My father worked during the day as an accountant in  
25 an insurance company. At night he worked in his own business, from a home

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home study, as a tax agent. My mother was a trained nurse who worked night shift.

The daily routine involved my mother arriving home from work in the morning to supervise our breakfast, pack our lunches and send us off to  
5 school. She would do the same for my father. With seven children there was always housework to be done. If she was lucky, she might grab an hour or two of sleep through the day before preparing for the afternoon onslaught of homework and dinner. My mother had us all but fed before my father arrived home, only for him to have dinner on his own, before he retired to his study for  
10 a night of work. My mother would then grab a few hours sleep before heading off to night shift.

The second lesson stems from the first. With hard work you can achieve anything. All seven of us were instilled with a sense of self-belief, and given the opportunity to pursue our dreams, as long as they first involved as my  
15 parents would say, "getting your ticket."

The third core value was the sense of right and wrong, or what became for me, a sense of justice. It was that sense of justice which motivated a robust cross-examination of a witness who is being something less than candid, or a passionate submission on behalf of the litigant who had been  
20 wronged. I promise to the profession today, I will do my best to leave my cross-examination at the bar table.

It is that strong sense of justice that has always driven my quiet ambition to be a judge.

My parents influence and support did not end upon commencement of  
25 my law degree. I made the decision to be admitted to the Bar as soon as I

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finished university., This meant that I commenced my career as a barrister with little behind me. Within 12 months, and having just turned 24, I needed an overdraft and a loan to purchase chambers. My father did not hesitate in surrendering the title deeds to his home as security for my loans. When I look  
5 back it was extraordinary leap of faith given the loan my father was securing would have been at least half the value of his own home. It was truly a special day several years later when I returned those deeds upon gaining financial independence.

My early years at the Bar involved appearing for accused in Legal Aid  
10 criminal trials, mostly in the District Court. My mother always took an interest in my cases and insisted on attending court to hear my closing addresses to the jury.

This day comes with a tinge of sadness that my father is not alive to see the return on his investment, nor will my mother be sitting in court when I  
15 address my first jury as a judge.

My appointment as a judge of this Court could not have been achieved without the contribution of so many over my career.

As a child the only thing I ever wanted to do was enter the police force. That child had ambition never faded, although as I progressed through my high  
20 school years, I developed an interest in the law, and thought that there was no reason why they could not be combined. As a consequence, I gained admission to the Bachelor of Law program at the University of Technology which was only offered as a part-time course.

Whilst waiting for my admission into the New South Wales Police, I  
25 worked as a registration clerk, or a rego clerk as they used to be known, for a

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firm H Wilshire Webb Son and Doyle. I have not so fond memories though of the senior partner Henry Webb taking great delight in reminding me, on days of inclement weather, that I would be wet, cold and miserable doing the rounds between 302 Castlereagh Street, the District and Supreme Court Registries, 5 the Land Titles office and the Stamp Duty office.

After several years performing general duties policing in two of the busiest districts in Sydney, Darlinghurst and Kings Cross, and a short stint as a Prosecutor, I returned to what had become Wilshire Webb working as a paralegal. I was primarily undertaking work for the general insurance division 10 of GIO, dealing with fraudulent insurance claims. It was at Wilshire Webb that I met Roslyn Cook, now a partner at Hicksons, which was the start of a lifelong friendship.

In the litigated claims I was told of the firm's practise to brief a barrister by the name of James Bennett, now Judge Bennett of this Court. I very quickly 15 realised that when I came to the Bar this was the barrister with whom I would read. His careful dissection of the brief, meticulous preparation, and faultless advocacy, I would try to emulate in my own career at the Bar. I wish to acknowledge the significant contribution he has made to my career progression, and I am honoured to be sitting on the same bench with him 20 today.

Reading with Judge Bennett meant that I was very fortunate to spend my first 12 months of the Bar on 13 Selbourne, as it was then known. It was a wonderful floor, and I have very fond memories of my time spent there. I was extremely fortunate to have several other mentors, including Justice Davies 25 and Justice Harrison. I wish to acknowledge and thank them for their selfless

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guidance and encouragement over my years at the Bar and I am humbled by their presence in court today.

Justice Hallam was also a member of the floor, and upon my appointment being announced, he commented on the number of judicial appointments from the floor, counting me amongst that number. I feel very humbled to be included in such an esteemed group, and by his Honour's presence today.

Within in my first year at the Bar I appeared in a Supreme Court trial for one of three co-accused who had been indicted for manslaughter following the stabbing death of a young man in Fairfield. The three accused, in the company of a fourth man, had gone to the victim's home, to challenge him over an alleged break in. During the exchange, the victim was stabbed and died immediately.

To my horror at the commencement of the trial, it became apparent that, given the order in which the accused appeared on the indictment, and as a barrister of less than 12 months experience, I was going to be the first to cross-examine every Crown witness and was going to address the jury last.

I was fortunate enough though to have very experienced counsel for the co-accused, including Kevin Coorey, who ultimately was appointed a judge of this Court. I remember with some fondness, and amusement, Kevin Coorey's practice that when a particular ruling was made adverse to his client, with some fanfare and in a very dramatic fashion so the Crown would notice, he would slowly turn to the last page of his notebook recording just one more appeal point.

Our respective clients were convicted, only to have the conviction overturned by the Court of Criminal Appeal, following an erroneous direction to

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the jury as to common purpose. I had the privilege of being led in the Court of Criminal Appeal by Justice Simpson.

The second trial was prosecuted by a relatively newly appointed Queen's Counsel. Verdicts of not guilty were returned after the second trial.

5           Upon reflection, if am permitted a small indulgence, I reflect on this achievement with a little satisfaction as a barrister of only two years standing, given the Crown Prosecutor was no less than Mark Tedeschi QC.

          Despite my best intentions of developing a practice at the criminal Bar, as often happens, I was taken in different directions. Upon returning to  
10           chambers one day, whilst still a reader, and having just finished a morning of call overs and mentions, being a reader's bread and butter, my clerk Ruth Ross told me that she had call from a young solicitor who had seen me in court and wished to brief me in what would be one of my first offended hearings. That solicitor was Belinda Cassidy, and she would set me on a course at the  
15           Bar far away from Legal Aid criminal jury trials.

          As you've heard our first case together was a building case for a counsellor of Woollahra Council. However, Belinda then introduced me to the field of personal injury law and before long I was on the counsel panel for most third party and public liability insurers. However, my background in criminal  
20           law stood me in good stead, regularly conducting defences of fraudulent claims on behalf of many insurers.

          Belinda later encouraged me to seek an appointment as an assessor in the Claims Assessment and Resolution Service, assessing damages in motor vehicle personal injury claims. The tribunal had unlimited jurisdiction in the  
25           assessment of such damages. I was also exposed to the world of personal

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injury law from the plaintiff's side, thanks to my very dear friend Kathryn Hayward and in turn, Tom Goudkamp. I was to reignite my relationship with Tom who later entrusted me with his catastrophically injured clients upon taking silk.

5           However, Judge Bennett's mentoring and influence was never too far away, and with his encouragement I expressed interest, and had the privilege, of being appointed to the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions Counsel Panel. This enabled me, when available, to maintain my connection with the criminal law.

10           Contrary to my repeated representations to my wife Sue, that the taking of silk would result in a reduction of work hours, it has been anything but. It exposed me to new areas of law, more interesting Commonwealth Prosecutions, and to juniors who all seem to share my own work ethic and love of the law. Those juniors know who they are. I thank them for the enriching my  
15           experience at the Bar. I could not have conducted those cases in which you're involved without your legal intuition, guidance and support.

          One of the great pleasures at Bar was supporting and mentoring young members of the profession. As you heard, by the time I'd taken silk, I had the honour of working with nine readers, all of whom have become successful  
20           barristers in their own right. I do not say this though as a boast, more the fact that I have gained such joy and satisfaction from watching each of those readers develop into fine barristers in their right.

          One of the downsides of taking silk though was that you could no longer perform the role as a tutor. As a consequence, I volunteered to act as a mentor  
25           in the Law Society Mentoring Program and have since mentored two young



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talented solicitors who have ambitions of one day being called to the Bar. I have not done this work out of any sense of duty. In fact, my motivation was very much a selfish one, I loved every minute of it.

I look back at my time at the Bar with great affection. Reference is often  
5 made to the collegiality of the Bar. Whilst the COVID pandemic, and the resultant reduction in person attendances to court, has meant less face-to-face dealings with opponents, collegiality at the Bar remains very much alive and well. I've met wonderful colleagues, many of whom will remain lifelong friends and I've been enriched by those relationships. Thank you.

10 Similarly, over the years at the Bar I've worked with many solicitors, some of whom will also remain lifelong friends. I thank them for their friendship and support. You will always remain very special to me.

Up until last week, I had been a member of Ninth floor Windeyer  
Chambers for a little over 30 years. Most of the present members of the floor  
15 were either members when I arrived or readers of mine who have remained as members. They are my second family and I'll miss them all dearly. I could not have asked to work with a finer group of colleagues.

I also wish to acknowledge Emma Hoolahan my clerk for many of these  
years. Emma you were a wonderful clerk, friend, and support. I also wish to  
20 acknowledge my present clerk Anna Moule, who clearly had very big shoes to fill.

And to my PA of ten years Tori, what can I say. You have been a big  
sister to our boys, the daughter Sue never had, and my confidante, counsel  
and friend. I could not have survived the last ten years without you, and my  
25 successes are your successes. My one regret is that I have not been able to

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bring you with me. I will miss your smiling face, our morning breakfast clubs, and working with you every day. My only comfort is knowing that you will remain very much a part of our family.

I also wish to acknowledge my friends outside the profession who have  
5 kept me grounded and supported me in ways they do not even realise. Life at the Bar is stressful, and there has been nothing better than a Friday or Saturday night of beers, wine and dinner with good friends as the ultimate stress relief. Thank you all. You have kept me sane, and I trust you will continue to do so.

10 I also wish to acknowledge the support of retired Judge Letherbarrow, and Judge Wilson, in recent times.

I also wish to thank my siblings and their partners, nieces and nephews, who are sharing this day with me. It makes it all the more special. I would also like to particularly acknowledge the effort of my brother and sister-in-law,  
15 Anthony and Cathie, who have travelled back from far north Queensland, having interrupted another one of their great grey nomad wanderings of this great country of ours.

I would also like to acknowledge the love and support my mother-in-law who was so generously given to our family over the years. Her presence today  
20 from Melbourne means everything.

Some years ago, visitors to our home asked my three boys whether any of them were interested in following their father's footsteps into the law. As one voice, they replied, "No way, having seen what our father has gone through over the years there is just no way." I was a little miffed by their response, not  
25 because I wanted any one of them necessarily to pursue a legal career, but I

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really didn't think I was that bad a father.

However, their response is probably more reflection of the trials and tribulations my wife Sue has been subjected to for close to of 30 years.

When Sue and I first started dating my career at the Bar was in its  
5 infancy. There were even times for the leisurely picnic lunch in the Botanic  
Gardens. Such mid-week experiences became very quickly a thing of the past  
as my career at the Bar progressed.

Having had three very active boys under the age of three, being  
singularly unsuccessful with finding suitable childcare, and about to embark  
10 upon a major renovation of our home, we decided together that it would be  
difficult for the two of us to have careers at that time. Not only did Sue give up  
her home town of Melbourne and all her family, she sacrificed her career for  
me. However, there was no idle time in our household. While I was continuing  
to pursue my career we bought, sold and completed major renovations on  
15 successive homes. I suspect the years Sue was running building sites whilst  
looking after three boys was far more stressful than me heading off to court  
every day.

Sue, you have been my absolute rock through the highs and lows of my  
career at the Bar, the disappointments and the successes. You have  
20 tolerated, in the most patient way, the absent husband and father, if not  
physically, certainly mentally, whether it be mid-week or on weekends whilst  
involved in a difficult trial, or physically absent with lengthy stays in Canberra.  
The fact that our three boys have grown into fine young men is a credit to you.

As for my boys, I'm so proud of what the three of have achieved. You  
25 have all pursued with maturity, vigour and the same work ethic, your dreams

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and passions. You have given us both such joy. I'm not sure whether my oldest son Jake had a premonition of this appointment, and felt that his father was going to be in need of protection, having joined the service of the New South Wales Sheriff some months ago. Jake, I look forward to sharing a  
5 workplace with you, I am in no doubt at all that you will very much keep me grounded as I embark on this new challenge.

I would also like to acknowledge the Office of the New South Wales Sheriff for allowing Jake to be absent from his duties today at such short notice.

10 Sue, you have continued to make sacrifices to this day, not hesitating for a moment when I was offered this appointment, despite having made alternative plans about our future. This day is as much yours as it is mine. You have been my partner in every respect throughout my entire career, and none of that was possible without you. I know you will continue to be my rock as I  
15 seek to uphold the principles and beliefs instilled by my parents all those years ago.

PRICE J: Thank you Judge. I invite you all now present to join us for morning tea.