

ADDRESS TO THE SUPREME COURT

May it please the Court.

Today marks another important chapter in the history of this great Court as we farewell your Honour Justice Jackson and welcome your Honour Justice Sullivan. It is an honour to address this court on behalf of the barristers of Queensland on such an occasion.

Justice Jackson,

Your Honour had a stellar career at the commercial Bar where you were one of the most in demand silks in Queensland for many years. But in 2012, your Honour unhesitatingly answered the call to serve and ever since have put all of your energy into this Court and to serving the people of Queensland.

Your Honour's contributions while on this Court over the last 11 years have been very significant. Can I mention three particular areas.

First, your Honour's many years on the Commercial List. Your Honour brought to the commercial list an energy and efficiency which set the standard for the effective and timely disposition of important commercial matters in Queensland. Prompt hearings and speedy judgments were the hallmark of your time on that list.

Second, your time as the judicial member of the Queensland Law Reform commission between 2014 and 2020. The Commission does extremely important work and under your stewardship it addressed a number of very important areas of the law including domestic violence, consent, and reproductive and privacy rights.

Third, your Honour's judgments in areas of both substantive and procedural law. From pleading loss of opportunity of claims and counterfactuals through to the intricacies of law of equity and trusts, corporations law, contract and negligence, your Honour has written many seminal judgments that so many of us refer to on a daily basis.

These contributions reflect that which anyone who has been with you in chambers, as I was lucky enough to be, appeared with you or against you at the Bar, or who has appeared before you on your time on the Bench, knows - that your Honour has a deep and abiding love of the law.

And for someone who has such a love of law it seems to me that there is no greater compliment than to say to you, Justice Jackson, that you have left your mark on the law - an indelible and enduring mark on the law of this State and of this Country.

I know that your Honour is looking forward to pursuing your many interests after leaving this place - conquering the art of skiing amongst them. But I suspect your Honour's interest in and love of the law will ensure that there will be other challenges ahead.

On behalf of the barristers of Queensland, thank you Justice Jackson for your dedicated service to this court and to the Queensland community. We wish you, Janice and your family all the best for the next phase of your life.

Justice Sullivan,

Anyone who has tracked your Honour's rise through the ranks of the Queensland Bar is not surprised that we are here today at your swearing in as a judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland.

Following studying at the University of Queensland and Cambridge, and a brief stint at what was then Feez Ruthning (*now Allens*), your Honour arrived at the bar and quickly gained a reputation as a talented hard working junior. Your practice went from strength to strength. Unsurprisingly your Honour took silk in 2008 after only 13 years at the bar.

Your Honour was that rare silk who could throw their hand at any brief that came through the door. While your Honour was probably best known for your expertise in building and construction, your Honour also built up substantial practices in insolvency, planning, professional negligence, regulatory matters and family law property disputes. Your Honour succeeded in such a wide variety of areas of practice because of your legal acumen and also because of plain hard work. Your Honour's work ethic was legendary. All of these attributes put you in good stead for a successful career on the bench.

Legal acumen and work ethic are essential for this important role you are about to take on. As is character - and your Honour has that in spades.

I have known your Honour since our university days, but it has really been over the last few years working very closely with you on the Bar Council and then as your Vice President that I have had the chance to observe the person you are up close. What I saw was someone who always defended the Bar and Courts - without fear or favour, who understands and protects the rule of law and the proper administration of justice, who always listened to and had time for those who needed help, but who also had a great sense of humour and who never took himself too seriously.

There are many examples I could give but the one that typifies your Honour was an incident last year where a member of the Bar had gotten himself into serious difficulty. Despite your extremely busy practice and the daily burden of being President, when the phone rang at 9:40am and you heard of that difficulty, you dropped everything, threw on your robes, rushed to court and came to the aid of that barrister. That incident reveals the kind of person you are and the standard that you set for the Bar.

Your wife Natalie, your sons Justin and Alex, your mother Margaree and all of your family have every reason to be proud of who you are, your career and your appointment to this Court. I know your father Phil would have been beaming with pride at the idea of his son as a Supreme Court judge.

Your Honour has the complete support of the Queensland Bar. We have every confidence that your Honour will be a great judge and we wish your Honour all the best in this new phase of your legal career.

May it please the Court.