



**ADDRESS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, CATHERINE HEYWORTH-SMITH
KC, ON THE OCCASION OF A WELCOME CEREMONY FOR THREE
MAGISTRATES ON WEDNESDAY, 12 JULY 2023**

1. May it please the court.
2. It gives me great pleasure to speak on behalf of the Bar Association of Queensland to congratulate you, Magistrate Scoines, Magistrate Holohan and Magistrate Buchanan, on your appointments to this Court. It is a unique occasion for all three appointees to already be Acting Magistrates, so while these are not unfamiliar haunts to any of you, the occasion is certainly worthy to celebrate your careers to date and the experience you have each already gained at the Bench.
3. I also extend particular welcome to your immediate and extended families who are here today.
4. **MAGISTRATE SCOINES**, you have been a member of this court as an acting Magistrate since July 2019, sitting in courts in Brisbane, Southport, Mackay, Gladstone, Dalby, Mt Isa and Cairns. We are glad to see you today in Brisbane before you take up a permanent seat serving the community in Cairns.
5. You come to the court with significant experience in child protection, youth justice, commissions and inquiries, as a solicitor from 2012 and, in your years prior to joining the legal profession, with the Director of Child Protection Litigation, and leading the Department of Communities Child Safety After Hours Unit. These roles saw you contributing to and advising the victims involved in the Forde Inquiry and Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

6. Your excellence in the field was recognised when you received the Commission for Children and Young People Child Protection Week Professional Services Award for outstanding contribution to child protection practice in Queensland in 2008. This excellence in achievement then carried across to your legal career, where you were highly regarded as a solicitor practising in child protection.
7. Throughout your career, you have faced many challenging situations and worked to preserve and protect the rights of children in need of care. You have been a giving mentor to junior lawyers under your leadership, and have managed their responses to the often distressing circumstances that travel with that area of law.
8. I am advised, though, that your generosity did not extend to one important area of practice. You are renowned for your aesthetic appreciation of fine stationery. Once word became known of this, you found that you had to label everything to avoid more than merely your goodwill and experience being acquired by your mentees. Those labels perhaps stand as a warning for your colleagues on the Bench.
9. **MAGISTRATE HOLOHAN**, it has been just over a year since you became Acting Magistrate, joining from the private Bar, where you practised from 2009 in criminal and family law, with a particular focus on the use of forensic, medical digital and expert evidence.
10. However, your experience is not limited to those areas of law, and includes your many years with the Royal Australian Air Force, Australian Defence Force, Crime and Misconduct Commission, Australian Federal Police, and Queensland Police Service.
11. Among that experience you gave expert evidence in 1999 in a matter involving the first conviction for murder based solely on DNA evidence in Queensland.
12. You were deployed to East Timor and Tonga; represented the AFP at the Office of Prime Minister and Cabinet; and you were awarded the Australian Defence Medal and Australian Federal Police Foundation Day Honours in 2015.

13. Your impressive list of accomplishments outside your experience as counsel is further bolstered by your commitment to education, where for a number of years you have been involved in the training of expert witnesses, presented seminars on the use of forensic and digital evidence, and assisted the practical legal training program at QUT. You hold a Master of Science in Forensic Science and a Master of Laws featuring the not-often-seen combination of Mediation and the Use of Force.
14. Those who have worked closely with your Honour speak of a measured and clever practitioner with wide expertise, who is a generous and compassionate mentor, always maintaining a great sense of humour. We at the Bar know you for that, and also for your passion for cricket, having been a key organiser of the Bar v Bench cricket match. We hope that you can return from Cairns to bat at first drop for the 2024 showing of that match.
15. **MAGISTRATE BUCHANAN**, we are glad to welcome you to this ceremony before you return to Gladstone, where you have been sitting since January. You have been working in Central Queensland since joining Legal Aid Bundaberg in 2004, which you led until your appointment as Acting Magistrate.
16. At Legal Aid, you were among the few practitioners working in both Criminal and Family law, managing the department, acting as duty lawyer, and Independent Children's Lawyer in the Family Law jurisdiction and as a Separate Representative in the Child Protection jurisdiction. You are known for your ability to 'do it all', acting in a murder trial one day, and brokering a family law settlement the next.
17. While you have been away from the Legal Aid office since the start of this year, I am reliably informed that you are very much missed by your colleagues, who told me of a generous mentor with a wealth of knowledge, who was always sensible, calm, and willing to take as much time as might be needed to help your staff solve a problem.
18. You are known for being fair-minded and empathetic to your clients and disadvantaged members of the community, you have never had a bad word for anyone, and you look for and generally manage to find the good in people. By corollary, you are held in such high

regard by your former colleagues that even the Bar Association's most careful investigations could not turn up tale of unusual hobbies, idiosyncrasies, whisper of a sweet tooth, consumerist tendencies, or even a habit of quoting from Ted Lasso. Your Honour's former colleagues are a vault – a matter that speaks to their regard for you, and equally the concern of what might befall them when they are next to appear in your Honour's court.

19. Most people's first experience of the justice system is in the Magistrates Court. These people are our clients and, as their advocates, we need to be able to tell them with conviction that they will be treated with respect and fairness, by a magistrate possessed of the highest legal acumen, whatever the circumstances that bring them here. Your Honours' appointments ensure that our confidence in conveying those sentiments will endure.
20. And it speaks volumes of the high regard in which the Magistrates Court of Queensland is held in the profession and the community that individuals of such calibre should step up to accept roles of such relentless responsibility.
21. Your Honours come to these roles with significant levels of experience in some of the most troubling and complex areas of legal practice involving the most vulnerable members of the community.
22. The people of Queensland will be well served by your Honours' appointments.
23. Magistrate Scoines, Magistrate Holohan and Magistrate Buchanan, on behalf of the Association, I wish you long and successful terms of service, and extend my congratulations to you and your families.
24. May it please the court.