

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

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

Monday 29 September 2008

**SWEARING IN CEREMONY OF
THE HONOURABLE JULIE KATHRYN WARD
AS A JUDGE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF NEW SOUTH WALES**

JUDGMENT

1 **WARD J:** Chief Justice, I have the honour to announce that I have been appointed a Judge of this Court. I present to you my Commission.

2 **SPIGELMAN CJ:** Thank you, Justice Ward. Please be seated while your Commission is read. Principal Registrar, would you please read the Commission.

(Commission read)

(Oaths of Office taken)

3 **SPIGELMAN CJ:** Principal Registrar, I hand to you the form of oaths to be placed with the records of the Court and the Bible so that it may have the customary inscription placed in it and presented to her Honour as a memento of this occasion.

4 Justice Ward, I welcome you as a Judge of this Court on my own behalf and on behalf of all of your new colleagues. You have for several decades been one of the most senior litigation solicitors in this State. You have a significant contribution to make to the judiciary of this State, and I look forward to you making that contribution in the future.

- 5 **MR T BATHURST QC SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT THE NEW SOUTH WALES BAR ASSOCIATION:** May it please the Court. It gives me great pleasure on behalf of the Bar of New South Wales to extend the warmest congratulations to your Honour on your appointment and to welcome you to the Court. The Attorney General and the President of the Bar Association asked me to express their regret at their inability to be here today and for having to delegate this task to me. However, it is a task which I should say gives me great personal pleasure to perform.
- 6 Your Honour was born in Newcastle and educated at New Lambton South primary school and then Newcastle Girls' High. Your Honour's formidable intellect was evident at a very early age and you graduated as dux of your year in 1976. That was by no means the last time you were to graduate as dux.
- 7 Your Honour initially studied arts at the University of Sydney, obtaining a scholarship in French. You then studied law, graduating in 1982 with First Class Honours and the university medal. Your Honour however was no nerd. You were and still are, I am instructed, a keen, albeit somewhat competitive tennis player, one of the few things that has put strain on your Honour's marital relationship over the last many years. You were also a keen pianist and debater and a card player, particularly if there was a competitive edge involved. You sat on the editorial board of the university law review.
- 8 Following graduation, you spent a year as the associate to Sir Nigel Bowen, the first Chief Justice of the Federal Court. You performed your duties with aplomb including, somewhat surprisingly, that of bodyguard. On one occasion, Sir Nigel was confronted by a self-represented litigant wearing an overcoat concealing twelve hunting knives. When Sir Nigel was asked by the police if he was concerned, he said, "Don't worry, my associate sits in front of me." Your Honour's forceful personality was evident even at that stage. I am told the litigant surrendered his knives to

you and you refused his request for a receipt, somewhat tartly observing the Federal Court doesn't give those things.

- 9 After concluding your associate-ship, your Honour returned to Mallesons where you worked as an employed solicitor for two years. The clarity of judgment and independent thought which was to mark your career as a solicitor was evident at that time. One of the earliest cases in which you were involved concerned a claim for damages by a doctor for injuries sustained when he fell off a surgical stool while operating in Newcastle Hospital. Your supervising partner had briefed a barrister who has later become a District Court Judge. The barrister had prepared fifty pages of interrogatories designed to prove the stool was defective. As your supervising partner was about to go on leave, you were entrusted with serving the interrogatories and dealing with the inevitable screams of objections from the defendant. Rather than do this, your Honour looked at the case, formed a view on it and promptly settled it. The client and your supervising partner were extremely grateful. The barrister never spoke to you again.
- 10 Your Honour then took a year off to complete a BCL at Oxford University, having won a post-graduate scholarship from Sydney University to do so. You completed a two year course in one year and graduated with First Class Honours. Your Honour however exhibited at that time a rare moment of naivety. You were initially disappointed with the result. This was apparently because your name appeared at the bottom of the Honours list. Your Honour was quickly reassured when told by one of the dons at Merton College that the list was in alphabetical order and the result was truly outstanding.
- 11 Your Honour resisted calls from persons such as Justice Austin to go into academia and return to Mallesons. Your Honour quickly developed a justified reputation as one of the outstanding litigators in this city if not in the whole country. In 1988, you and your close friend, Nancy Dolan, were both made partners in Mallesons. You beat her by the narrowest of

margins as being the youngest partner ever to be admitted to partnership of that firm. That was no mean feat having regard to the galaxy of talent the dispute resolution section of that firm had at the time. Sitting on the bench with you are at least three people who are in that group: Justice Bergin, Justice White and Justice McCallum.

- 12 It was always a pleasure to be briefed by your Honour. This was not, I hasten to add, merely because of your insistence on a good bottle of champagne at the conclusion of any case, but rather for the fact that any brief delivered by you was always meticulously prepared, precisely identified the issues and contained a clear summary of the arguments both for and, equally importantly, against your client's position. Your Honour's expectation of barristers was not unreasonable. You expected that they had read the brief, formed a view and were prepared to debate the contrary proposition. No doubt your Honour will expect the same of those who appear before you in court, and I'm sure you will not be disappointed.
- 13 Although your Honour practised primarily in the area of corporate and commercial law, you did not hesitate to venture outside that field. As I indicated, one of your first cases involved a defective stool, your last, a serious sex discrimination case. Your Honour's skill as a mediator stood you in good stead in that case. You managed to settle it to I think almost the satisfaction of all parties after what I'm told was a twenty-hour mediation. Your Honour participated actively in the corporate life of Mallesons. You had a particular interest in recruiting and training young lawyers. By advice, encouragement and occasionally I'm told, probably unreliably, what might colloquially be described as tough love, you endeavoured to have them reach the high standards you set for yourself. Your Honour's use in this regard of a red pen with particular venom when you encountered a split infinitive is legendary throughout Mallesons.
- 14 Your Honour always managed to find time for activities outside the law. I have already indicated that your Honour is a keen tennis and card player. In addition, your Honour is a devotee of word games and puzzles, again

particularly when they have a competitive edge. I'm told your Honour is prepared to wager a bottle of champagne on being able to use any word in the lexicon in correspondence in the space of a week. These wagers have led to a useful increase in your Honour's cellar.

- 15 Your Honour has always loved fast cars and drives a Porsche. It will look very attractive alongside Justice Harrison's vehicle in the court car park. I do understand however that these days your Honour drives it relatively safely.
- 16 Your Honour's love of travel is well known, as I think is your Honour's liking for the occasional burst of retail therapy, particularly in shoe boutiques.
- 17 Your Honour always had time for your family, your husband, Bruce, and your children, David and Hilary. You applied your administrative skills by successfully managing David's under-18 soccer team and showed patience, which will stand you in very good stead as a judge, in providing the requisite 120 hours driving instruction to enable Hilary to obtain a licence.
- 18 One by-product of your close relationship with your children is an intimate knowledge of teen culture over recent years. You have applied that knowledge sometimes a little maliciously by nicknaming people you have been associated with professionally after various members of a band called the Spice Girls and characters from the Harry Potter series. Fear prevents me from identifying the recipients of these nicknames, but for the sake of judicial comity I should assure the Court that none of its members are included.
- 19 Your Honour's ability, capacity for hard work, incisiveness and sense of humour ideally suit you for the task which lies ahead of you. The people of New South Wales are very fortunate you have accepted the appointment,

and on behalf of all members of the Bar I congratulate you and wish you the very best for the future.

20 May it please the Court.

21 **MR H MACKEN PRESIDENT LAW SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES:**

From time to time we are lucky enough to experience days of miraculous wonder, days where the sun could not possibly shine more brightly or the blossoms on the trees appear more vibrant, days when the air we breathe is pure, unadulterated oxygen. Today is one of those days; a golden day and a red letter day for the profession.

22 We delight in high achievement and success of our members. We rejoice when the courts secure the best of the best to adjudicate disputes. We have confidence when we have reasons to be confident. Today all of those things have come to pass for the solicitors of this State.

23 But enough about us I am here to talk about you ... and shoes.

24 Your Honour's appointment to the Supreme Court of New South Wales is a most significant milestone, not only in terms of your Honour's career but also for the wider legal profession. There are some things that really need to be said and others that ought not be said. But I will come to those later.

25 On behalf of the solicitors of New South Wales, I am delighted to extend my sincere congratulations on your appointment. It is further proof of the calibre, enormous talent and skills set that flourishes within the solicitors' ranks.

26 Your Honour is an outstanding litigator and widely regarded as one of the most eminent commercial lawyers in the country. Your sharp legal mind has helped make New South Wales the centre of commercial litigation in the Asia Pacific region. Your Honour has also greatly enhanced the standing of the legal profession through your role as a partner at

Mallesons Stephen Jaques, and your commitment to mediation and alternative dispute resolution procedures.

- 27 As has been mentioned, your Honour has acted across a diverse range of matters such as the litigation arising out of Estate Mortgage and the Emanuel property trusts, and challenges arising out of the New South Wales government's HomeFund scheme, Transfield oppression proceedings, and disputes in relation to the metropolitan thoroughbred horse racing broadcast and transmission rights. As has been mentioned, you also acted for Price Waterhouse Coopers over a multi-million dollar software contract with Sydney Water and the recent *Rich v Harrington* harassment case. This place will benefit enormously from your experience.
- 28 As has been said, you were admitted into the Supreme Court of New South Wales in 1982 having graduated from Sydney University with a Bachelor of Laws, First Class Honours, and winning the university medal.
- 29 You had a great start in your legal career in 1982 and as an associate of the late Nigel Bowen, then Chief Judge of the Federal Court of Australia, this at a time when the dingoes at Ayers Rock and the dams in Tasmania were dominating the newspaper headlines.
- 30 It is perhaps not surprising that Mallesons, having previously noted your attributes as a summer clerk, held a position open for you until you were able to take it up in 1983, and made you their youngest partner in 1988.
- 31 In 1984, as has been mentioned, you won the University of Sydney post-graduate travelling scholarship to Oxford where in a single year you achieved First Class Honours in a Bachelor of Civil Laws.
- 32 As has been recently quoted in Lawyers Weekly, there is indeed something in the water at Mallesons, with your Honour's appointment following close on the heels of former Mallesons partners Emilios Kyrou,

who was elevated to the Supreme Court of Victoria; the Honourable Justices Richard White and Reg Barrett in the Supreme Court of New South Wales, and the Honourable Justice Jayne Jagot of the Federal Court of Australia, whose brain the firm was unfortunately unable to bottle.

33 Of course, there were early indications that your Honour would achieve great things in life. The Newcastle Herald crowed on 4 September this year, "Former dux of Newcastle Girls' High, Julie Ward, has effectively topped her class again, this time breaking new ground in her appointment to the Supreme Court of New South Wales." I know your Honour attributes some of your success to the principles instilled during your student years at Newcastle Girls' High School where you were encouraged to reach for the stars and use whatever talents you had to the best of your ability.

34 As has been noted, you were an excellent speaker and debater at school, and I believe your Honour may have in fact appeared on NBN Channel 3's BHP High School Quiz in the 1970s. Now that was a tough gig.

35 Younger sister Roslyn said your Honour has always been a high achiever, and your appointment to the bench is wonderful. She said "All the family is thrilled for her. She's really worked hard. Julie has always been competitive. You should have seen her at the trivia and card nights at home. No one had much of a chance, she rarely lost a game. On the tennis court she tends to drive the ball through you rather than around you, but when it comes to ping pong then it really turns into a fight to the death."

36 Of course, Roslyn managed to get her own back by preying on your Honour's horror of illness and her regular bouts of motion sickness. In your Honour's own words, Roslyn was the only person you knew who could get sick going through a revolving door.

37 Now music master at Brigidine College, St Ives, Roslyn revealed that despite your reaching grade 8 piano, the last grade before letters, your

Honour was always more interested in humanities than pursuing any musical interests.

- 38 Perhaps Roslyn hasn't seen your Honour perform as one of the Spice Girls with the likes of Connie Carnaboochie and Trish Henry some years ago at a partners' conference, nor has she heard your live numbers at karaoke nights and various reviews. What is it about Newcastle and famous singers? Bon Scott, Daniel Johns, and now Julie Ward.
- 39 As a Spice Girl, your Honour would no doubt be a bit miffed to hear that Posh Spice already has her order in for must have shoes: a snakeskin high heel 'no heel' Antonio Berardi designed shoe. Posh Spice can look good in shoes as can your Honour, but can she knit?
- 40 The good thing is with a closet full of shoes and matching handbags, there's no room for skeletons. And while we're on the subject of skeletons, at Sydney University, where you lived in at Wesley College, it became apparent that in addition to your studies your Honour was determined to embrace every moment and activity. Sadly, no amount of coercion could convince colleague Belinda Gibson to publicly divulge any indictable offences during those university days other than to say that your Honour, in combination with Newcastle recruit Jacqui Findius, was a force to be reckoned with.
- 41 At a careers information evening in your final school year, your mother Elaine cautioned that neither her teaching background nor your father David's career as a mechanical engineer could offer much support in the legal sphere. You built your own legal support network.
- 42 With a natural aptitude for languages, your Honour could have made a career in the Diplomatic Corp, but a realisation that a post in Paris was not a complete foregone conclusion saw your Honour rise instead to the intellectual challenges and demands of a career in law, a choice for which we are forever grateful.

- 43 Students at Sydney University are also grateful for your grammatical prowess and regularly enlisted your help in editing their essays. Your Honour's colleagues, as has been mentioned, also recount stories about being subject to dissertations on the proper use of the English language, particularly the use of split infinitives. While others may have seen merit in their occasional application, this was deemed outrageous in your Honour's eyes, and the perpetrators of such English carnage could only be viewed as suffering hebetude in the extreme. I trust your Honour will take every opportunity to completely and utterly eradicate this abuse of the English language.
- 44 Your Honour may have heard the expression or something similar that behind every good woman is a good man, and Bruce Monteith is one such man. As a commercial litigator at Nicholas G Pappas and Company, Bruce can appreciate the demands of a career in law and provides immense support both as a partner and as a father to daughter Hilary and son David, the latter having taken on your love of all things French – almost. Your Honour, the profession was saddened to hear about David's recent accident in Paris and we take this opportunity to wish him a speedy recovery.
- 45 Judge Julie has a certain ring about it, but I fear I may be confusing your Honour with that other television celebrity, Judge Judy, renowned for closing her decisions with the words, "Goodbye, have a happy life." I would prefer to conclude by quoting the comments of your Honour's former English drama teacher, the late Vic Rooney, who noted in big bold letters on one of your assignments, "Spot on, Jules. Way to go. 20 out of 20."
- 46 Today is as wonderful a day for the profession as it is for this Court and as it is for you. Your appointment as a Judge of this Court is fantastic.
- 47 As the Court pleases.

- 48 **WARD J:** Chief Justice, members of this Court, Mr Bathurst, Mr Macken, members of the judiciary and the legal profession, members of the public and, most importantly, my family and friends, I address the Court this morning with no little trepidation not least because in my legal career to date I have been fortunate to be able to rely on the superb advocacy of members of the bar, many of whom are here today.
- 49 I have, in the past, been content to leave the speaking role to those who, it might be thought, were perhaps more temperamentally suited to it. I am sure that Mr Bathurst will attest to the fact that my customary position is to sit demurely in the wings behind learned counsel. However, as has been alluded to in some of what has been said today, I have rarely been known to pass up the opportunity to take the microphone, at least when it has been thrust upon me, and today is no exception. Fortunately, at least so my family will think, I do not intend today to burst into song.
- 50 First, I would like to thank Mr Bathurst and Mr Macken for their very kind and altogether too flattering words. I cannot take the credit for my adherence to grammatical precision. That credit belongs to the State Government education system which, in the late 1960s, introduced me to the concept of split infinitives. It was in my fifth class in primary school that we were taught the rules in relation to split infinitives (unlike the current generation of students which appears not to have heard of them) and I have not forgotten those rules. I did give some contemplation as to whether there might be utility in framing directions in future with a view to compliance with grammatical rules. However, I am sure that after the speeches today that will not be necessary and the bar will have taken note of my views in that regard.
- 51 The reliability of the picture that has been painted of me is, of course, not beyond doubt. You will appreciate that there is much scope for mistaken identity at any occasion when wigs and costumes are involved and if the hearsay put before the Court this morning were to have any substance,

then one might think that it signalled a flagrant breach of what I had understood to be the hitherto accepted rule that what goes on at partner conferences stays at partner conferences. A version of privilege unfortunately not yet recognised by the law of evidence. Be that as it may, I thank you for your flattering and extensively researched words. I am only rather surprised that I have not heard the description “shrinking violet” applied to me today.

52 At the recent swearing in of Justice Perram as a Judge of the Federal Court, his Honour gave us the benefit of his research into previous addresses of this kind and I am happy to adopt and apply his careful distillation of principle. I publicly affirm my belief in the rule of law. I eschew any attempt this morning to espouse on jurisprudence or the role of the judiciary and I propose to move straight to what, for me, is the most important part of this address; my public acknowledgement of those who have played a special part in helping me to take up this role.

53 Foremost in that regard are my parents, David and Elaine Ward. I am delighted that they are here today; some 26 years after they first sat in this courtroom to watch my admission as a solicitor of this Court. Since, as has been noted, my surname is at the end of the alphabet, it was the last admission ceremony of that day and in my family’s case it was a very long day having commenced in the early hours of the morning with the death of my grandmother to whom I had been very close. It was a mark of my parents’ support and encouragement that in the midst of the funeral arrangements they drove from Newcastle for my admission and I am glad that today is a much happier occasion for us all. I am also glad that my sister, Roslyn, is able to be here today with my nieces, Kathryn and Victoria.

54 My parents instilled both in me and in my sister a love of learning; a keen interest in books and in music. I cannot blame them for my competitive spirit, assuming that the comments about my competitive spirit were to be correct, but they certainly channelled it into productive endeavours. There

were no lawyers in my family but there were many teachers, including my grandfather who was a Professor of Chemistry and it is no surprise therefore that my sister and I were encouraged to pursue education and our career aspirations to the highest level.

55 My academic interests were encouraged and reinforced when I attended Newcastle Girls' High School, as has been mentioned. What I think has not been mentioned is that it was the top selective girls' high school in Newcastle at the time. For those of you who may wonder why I qualify it by reference to it being a girls' school, I do so not in order to open up discussion on the merits of single sex versus coeducational schools, although I do hold some strong views in that regard, but rather I wish to avoid any unseemly debate with Justice Barrett as to the merits between our respective boys' and girls' high schools in Newcastle.

56 I took from my secondary education a very important message, which was that the fact that I was a woman was irrelevant to what I might choose to pursue by way of a career and with that focus I have to date been oblivious to and mercifully not scarred by any infamous glass ceiling.

57 As has been noted, I was extremely fortunate to have been offered a position following graduation as the associate to Sir Nigel Bowen on the Federal Court. Those of you who briefed him, worked with him or appeared before him will know that he was a man of patience and compassion and with a good sense of humour. Those of you who knew of him would know that he was a man of wisdom and a first class lawyer and judge. Only those who were privileged enough to work as his associates will know how extraordinarily generous he was with his time and his advice and his encouragement for young lawyers working with him.

58 It can be no surprise that I am not the first of Sir Nigel's associates to take office. He was an inspiration to us all and I am very proud to follow in the footsteps of Justice White and Justice Allsop in that regard. I did not, however, follow precisely the career Sir Nigel would have had in mind for

me. The fact that the blue bag he gave me is still in pristine condition in my wardrobe is evidence of that but I know that he would have been very proud to see me here today and he certainly encouraged me all those years ago to aspire to the Bench. So when I was asked recently what kind of judge I wanted to become, for me it was not a difficult question. If I can be half the judge and indeed half the person that Sir Nigel was, then I would be doing very well indeed.

59 I don't mean to suggest that over the course of my career I have followed Sir Nigel's advice in all respects. On one occasion when I offered to make him a cup of coffee he admonished me as a professional woman not to adopt such an accommodating role. No doubt he was conscious of the potential difficulties facing women in the legal profession. That was one piece of advice I have consistently ignored and I don't think it's been to my detriment. Interestingly, the only times when there has been any confusion as to my professional status have been when I have been undertaking tasks ordinarily undertaken by solicitors. I recall on one particular occasion, during a committal hearing, the magistrate presiding asked senior counsel appearing on my client's behalf whether his stenographer would read back the previous few questions and answers. I duly did so.

60 Both before my year with Sir Nigel, as a summer clerk, and subsequently as a graduate I worked with Mallesons Stephen Jaques and its predecessor firms and I am delighted to see so many Mallesons faces here today. I have nothing but praise for the opportunities which were afforded to me by the firm and the manner in which I was treated there; first as a solicitor and later as a partner of the firm. I was very fortunate to have the benefit of working with outstanding lawyers and true gentlemen as my supervising partners. Graham Bates when I was a summer clerk, Gerald Raftesath and Richard White when I was a graduate. In Graham I observed the utmost courtesy and respect with which he treated colleagues, clients and opponents alike. In Richard I observed the academic rigour for which he has rightly been noted throughout his career.

In Gerald, as all those who practised with him or against him will know, I saw what it was to be a consummate litigator. Indeed, I learnt more from sitting in Gerald's office of the practice of litigation than I could have done in any formal setting. He, I also add, bears full responsibility for my ready use of the red pen; though never wielded with venom.

61 Not all of my role models were men. Both as a young solicitor and as a partner of the firm, there has been one woman in particular who has been my mentor and my guide and whose counsel and friendship I have valued enormously. That is Robyn Chalmers; the first woman partner at Mallesons; the first female chairman of the firm; but, most importantly in this series of firsts, a first class lawyer and an outstanding and truly loyal friend. I could not have made it as far in my career as a solicitor without her. I have also had the benefit of ongoing friendship and support of a group of truly remarkable women, including Robyn, each one in her own right being a great lawyer. I have worked with each of them. I have been tested by them, particularly when faced with some of their corporate or financial clients and I must add I think they usually saved their most difficult or demanding clients especially for me. I have been privileged to learn from them. We've leant on each other's shoulders. We've laughed and we've cried together. We've survived personal and professional ups and downs and I'm fortunate to be able to count each of them as a very close friend and those I thank; Robyn, Belinda Gibson, Nancy Dolan, Adrienne Showering and Nicola Wakefield Evans. I should add, without any admission, that any performances that have been referred to today by me are solely attributable to Adrienne Showering leading me down the garden path.

62 I have been assisted over the years by a large number of highly intelligent, capable lawyers and very skilled and supportive secretarial staff, many of whom have become firm friends. You will be relieved to know that I cannot possibly name each of them today but I would, in particular, like to acknowledge and thank Ashley Black and Kate Mills; each of whom braved my supervision as a partner and each of whom I was proud to

sponsor to the partnership. I will miss Ashley's legal debates. I will miss Kate Mills' companionship and good humour. I will also miss, and thank for his support, Luke Livingston who unfortunately cannot be here today but who worked with me as a senior associate, commencing after graduation after a period of an associateship with his Honour Justice Gummow in the High Court. I am sure there is a comment I could make about frying pans and fires there. If any inference can be drawn from the recent bar examination results, I may have further opportunity to review Luke's work in the near future.

63 I have been humbled by the faith and the confidence placed in me by this appointment. On the occasion of Justice Barrett's swearing in he confessed that he had questioned whether his experience as a solicitor qualified him for his new role. No one would now doubt that that, indeed, it had done so. I have asked myself the same question and in that regard I have drawn considerable comfort from the encouragement I have received from members of the judiciary over the years to take such a step. In particular, I thank the former Chief Justice, both of this Court and of the High Court, the Honourable Murray Gleeson; the former Federal Court judge, the Honourable Trevor Morling and the former Court of Appeal judge, the late Justice Kim Santow; each of whom encouraged me to take such a role. I am also very grateful to the present Chief Justice for his encouragement and very warm welcome.

64 I appreciate very much your words, Mr Macken on behalf of the solicitors' branch of the profession. I think it is important for the continuing strength and depth of the solicitors' branch that solicitors can aspire to judicial office. I see the advantage of appointments from the ranks of those who practised as solicitors as lying in the different perspective they bring to the Court. Having practised law perhaps somewhat closer to the coalface than members of the bar, they have an understanding of the commercial context in which transactions are conducted and in which disputes arise. They also have a real understanding of the difficulties of preparing cases

for Court and which can be encountered in meeting those always so reasonable court deadlines.

65 It is well understood that a successful professional career does not come without personal sacrifices and inevitably it is the family that bears the brunt of those. I have been blessed with a very close family to whom I owe a tremendous vote of thanks. To my parents, my sister, my very understanding and wonderful parents in law, Helen and Gerry Monteith, who must have wondered over the past 25 years what their son was doing when he married me. The value of their support has never been more evident than in the past month when, as has been mentioned, our son had a serious accident in Paris and my husband and I needed all the family support we could get.

66 That brings me to three people without whom my world would be incomplete: my husband, Bruce, and our children, David and Hilary. As you know David cannot be here today. I know he would have wished to be here with me today and he is as proud of me, or perhaps almost as proud of me, as I am of him and his achievements. Until a month ago he was living his mother's dream in Paris, working and becoming a true Parisien. That dream became more of a nightmare a month ago when he had an accident and it brought home very starkly to my husband and to me what our children mean to us. I am very grateful that he will be back with us in the very near future. Fortified by the knowledge that he is not present to hear me say this, I can publicly acknowledge that he is now the most fluent French speaker in our family (which is a considerable concession on my part) and that he now has literally far more French blood in his veins than I would ever hope to have.

67 David is more than ably represented here today by my daughter, Hilary. I would like first to commend Hilary for the grace and dignity with which she performed that very unaccustomed mode of salutation this morning to her mother. I am under no illusion as to the likelihood of the repetition of this conduct at home. As I have said on another occasion, my word is not law

in our household. That is probably a good thing. Hilary has done well to cope with such an impractical and overworked mother. She and Bruce together keep me very firmly in line and with my feet on the ground. I am delighted that she is here today to witness this momentous occasion. She is my absolute pride and joy.

68 Finally, but most importantly, I thank my husband Bruce. At a recent Women Lawyers' Association function the president, Fiona McLeod of Senior Counsel congratulated recent appointments of women to the judiciary and noted that each of these women had achieved her role without the assistance of a wife. I too fall within that category; a judge who does not have a wife. But without any criticism of wives, of whom I am one, I can say I could not have achieved what I have without my husband, Bruce. He has been with me every step of my professional career. His support, his guidance, his wise (if not always solicited) advice, generally very bluntly delivered, has been invaluable over the years. Any achievements in the course of my professional career are truly achievements in which he shares and for which he is jointly responsible. In times of crisis such as those which our family experienced recently I could not have managed without him. In happier times there is no-one with whom I would rather be. I am very, very grateful to my friend and former colleague, Rowena Murray, for so generously looking after David in London this week so that Bruce could be back here to share this occasion with me.

69 The former Chief Justice of this Court, Sir Laurence Street, who presided over my admission all those years ago, once told me that the most important judicial attribute was that of humility. Rest assured I approach the responsibility of this office very humbly. I am conscious of the confidence that has been reposed in me and I take very seriously the vows that I have given.

70 I thank the members of this Court who have so warmly welcomed me. In particular I thank the Chief Justice for his support and Justice Barrett who

has so kindly offered me guidance. I thank all of you who have done me the honour of attending this ceremony today and for your indulgence in what has certainly been the longest of my courtroom utterances to date.
