



**NOTES FROM THE ADDRESS OF MICHAEL EASTWOOD ON THE
OCCASION OF A WELCOME CEREMONY FOR
JUDGE ROWAN JACKSON QC AND
JUDGE GERALDINE DANN
ON FRIDAY, 2 OCTOBER 2020**

May it please the Court.

I have been asked to speak today by Ms Treston QC on behalf of the Bar Association of Queensland. I also speak as President of the Gold Coast Bar Association. I am privileged to welcome your Honours as Judges of the District Court at Southport.

I have had the benefit of reading the Address of the Bar's President on the occasion of your welcome ceremony held in Brisbane recently. I have also had the benefit of reading your Honours' Curricula Vitae in preparing my address today. In relation to each of your Honours, two things stood out:

- (i) your Honours' undoubted qualifications and experience to enable a transition to the Bench;
- (ii) your Honours' contribution to the workings of the Bar in capacities behind the scenes.

Your Honour Judge Jackson received no less than seven academic awards in your Honour's first-class Honours degree from the University of Queensland including the University Medal of Law. Armed with such extensive theory, your Honour commenced practice as a barrister in 1998 and appointed Queens Counsel in 2015.

Your Honour's practice was broadly commercial as an advocate in courts, tribunals and mediations. Your Honour has also appeared in private arbitrations and expert determinations. With particular interest in professional negligence, your Honour has well exhibited the attributes necessary for a Judge of this Court.

Your Honour Judge Dann has at various times been:

- (i) the Clerk to Master White as she then was;
- (ii) the Associate to Justice White as her Honour became;
- (iii) an articled clerk,
- (iv) a solicitor in various jurisdictions including England and Wales and
- (v) was called to the private bar in Queensland in 2008 where your Honour remained until your Honour's elevation.

Your Honour has practised in such diverse areas such as employment law, industrial disputes, prosecuting and defending regulatory law under both State and Federal regimes, and acting as a mediator in all of those areas. Your Honour's time as both solicitor and counsel will assist your Honour greatly in carrying out the role of a District Court Judge.

While it is the practice of law which allows a practitioner to keep the wolf from the door so to speak, it is a practitioner's contribution to his or her profession which, in my submission, is the mark of a true profession.

Your Honour Judge Jackson made important contributions to the Bar Association of Queensland. Your Honour has been:

- (i) a member of the Bar Council;
- (ii) a member of the Professional Ethics Committee;
- (iii) a member of the Professional Conduct Committee;
- (iv) a member of the new Bar Committee;
- (v) co-author and ethics exam master for the pre-admission ethics exam of the Bar Practice Skills;
- (vi) a presenter at the Bar Association's annual conference.

Your Honour Judge Dann has:

- (i) contributed on many occasions to the Bar Association's various continuing professional development seminars, conferences and sub-committees;
- (ii) in particular your Honour has contributed to the Bar Association in the recent development of the Sexual Harassment Policy for our Bar.

Both of your Honours' exemplary service to the Bar is indicative of the service which your Honours will now continue in the difficult but rewarding task of a Judge of this Court.

It would be remiss of me not to address Your Honours as to the state of the local Bar now that you are on the Southport Bench. There are upwards of 40 counsel in practice on the Gold Coast in the Police Prosecution Service, Legal Aid, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, and the private Bar.

Each year, the Gold Coast Bar Association conducts a CPD conference to which your brothers and sisters on the Bench have kindly contributed. Our Association has established bursaries for local school students in legal studies and contributes to not for profit legal centres on the Gold Coast.

On a more social note, our Association conducts an annual Bench and Bar dinner so that local counsel and members of the Magistracy and the Judiciary have the opportunity to meet on a more social basis. I look forward to seeing your Honours there.

With all of those things in mind, I welcome your Honours to the District Court at Southport and more generally to legal life here. Your Honours have the support of the local Bar.

May it please the Court.

N.B. This is not a verbatim transcript of the address delivered by Michael Eastwood, President of the Gold Coast Bar Association.