

**At the Bar Table:**

- 5 - The Honourable Shannon Fentiman MP, Attorney-General of Queensland and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence
- Mr Damien O'Brien QC, Vice-President, Bar Association of Queensland
- 10 - Ms Kara Thomson, President, Queensland Law Society

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REGISTRAR: The swearing-in of Justice Lincoln Crowley as the 133<sup>rd</sup> Justice of the Supreme Court of Queensland.

5 JUSTICE CROWLEY: Chief Justice, I present the commission appointing me as a Judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE: Let the commission be read.

10 REGISTRAR: Elizabeth II, by the Grace of God, Queen of Australia and her other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth, to our trusty and well-beloved Lincoln Crowley, Queen's Counsel, Bachelor of Laws, Barrister, greeting. Whereas her Excellency the Governor in and over our State of Queensland in the Commonwealth of Australia, with the advice of the Executive Council of our said State, has seen fit to direct that you, Lincoln Crowley QC, being a Barrister of the  
15 Supreme Court of our said State of at least five years standing and one of our Counsel, learned in the law, shall be appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court.

Now know you that we, reposing full trust and confidence in your loyalty, learning, integrity and ability, do hereby, in pursuance of the Constitution of Queensland 2001  
20 and in exercise of all powers and authorities enabling us in that behalf appoint you, the said Lincoln Crowley QC, being a Barrister of the Supreme Court of such standing as aforesaid, to be a Judge of the Supreme Court of our said State on and from the 13<sup>th</sup> day of June 2022, to have, hold, exercise and enjoy the said office during good behaviour, together with all the rights, profits, powers, privileges and  
25 advantages thereunto belonging or appertaining.

In testimony whereof, we have caused the public seal of our said State to be hereunto affixed. Witness our trusty and well-beloved, her Excellency the Honourable Dr  
30 Jeannette Rosita Young, Public Service Medal, Governor in and over the State of Queensland and its dependencies in the Commonwealth of Australia at Government House, Brisbane, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of May in the year of our Lord 2022 and in the 71<sup>st</sup> year of our reign. By command, entered on record by me in the Register of Patents number 52, page 93, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of May AD 2022, Clerk of the Executive Council.

35 THE CHIEF JUSTICE: Justice Crowley, I invite you to take the affirmations of allegiance and of office.

40 JUSTICE CROWLEY: I, Lincoln Crowley, do sincerely promise and swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II as lawful sovereign of Australia and to her heirs and successors according to law and, as a Judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland, I will at all times and in all things do equal justice to all persons and discharge the duties and responsibilities of the office according to law to the best of my knowledge and ability, without fear, favour or  
45 affection.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE: We are honoured to have here today Chief Justice Kiefel and Justices Keane and Edelman of the High Court, as well as many serving and

retired judicial officers of Federal and State courts and tribunals. We welcome you all, distinguished guests, members of the profession, ladies and gentlemen.

5 I also acknowledge the first and traditional owners of this land and pay my respects to their elders, those who have spoken for the land in the past and who do so today.

10 Today's ceremony is an important part of our legal history and tradition. Although it feels as though we have had a few of these ceremonies lately, it must be remembered that our new colleague, Justice Lincoln Crowley, is only the 133<sup>rd</sup> Judge of this Court in its 163-year history. So it is indeed a very special occasion, including because of the historical significance of Justice Crowley being the first Indigenous person to be appointed a Judge of a Supreme Court. It is also an occasion of celebration for Justice Crowley and his family and friends for this important professional achievement. We warmly welcome all of them, particularly his Honour's wife, 15 Jacinta, and their children.

20 On behalf of all the Judges, I congratulate Justice Crowley on his appointment. Almost all of the Judges are here, but all join in welcoming his Honour to the Court. Justices Fraser, Henry, North and Crow send their apologies, as they are on leave. Justice Freeburn joins us from where he is on circuit in Townsville and Justice Applegarth sends his apologies, as he is unavoidably sitting in a long trial that had to resume early today. Many others have expressed their regret at being unable to be here today and I will just mention three of those, the three former Chief Justices of this Court, Paul de Jersey, Tim Carmody and Catherine Holmes.

25 Justice Crowley is, of course, eminently qualified for this position. His Honour is highly regarded as a lawyer with excellent legal skills and acumen, developed over the course of a legal career spanning 25 years so far, first as a solicitor and then as a barrister, initially serving as Crown Prosecutor before moving to the private Bar. His Honour has a keen eye for detail and is known to demonstrate an impressive ability to absorb and synthesise large bodies of material in the context of the complex Commonwealth and State criminal trials he has been involved in, including in serious organised crime, Corporations Act, fraud and corruption offences, to name a few. His Honour is also reputed to be a person of great compassion and collegiality, the latter demonstrated by his mentoring of many junior lawyers. All of those skills and 35 qualities ably equip Justice Crowley for the role he now begins as a member of a collegiate and mutually supportive Court.

40 The trust and confidence of the community we serve in the judicial arm of Government is essential to the proper functioning of our democracy. That trust and confidence is only enhanced by the appointment of an eminently qualified lawyer, such as Justice Crowley, whose appointment, in addition, broadens the composition of this Bench, edging ever-closer to the composition of society. Today is a landmark moment in the history of our nation and an achievement of greater diversity within a 45 Supreme Court.

Thirty years ago, two significant things happened. In March 1992, Margaret White was the first woman to be appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland. And in June 1992, the High Court handed down its decision in Mabo, another important landmark in our history, involving recognition, albeit belated, of  
5 Indigenous rights in land, an aspect of equality before the law. When Justice White was earlier sworn in as Master of the Supreme Court, she remarked upon the qualities she most admired in Judges – those of calmness, equitableness, moderation, wisdom and courtesy. With the appointment of Justice Crowley, we add another  
10 person of such qualities to our Bench and we reinforce the importance of equality before the law.

Justice Crowley, all of the Judges warmly welcome you to the Court. We look forward to working with you and we wish you a very long, happy and enjoyable  
15 career as a member of this Court.

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