

MR T. SULLIVAN: May it please the Court, on behalf of the Bar Association of Queensland, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate you on the occasion of this welcome ceremony, your Honour. Chief Justice Bowskill, I extend particular welcome to your husband, Peter Vallance; your daughters, Phoebe, Lucy and Zoe; your father, John; your siblings and other members of your family and friends who join us here on this occasion. Your Honour would be the first to acknowledge the essential contribution that the support of your family has been throughout your career, leading ultimately to your appointment today.

We welcome you as Queensland's 20<sup>th</sup> Chief Justice, becoming the second Chief Justice to have also served in the District Court, 33 years after the retirement of the former Chief Justice Sir Dormer Andrews. It is a relatively rare occasion for a District Court Judge to be elevated to the Supreme Court. It is rarer still to become Chief Justice. This sui generis pathway to today's ceremony is a testament to your skill and the high standing you possess in this Court.

Today marks the third welcome ceremony within the span of eight years, second only to Justice Edelman, who himself had three ceremonies in six years. I recall your Honour referred to the focus on you in your second ceremony, in the tradition of Oscar Wilde, as careless. You will forgive the association for insisting that this third occasion is indication itself of the importance of being earnest. You will have been a member of this Court since 2017, which, for the past year, has also included the responsibilities of the Senior Judge Administrator. Together with Justice Ann Lyons before you, you have provided great support to the former Chief Justice in the important work performed during this COVID period.

Prior to your work in this Court, you served with distinction as a Judge of the District Court, where, following your appointment in 2014, you also worked as a Judge of the Children's Court and the Planning Environment Court. Of course, in another time, you stood at the other side of the Bar Table. In 1995, you graduated from the Queensland University of Technology with a Bachelor of Laws, achieving first-class honours and the award of the University Medal, all whilst studying part-time and balancing work as a secretary with a group of barristers, a group that included Justice Mullins. The pathway from legal secretary to Chief Justice may have been trod by one before you but does not make the achievement any less remarkable.

In 1996, your career began as the Associate to Justice Drummond in the Federal Court before you were called to the Bar in 1998. At the Bar, you were one of the leading barristers in the areas of Native Title and in administrative law, appearing in many of the most important cases in those areas and becoming one of the most foremost representatives for various State Governments, the Commonwealth Government and for Indigenous Australians. In recognition of your excellence in those areas, you took Silk in 2013.

On the Bench, your Honour has discharged the duties and responsibilities of your office with a prevailing sense of dignity and fairness. For those who appeared before you in whatever capacity, all received the same unfailing ethical treatment. As many members of the association can attest, you consistently deliver timely and considered judgments. You serve as an example to all legal practitioners of the importance of diligence and impartiality. At the private Bar and whilst on the Bench, you have been a great contributor to the association. Whether it be your appearance at conferences and CBD events hosted by the association, your participation in the Indigenous Students Mentoring Scheme, or presenting during the Bar Practice Course, you have always been exceedingly generous, sharing your time and experience with members of the association.

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No doubt your calendar will now be consumed with the many responsibilities the head of jurisdiction assumes, but I thank you for your willingness to continue giving members of the association your direct impressions. I very much look forward to your presentation on cultural diversity in trial processes during the association's upcoming annual conference. The Bar Association of Queensland and its members gladly support your Honour's appointment as Chief Justice. On behalf of the association, I wish you a long and successful term as Chief Justice and again extend my congratulations to your husband and your children, each of whom can take great pride in your many achievements to date, as well as those to come. May it please the Court.