



**ADDRESS OF MS CATHERINE HEYWORTH-SMITH QC
ON THE OCCASION OF A WELCOME CEREMONY FOR
MAGISTRATE EOIN MAC GIOLLA RI
ON WEDNESDAY 23 JUNE 2021
BRISBANE**

1. May it please the court.
2. **MAGISTRATE MAC GIOLLA RI**, on behalf of the Bar Association of Queensland, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate you on your elevation to the Magistrates Court of Queensland.
3. I extend particular welcome to your wife *Oriana*, your children *Killian, Aria* and *Jasmin*, your parents *Colm* and *Kay*, and other members of your family who have been able to join us here today via livestream from Ireland.
4. Your Honour joins the court following a distinguished career at the Bar. Your Honour was first called to the Bar in Ireland in 2000, after completing a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) at the National University of Ireland. Shortly after, you travelled to Australia and were admitted to the Bar in Queensland in 2002.
5. You commenced your legal career in Australia at Legal Aid Queensland. Over the five years you were at Legal Aid, your Honour appeared extensively in the Magistrates Court, both in Brisbane and on regional circuits. Your Honour has appeared in hundreds of duty lawyer sessions and had a large and varied higher court case load.
6. In 2006, Your Honour commenced practice at the private Bar. You practised primarily in criminal law, but also developed expertise in disciplinary matters, electoral law and administrative law. You have appeared as leading counsel in all Queensland courts and in the High Court, in matters ranging from criminal trials and sentencing, to appellate and refugee work. That extensive and wide experience will stand you in good stead in this Court.
7. Beyond your work in practice, your Honour has given great service to the Bar Association. You have served as a member of the Criminal Law Committee, appearing before parliamentary committees on behalf of the Association, and authoring numerous submissions in relation to proposed legislation. Your Honour also generously gave your time by assisting with the Association's Bar Practice Course during criminal advocacy assessments. The Association acknowledges, and offers its grateful thanks for your contribution.
8. Your Honour has a genuine interest in supporting and mentoring the junior Bar and those interested in a career in the legal profession. This is evident not only from your

involvement with the Bar Practice Course, but through volunteering to take on students from High School and University, providing them with meaningful and interesting work experience.

9. Your Honour's antecedents well qualify you for this appointment, but that is not the only reason to celebrate your elevation – it is far more than your accomplishments that your Honour brings to this role. This Court, and the State and people of Queensland, will derive the benefit of your Honour's character, compassion and conscientiousness. You are known for the care you take in your work and the intellectual rigour you bring to every matter. You are acknowledged for your ability to view the case and the law in its full context and from every angle: the human, the legal and the procedural.
10. Your Honour is held in the highest esteem as a work colleague and chamber mate, and valued beyond measure as a friend. We may be sole practitioners, but ours is not a solitary profession and your Honour has embraced this with a desire to share any burden your colleagues might carry. I am told that, at the end of each day, when leaving chambers, it was your custom check with those around you to see if there was anything you could do to help, and, as you would go, you would offer a cheerful "*thank you for today*", a simple gratitude for the proximity of those with whom you have walked this path.
11. Aside from your knowledge and skills as an advocate, you are also known for your ability to charm the light into any dark mood. When making your introduction at a recent CPD event, your Honour referred to your "charming looks" and "dulcet tones", and that all who attended the event would be forgiven for mistaking you for Liam Neeson.
12. Your Honour's community involvement is well known and I am informed by colleagues who profess to be your friends that they have issued to you an open invitation to join their team for the Bridge to Brisbane Fun Run in September. Indeed T-shirts are being prepared with a team name, for which you provide some inspiration, "Celtic Thunder".
13. Once more, the Bar extends to you, and your family its congratulations on this well-deserved appointment. We wish your Honour well as you begin your role as a new Magistrate for Brisbane before heading to Mt Isa in December later this year.
14. May it please the court.