

**IN THE SUPREME COURT
OF NEW SOUTH WALES
BANCO COURT**

**BATHURST CJ
AND THE JUDGES OF THE
SUPREME COURT**

Wednesday 8 December 2021

**WELCOME CEREMONY FOR
THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE HAMENT DHANJI
AS A JUDGE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF NEW SOUTH WALES**

- 1 **DHANJI J:** Chief Justice, on 20 September 2021 I was appointed as a judge of this Court. On that day I presented to you my commission, which was read. I also took the affirmations of office, being the affirmation of allegiance and the judicial affirmation.

- 2 **BATHURST CJ:** Thank you, Justice Dhanji. On behalf of the judges of the Court, particularly myself, can I welcome you to this somewhat belated ceremony, but it is great we are able to have it. You have already become a well-liked and well-respected member of the Court and I hope you continue to enjoy it. Mr Attorney.

- 3 **THE HONOURABLE MARK SPEAKMAN SC MP ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW SOUTH WALES:** May it please the Court. I begin by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather, the Gadigal of the Eora Nation, and pay my respects to elders past, present and emerging.

- 4 Your Honour, Justice Dhanji, on behalf of our State and the Bar it is my great pleasure to congratulate you belatedly on your appointment as a justice of the Supreme Court of New South Wales. I acknowledge the members of your family who are here with us today, your wife Susan, your children Kesh, Otis and Leroy, your parents Shanti and Paru your brother, Romi, and sister-in-law, Daksha, and your brother Sunil who is in Alice Springs.

- 5 Your Honour grew up in Drummoyne and Ryde and went to Meadowbank High School. There you had some inspirational teachers, some of whom you are still in touch with today. One was Nellie Luzcinski who taught you Year 11 English. You stood out to Ms Luzcinski for your appreciation of Jane Austen. She recalls being apprehensive to teach Emma to a class full of boys. She was relieved to discover that you not only liked the novel but had an excellent understanding of the character of Emma. More recently she heard you interviewed on ABC 702 radio. She was surprised to hear you say you did not do very well at school; Ms Luzcinski begs to differ. She recalls marking your assignments, which were all very good. For this reason she says that you can add humility to your list of admirable qualities.

- 6 The encouragement of inspirational teachers led you to arts law at Sydney University. You took to student life as much and at times more so than academic life. In the Sydney Uni Quadrangle you and others decided to start a rock band. You wanted to call it Hilda's Mindbladder after a friend's mother. Some friends pointed out that this could be awkward for Hilda, so Elastique Mindbladder was chosen. The band made its debut at the Sydney University band competition in 1988. You sadly, and most unfairly, lost. It was a truth universally acknowledged, at least by your friends, that you were ripped off.

- 7 Undeterred by this injustice the Elastique Mindbladder pressed on. One evening, after your first few rehearsals your lucky break came. There was a call from Newtown's Sandringham Hotel. The band booked that evening had not shown up; could the Elastique Mindbladder step in? Yes. You all raced there and took to the stage. Even though the band only knew four songs you made it through. Not only that, you were asked back. The band became a regular fixture at the Sando, so much so that you were interviewed for a documentary on the somewhat eccentric inhabitants of King Street, Newtown; you were one of them. Flamboyantly dressed, with swirling metallic bootleg trousers, a white shirt, orange jacket, long-hanging beads and gold rimmed John Lennon-style spectacles, you cut a dashing figure. For everyone, the footage is still available on YouTube.

- 8 In those days the Sandringham Hotel had a platform-style stage along a back wall but the bar presented you with quite a different opportunity. It was a metre higher and right in the centre of the room. Standing up on that bar, playing guitar, you were the Sando's answer to Keith Richards.
- 9 Following the Elastique Mindbladder Sando fame you went on to play at other well-known Sydney venues; the Lansdowne, the Journalists Club and Selina's at the Coogee Bay Hotel, a stage that has been graced by the likes of David Bowie and Nirvana. You also recorded a few albums.
- 10 At university you made lifelong friends. Through these friends you met your wife to be, Susan. She was no groupie but a woman with her very own band. So, in a somewhat circuitous and unexpected way, a mutual love of music brought you together.
- 11 You were admitted as a legal practitioner in 1990. One of your Honour's earliest roles was at Legal Aid. Here you became inspired by and somewhat hooked on criminal law. You worked in the Prisoners Legal Service, visiting gaols and attending parole board hearings. With no court appearances, the Prisoners Legal Service can be a frustrating experience for many aspiring criminal lawyers. You understood it was like mastering scales before being able to attempt a beloved piece of music. You mastered those scales quickly and moved on to become a Legal Aid solicitor. Here you became known as a very talented and extremely scholarly lawyer and advocate. You rose through the ranks quickly. You were called to the Bar in 1997 and took silk in 2010. Your practice spanned criminal law, corporate crime, statutory offences, appellate work, commissions of inquiry and inquests. You gained a reputation as one of the State's finest appellate advocates. You churned through a high volume of work, appearing in over 300 cases in the Court of Criminal Appeal and as lead counsel in seven High Court cases.
- 12 You were known for your detailed preparation of cases. You earned a reputation for having an encyclopaedic knowledge of even the most obscure points of law. You had a reputation as a wily cross-examiner and you were

renowned for your calm disposition, good humour and circumspect ethical leadership.

- 13 Your Honour is very much missed at Forbes Chambers. You adhered to an open-door policy, very generous with your time to others on the floor. Your advice is highly valued. You mentored many informally. As well as legal advice, your Honour is known for sage advice on achieving some life balance within a legal career. Advice was gratefully received from barristers who were swamped. You advised them to take a step back and look at their practice, to restore balance by being selective about the work they took on.
- 14 At Legal Aid, and at Forbes Chambers, you were the person consulted on an obscure or complex point. Your love of rock music spilled over to your chambers, which were decorated with electric guitars, including a Sunburst Fender Stratocaster, and a vintage concert poster of The Clash. I am not sure if these have made their way into your chambers in Court.
- 15 In 2017, you were appointed as an advocate for change by the New South Wales Bar Association, a program for role models who are excellent practitioners, and who, through the example of what they do and say in their professional lives as barristers, represent the full width of diversity and inclusion that the Association wishes to promote at the Bar.
- 16 These days you still play guitar. The Elastique Mindbladder can still be seen at venues like the Gasoline Pony and still has an active fan club. Many know your excellent sense of humour. Prior to the world going online your family would often get calls from Mr Keith Richards. That is what you listed yourself as in the White Pages; you love Keith.
- 17 During lockdown you formed a family band. You were an edgier version of the Partridge Family; your wife Susan on drums, Otis and you playing guitar, Kesh singing and playing bass and Leroy singing and playing piano. Your sons are not so far looking to follow your footsteps in the law, but I am told they all have the skill of being incredibly argumentative, so there may be some hope.

- 18 You relish fatherhood and you are famous for your dad jokes. You are equally famous for laughing at all your dad jokes no matter how they are received by your sons. Being your own biggest fan is perhaps the greatest mark of excellence in dad jokes.
- 19 You enjoy surfing, playing tennis and soccer with your sons and friends. You are exemplary at looking after yourself, keeping fit, eating well and managing to meditate every day.
- 20 Through your demanding legal career you have still made a significant contribution in being involved in educating your sons, who were mainly home schooled. Susan and you have instilled a love of education in them. You read widely in fiction and non-fiction. You love Charles Dickens with *Bleak House* being your favourite. May you never have to preside over a never-ending case like *Jarndyce v Jarndyce*.
- 21 Your unique sense of humour with its well-developed sense of irony is well illustrated in your request for your own funeral arrangements. You have requested your coffin be carried out to the blaring Rolling Stones' song "I'm Alright". In this song a young Mick Jagger repeatedly shouts "It's alright" and "I feel alright". Not quite. Your Honour's sense of irony is well developed.
- 22 Your Honour, you bring to the Bar your ability to connect with humanity. Not only are you the first Australian of Indian descent to serve on New South Wales Supreme Court bench, but I believe you are the first with an encyclopaedic knowledge of obscure bands and rock music. You bring also an encyclopaedic knowledge of the law. You bring a vast knowledge and experience of humanity to the bench along with kindness and good humour.
- 23 In the words of a famed songwriter in a song entitled "Happy on the Ground", with which your Honour will be familiar, "Don't want to climb that ladder into the air, can see from here there's not much up there. The higher you climb the less you see but that kind of vision ain't affecting me". I am assured the vision from

the bench will not affect you. In the words of Dickens in *Bleak House*, “You can be nothing better than yourself, be that”.

24 Your appointment is an acknowledgment of the skills, expertise and specialised knowledge you have acquired throughout your service to the law and of your hard work, dedication and personal sacrifices. Your Honour, congratulations on your appointment and I offer you the warmest of wishes for your career on the bench. May it please the Court.

25 **MS JULIANA WARNER PRESIDENT LAW SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES:** One of the great things about speaking and addressing the Court is that you get to take your mask off.

26 May it please the Court. I too acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather, the Gadigal of the Eora Nation, and pay my respects to elders past, present and emerging. I acknowledge and extend my respects to any Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are with us today and of course I extend my respects to elders of lands from which people may be viewing today.

27 It is a real privilege to come before the Court to congratulate your Honour on your elevation to the bench. The people of New South Wales are most fortunate to gain in your Honour a principled, brilliant and insightful judge. Now, due to your strong and mutually respectful relationship with instructing solicitors this appointment and your valued background as a Legal Aid solicitor prior to going to the Bar have been particularly welcomed by the arm of the profession which I represent. I have to tell you, you have a lot of fans out there in solicitor land.

28 Your Honour has practiced almost exclusively in criminal law and related areas over more than three decades. You have appeared in the High Court, the Court of Criminal Appeal, the Supreme, District and Local Courts and handled many important appellate matters in serious criminal trials. My spies tell me, and we have a lot of them in your case, that even as a young lawyer your Honour was a formidable opponent. You were known from the first for your eye for detail

and in-depth knowledge of the law. You have the uncanny ability to distil the facts and argue your client's case by using precedent that was often missed by others. Your Honour cut your teeth as a Legal Aid solicitor in the early 90s, working with the Prisoners Legal Service giving advice in gaols and as part of parole board hearings. You then went to Legal Aid's Central Sydney office working in inner city Local Courts. It was a large section of lawyers that looked after this court work, District Court appeals and Supreme Court bail applications. Your Honour made an impression on all of them as a very sound lawyer; reliable, friendly and good at your job and someone who really relished being part of a team.

- 29 You celebrated and weathered all of the challenges, trials and tribulations of Legal Aid work at that time. You did not hesitate to challenge yourself as a solicitor including arguing a matter in the Supreme Court on appeal from the Local Court. Your Honour, informed by this valued background as a Legal Aid solicitor has continued to provide legal services to people in socially and economically disadvantaged situations.
- 30 Although your Honour's instructing solicitors regard you as functioning on a higher level and having a brilliant mind, your grounded humanity, good humour and generosity has always defined your relationships. Sincere and approachable, your Honour has been described as the kind of counsel a solicitor may approach if they need a listening ear. That is a very valuable commodity.
- 31 Your Honour has always taken the time to find out how solicitors were. It has been said that when your Honour asks "how are you" you are asking that genuinely, not merely as a matter of social custom. You have always worked collaboratively with your team who describe working with you as "wonderful and pleasant no matter what the pressures". All your solicitors have appreciated your Honour taking the time to understand their point of view and they have sensed your Honour being interested in getting to the right answer rather than being right. Although your Honour was a top draw silk with a very busy court and appeal practice you have always been kind, calm and free with your time.

- 32 Working in the most serious of criminal cases, and contending at times with difficult circumstances and challenging personalities your Honour has nevertheless rolled with the punches, speaking with clients in the cells and with families after matters have concluded.
- 33 Your Honour has had the carriage of many prominent and impactful matters in your time with some stunning outcomes for appellants. You appeared in the High Court for the successful appellant in *RP v The Queen* regarding the application of the presumption of doli incapax to children aged between 10 and 14; now is not the appropriate occasion for me to tell the Attorney one more time that the law in relation to the minimum age of criminal responsibility needs to be addressed.
- 34 I will now move on. You appeared also in the High Court for the appellant in *SKR v The Queen* regarding the proper application of the test for unreasonable verdicts by appellate Courts. Mr Game SC, originally leading, very graciously withdrew as senior counsel from the case when your Honour took silk making this case your first as senior counsel before the High Court. Can I tell you, your solicitors were so excited about that because they wanted to work with you. Your solicitor and junior counsel with you in a car down to Canberra said they were just so happy all to be there. Your Honour had prepared tirelessly and was fully briefed in all areas of both fact and law. I understand that during the appeal the questions came thick and fast from the bench but your ability to respond with apparent ease and fearlessness made, I am told, both briefing and watching your Honour in Court a privilege and the appeal was upheld.
- 35 Your Honour appeared in the Court of Criminal Appeal involving a challenge to the validity of a trial in which the presiding judge was on occasion snoozing. Although two of the three judges of appeal did derive some comfort from the fact that the presiding judge was always physically present and that he returned from sleep either by the operation of his own body mechanisms or by the provocation provided by tapping or the creation of noise by other means, such as clearing of throat or movement of books and papers, the complaint went on to be upheld in the High Court; well done you.

- 36 In Court your Honour has been described as a wonderfully persuasive advocate. One of my spies says that when your Honour is speaking in Court you can feel the persuasiveness permeating around the Court. You are immaculately informed across every iota of detail and calm to the point of serenity. Great; serenity now.
- 37 I did tell you that you have fans. In your commitments outside of the law your Honour is a dedicated family man with your wife, Susan, and three children who are immensely proud of your accomplishments. I am informed that your dedication in the family man arena even extends to driving a Toyota Tarago, a dad's car if ever there was one, which certain instructing solicitors tell me have banned you from occupying in their driveways.
- 38 Your Honour, together with friends at the University of Sydney, as we have heard, created the band Elastique Mindbladder, apparently a cartoon hippy band for the famous Manning Bar battle of the bands competition in 1987. And for a number of years from 1987 to 1994, which I think shows real dedication, you played regularly in Newtown, Annandale, Paddington and occasionally the likes of the Narrabeen Antler. I am told you dressed as hippies in kaftans and beads, burned incense on the stage and distributed flowers. I am told there is photographic evidence existing but if I were you I would be taking steps to obtain it and stick it in a cupboard somewhere so it never sees the light of day. I am in receipt of yet more evidence that your Honour wrote many of the songs including Annie Jones, a tribute to the Sons and Daughters and Neighbours star, I Just Cannot Live Without Your Love, which apparently turned out not to be true, and I Will Be Your Slave, which contradicted various aspects of human rights legislation.
- 39 Solicitors view the appointment of your Honour to this Court as an excellent choice although a great loss to the profession on another level. They will greatly miss briefing you but know you will be a gift to the bench approaching every case with an open mind, listening insightfully to both sides and searching tirelessly for the right answer.

40 The solicitors of New South Wales are delighted by your appointment and wish you every success on the bench. As the Court pleases.

41 **DHANJI J:** Chief Justice, judges, Mr Attorney, Ms Warner, honoured guests, friends and family, I would like to begin by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land on which we sit, the Gadigal of the Eora Nation, and I pay my respects to elders past, present and emerging.

42 Thank you Mr Attorney and Ms Warner for your kind words and for what you have left out. I would at the outset like to thank the Chief Justice and the judges of this Court. This welcoming ceremony was not strictly necessary given that I have already been sworn in. It was, additionally, not necessary in order to make me feel welcome. From the time I accepted the appointment I have been overwhelmed by the generous support I have received from all parts of the Court. Judges, it seems, can be quite nice people.

43 As to my appointment, on one view it is a somewhat peculiar turn of events. If in my final year of law school you were to predict that in 2021 I would be before a crowd in a long wig and outlandish outfit, it would not necessarily be of any great surprise. As you have guessed, the assumption would be that I had achieved a moderate degree of notoriety in the world of rock and roll and had returned for a tragic revival tour. As it happens, rock and roll is not a meritocracy. As far as musicianship is concerned I accept that that was to my advantage. But that was not to be.

44 Law also falls short of a true meritocracy but there has been some progress. Certainly, it cannot be said that I was born into the right family or knew the right people to set me on a path to this position. Rather I have ended here, a child of migrant parents, and it seems, the first person of Indian decent to sit on this Court. I confess to have initially been somewhat bemused by this aspect of my appointment and I do not accept that it is a personal achievement. But it is no small thing nonetheless. That is because if we want our institutions to remain strong, they must reflect the community they represent. Since my appointment was announced I have felt the pride within the Indian community in this State

and beyond. For my parents' generation particularly, it is confirmation that we have a place here. For them, not growing up here, bringing with them what is usually described as a foreign culture, to have their son, their friends' son, or simply a member of their community sitting on this bench entrusted to administer the laws of this State, while wearing robes that reflect the white settlement of this country, is meaningful indeed. I mean no disrespect to my fine colleagues, but looking around it is clear that there is still a long way to go.

45 My year at Sydney University law school was the first in which there were more women than men enrolled in law, but that has not filtered through to the senior ranks of the law, and on ethnic diversity we are probably doing worse. There is a perception that medicine, engineering or information technology are more inviting. I did wonder if, when the phone rang, the clerk had a harder time suggesting that Hament Dhanji rather than, say, Charles Wallytown-Smyth could take the brief.

46 But I am aware that there are now many fine lawyers from a range of backgrounds making their way in the profession. I am confident that their careers will progress, bringing to the profession and I hope the courts a depth and an understanding that can only be to the benefit of the rich, diverse and inclusive society that we would wish to be a part of.

47 Before I leave diversity there is an aspect that cannot pass without mention. It is the under representation of First Nations people in positions such as this at one end, and at the other, their appalling over representation in the criminal justice system. When one combines high incarceration rates with lower life expectancy there is unfairness piled on unfairness. It remains a scandal and it must change.

48 While my parents did not grow up here, they were not disadvantaged in the same way by the history of what has occurred here since white settlement. They had something at least closer to a blank slate on which they could write their story. While it was not easy, they never doubted that their children could succeed, and they created an expectation in me that I could succeed.

- 49 That expectation was encouraged by a school system that I fear was more egalitarian than it is today. I enjoyed a free public education. While, despite what has been said, I did not do as well at school as I should have, I had the experience of some great teachers. My lack of application may have frustrated them, but they made it clear I had the capacity to do something with myself, once I worked out what it was. Some will say self-belief was not something I needed to be taught. Perhaps that is true, but I am grateful to some fine teachers and I am immensely pleased that one, Nelly Luzcinski, who taught me English in 1981, is here today.
- 50 I am also grateful to have received the benefits of a free tertiary education. It made it easier for me, as someone with no obvious path and no role models connected with the legal system, to find my way into the law. Again, I fear we have gone backwards in putting in place pathways to a more egalitarian society.
- 51 As might be apparent, my path to this position was not a steadfast application to academic endeavour. Rather, for me, law came alive when it was applied to real people, usually people in a spot of bother. I was fortunate to find myself employed as a solicitor at the Legal Aid Commission. I found enormous satisfaction in defence advocacy, which endured throughout my career. I was fortunate from the outset in the people that I worked with. There were some very good lawyers - they had a knowledge of the law, were capable advocates, but were, importantly, able to combine those attributes with compassion and a sense of justice.
- 52 Ultimately my enthusiasm for advocacy led to thoughts of the Bar. I had very few contacts at the Bar. I did have one close friend, Philip Strickland, now Strickland SC. We did not cross paths at Cranbrook, and I am still not quite sure where it is, but we met later at law school. Despite his very different background I tried to be tolerant and accepting. He has been a trusted friend since. I said I was considering the Bar; he discouraged me. But, I remained determined nonetheless. He did me a great service in advocating on my behalf for a reader's position at Forbes Chambers. As I understand it, I just scraped in.

- 53 What can I say about Forbes? February next year would have marked 25 years there. For me it is a model of what barristers' chambers can and should be. Whatever my concerns with the egalitarianism in education and society more generally, I do not hold the same fears for that part of the Bar that I know. That said, however encouraging and egalitarian Forbes might be, the list of silks there is not exactly a smorgasbord of diversity. Sarah Pritchard SC and Gabrielle Bashir SC are the only female silks, and with my departure, with the exception of Murugan Thangaraj SC, the rest are men of predictable complexion. Given what I know of the attitudes of those that make up Forbes this suggests systemic problems in getting people to the door.
- 54 For myself, having made it to the door, my experience could not have been more positive. I read with Ian, now Judge McClintock. He had not met me before. I brought with me no anecdotes from a shared history of the Kings School. He was a very busy senior junior who took me on with generosity. The time he gave me was only limited by my capacity to tolerate the smoke that filled his room. He was a great role model. Apart from the smoking.
- 55 I was fortunate in those early years to be briefed by the Legal Aid Commission and the Western Aboriginal Legal Service. I treasure those experiences, particularly acting for indigenous clients in places like Bourke, Brewarrina and Broken Hill. Looking back, I am not sure I appreciated just how lucky I was to find myself, between cases in Campbelltown and Bourke, being led in the High Court by the likes of the late Paul Byrne SC, Tim Game SC and Stephen Odgers SC. But more than the particular cases or briefs, I will be forever grateful for the place that is Forbes. It is the contribution of all that makes it the place that it is, but the likes of Tim Game and Phillip Boulten SC have been instrumental. I built many lasting and meaningful friendships there and I learned a great deal. I have shared some of my most difficult moments with my colleagues at Forbes.
- 56 If, when I had started there, you had told me that Tim Game would become a dear friend I would have said you were quite mad. We were from very different worlds, and one of us would surely have to change. I do not think I did, and

Tim is quite immune to change. I learned a great deal about being a barrister from Tim and I remain grateful. I did a lot of work with, and share a bond with Simon Buchen SC. It was a great relief when Simon took silk; he was an infuriating junior. The submissions generally arrived at a point by which it was too late for me to read them before filing. Fortunately, the quality was such that it rarely mattered. We have shared many joys and anxieties, the latter a specialty area for him.

57 I worked with, at one time or another, almost every junior at Forbes. You each did the main thing I asked of you which was to make me look smarter than I actually am. Inevitably I worked with some more than others and in particular mention must go to Georgia Huxley, who could make me laugh, comprehend the complexities of a case and write very clever submissions. Also, Kirstin Edwards, who could do my worrying for me, usually two steps ahead. I also did a lot of work with some juniors off the floor. David Randle, who frustrated me by telling me his thorough knowledge of the brief was obtained by listening to it while kayaking and, a junior I would go out of my way for any day of the week, Julia Roy. Before leaving Forbes thanks must go to my erstwhile clerk, Ryan Coleiro. I watched him grow up, but he ended up looking after me and the rest of us. For me it was comforting to have a clerk with a couple of Fender Stratocasters on the wall from which he hung the long wigs.

58 This brings me back to say one more thing about rock and roll. For me it is a form of expression that is not altogether about the music. The heart of its appeal is its sense of independence, an essence that is sometimes described as “sticking it to the man”. In one sense I have moved a long way from any rock aspirations or pretensions. It might be said that far from sticking it to the man, I am the man. But that is not entirely accurate.

59 Whoever coined the phrase “sticking it to the man” was probably not thinking about the Westminster system and the separation of powers. Within that system, where the executive oversteps the laws of the parliament, or the parliament oversteps our constitution, it is the role of the judiciary to act with fearless independence. Of course, I will face laws of which I have a particular

view, and the obligation I have assumed is to fairly and faithfully apply those laws as the product of a democratic process. But the independence of which I speak means a fidelity to the rule of law, not to the government of the day, or the views of the media, or to some part of it. So, whatever brought me here, I will, true to my oath of office, do my best to uphold the law and I will do it with the independence that is so important a feature of our collective wellbeing.

60 Before I finish, I would like to thank all of you here and those of you online. I would also like to thank all of the many solicitors who supported me over the years. I wish I had time to thank everybody important to me by name. A number of you are lifelong friends with whom I have variously shared houses, made music, shared holidays and hiking trips. Thank you for your love and your support.

61 In making the decision to leave the Bar I had a number of friends I could turn to. On the Court, Justices Hamill and Button were generous in their time in advising me as to what I might expect and have been equally generous since I came to the Court. In that regard they are not alone, and as I have said, I have been overwhelmed by the generosity since I arrived. Justices Hamill and Button also gave me the confidence that the important friendships that I have had at the Bar and beyond would survive the move from Bar to bench.

62 Outside of chambers and the Court I was able to turn to my dear friends Michael Brown and Shawna Howe, whose family is part of our extended family. Also, to Simon Draper and to Judge Elizabeth Boyle. That each of you know me so well made your advice invaluable. Thank you.

63 Outside of my friendships there is of course my family. First my parents. It is difficult to express the emotion I feel having my parents here today. I am acutely aware of the significance of this occasion to them. I know it was not easy for them raising children in a culture that was not their own. There were times of disagreement, but I never doubted for a moment that they were doing what they believed was best for me. And, if at times I was too independently-minded for their liking, I hope that they now have the satisfaction that that trait has held me

in good stead throughout my career. I am pleased to have my brother Romi here with his wife, Daksha. He has been there when I needed him. My brother Sunil - we have not spent much time in the same city but it is a great pleasure when we are able to bring our families together. Similarly, Jacqueline – there has not been much time in one city, but you have had a presence throughout. Fred and Helen, my parents-in-law, I know you are watching online. You have been a great support to us as a family.

64 Lastly, I want to thank my wife, Susan, and my three boys Kesh, Otis and Leroy. My children. I cannot express how immensely proud I am of each of you. You are all very different and you each bring something special to my life. And you make me laugh. A lot. Lastly, Susan. Those of you who know her will know that I am not exaggerating. She is possibly the smartest person I know, and that is perhaps the least of her qualities. So much of what I am, or at least the good bits, has been enhanced by you. I certainly would not be here now without your love and support. Thank you.

65 As the Court pleases.
