



**ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT DAMIEN O'BRIEN KC
ON THE OCCASION OF A WELCOME CEREMONY
FOR JUSTICE DAVID BODDICE AND JUSTICE
CATHERINE MUIR ON WEDNESDAY, 12 APRIL 2023**

1. May it please the Court.
2. Today marks another significant milestone in the long history of this Court with the elevation to the Court of Appeal of your Honour Justice Boddice and the appointment of your Honour Justice Muir to the trial division of this Court.
3. It is one of the privileges of this position that I have the opportunity to speak on behalf of all of the Barristers of Queensland to congratulate both of you on your appointment and to offer the support of the Bar as you embark on the next chapter in your judicial career.
4. **JUSTICE BODDICE**, I extend a particular welcome to your wife Catherine, your daughter Clara and your two sons, Daniel and Elliot, both of whom are proud members of the Queensland Bar. It is wonderful that they are able to be at the Bar Table with me today on this significant occasion for your family. As your Honour quipped to me, "It is the only time they will ever appear in a Court in front of me".
5. Your Honour was first called to the Bar in 1984 and took silk in 2001. Your Honour had a diverse and very successful practice ranging from medical malpractice through to defamation. As well

as your status as a leader at the Bar, you managed to find time for professional and community service commitments including the Medico-Legal Society, Barristers' Chambers Limited, numerous tribunals, the Bar Council and various Bar committees.

6. After 26 years as one of our own, you answered the call to serve your community when in 2010 you were appointed to this Court. Since your appointment, your Honour has been busy – from managing the Supervised Case List, sitting as President of the Mental Health Court, sitting as a Judge of the Land Appeal Court and presiding over many significant and high profile criminal and civil cases.
7. As was confidently anticipated when your Honour was first sworn-in, your legal skills and calmness under fire, honed after many years at the Bar, has seen your Honour become a very valuable member of this Court. Your Honour's ability to quickly grasp the issues and to identify the critical point on which an application or matter turns on is well known. As is your Honour's efficiency in producing judgments, good humour and civility to all of those who appear before you.
8. Your Honour's extensive trial experience, both at the Bar and on the Bench, renders your Honour an excellent addition to the Court of Appeal. As every barrister and trial judge knows, no trial is perfect. The reality of imperfection in litigation, forged through bitter experience, is important for any appellate judge to understand.
9. Justice Boddice, this appointment is another milestone in what has been a very impressive legal career. Your family has every reason to be particularly proud today of all that Your Honour has achieved and the substantial contribution that you have made and continue to make to the Queensland Judiciary and the broader Queensland community.

10. The Bar Association and its members warmly welcome your Honour's appointment to the Court of Appeal and wish you all the best for this new challenge.
11. **JUSTICE MUIR**, can I also extend a welcome to your family and particularly welcome your husband Michael, your son Tim and daughter Eliza, as well as your mother, Kay. They must be particularly proud of you today.
12. Your Honour joins this Court from the District Court to which you were appointed in 2016. In the ceremony welcoming your Honour to that Court, your Honour spoke of the well-worn path between your chambers and the Chief Justices', when you were both in chambers together. Your Honour has followed that path to the District Court and now the Supreme Court.
13. Your Honour was admitted as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of Queensland in February 1991 and called to the Bar in February 2001. Your Honour had a busy and diverse practice at the Bar focused on complex commercial matters, including bankruptcy and corporate insolvency, property, banking, contractual and professional negligence matters.
14. Your Honour was involved in a number of large trials during your time at the Bar including the infamous Bucketwheel Case before His Honour Justice Phil McMurdo. For those who want to learn more about the Bucketwheel case, I understand his Honour's offer of signed editions of the judgment is still open and they will again be available for purchase after this ceremony.
15. Your Honour was also, with Justice Freeburn, Counsel Assisting the Barrett Inquiry into the juvenile youth detention system, assisting the now retired Justice Margaret Wilson who has travelled from interstate to be here for your Honour today.

16. When appointed to the District Court in 2017, Mr Thompson KC, then Vice President of the Bar Association and who led you on the Bucketwheel case, described your Honour as a very thorough and diligent counsel with whom it was a pleasure to work. His description echoed the view held widely across the Bar at that time.
17. It should be noted also that your Honour had substantial experience whilst a solicitor working for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service which gave your Honour, on coming to the bench, the depth of having practised across criminal and commercial fields, a practice mix not commonly seen amongst members of the Bar in these times of particular specialisation.
18. Since 2017, your Honour has served diligently on the District Court, including on the Commercial List and the Planning and Environment Court. Your Honour has heard a number of complex and difficult matters in that court over the course of the last six years. Your Honour's judgments in these complex and difficult cases, written with clarity and style, are what has marked your Honour for this elevation.
19. Your Honour is from a large but extremely close family, and you lived your childhood life in Barcaldine and Cairns before coming to Brisbane only for university in 1985. That country upbringing has brought with it a culture of service to the public, evidenced by your Honour's work over many years with the Women's Legal Service, as well as service to the Bar through the Bar Practice Course and mentoring of many juniors who have crossed your Honour's path, for which the Bar thanks you.
20. That country upbringing has also forged your Honour's character of humility and generosity, that has been evidenced in the District Court over the last six years. Your Honour has presided over a

court characterised by fairness, integrity and compassion, each of which the Bar knows will continue in equal measure in this court.

21. The Bar Association of Queensland congratulates you on your appointment, assures your Honour of the ongoing support of its members and wishes you all the best for your future on this Court.
22. May it please the Court.