

The Honourable Yvette D'Ath MP, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence

The Honourable Justice Mullins AO, President of the Queensland Court of Appeal

Judges of the Court of Appeal and Trial Division of the Queensland Supreme Court

Judges of the Federal Court

Judge Mercuri, Deputy Chief Judge of the Federal Circuit and Family Court and judges of that Court

Judge Devereaux S.C., Chief Judge of the District Court, and District Court Judges

Magistrates and members of tribunals,

Retired Judges

Mr Peter Dunning KC, President of the Australia Bar Association

Ms Chloé Kopilović, President of the Queensland Law Society

Leaders of the profession from Queensland and around Australia

Distinguished guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Welcome to the Bar Dinner for 2023.

Can I begin by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet – the Turrbal and Jagera/Yaggera people - and pay my respects to their Elders, past and present.

Can I also particularly thank those who have travelled great distances to be here tonight:

- Judge Mercuri
- Sam Hay, President of the Victorian Bar – great to have you here Sam – after what you have been through this year I suspect you might have been happy to jump on a plane and head north – rest assured this is a safe space
- Ian Roberston SC, Chair of the ABA Advocacy Training and representative of the South Australian Bar
- Mr Greg Tolhurst, Chief Executive of the ABA

- Ms Amanda Utt, Chief Executive of the Vic Bar.

After the hiatus caused by COVID, the Bar Dinner came back with a vengeance last year. The dinner at Cloudland was a great success - other than the '*doof doof*' sound reverberating through the floor from the thumping nightclub below. I honestly never thought I would hear a speech from Justice Glen Martin to the soundtrack of Madonna's Like a Virgin – bizarrely somehow it worked.

Things had to change. A new venue had to be found - and here we are. With a new venue, we took the opportunity to inquire of our members what are the essential ingredients of a great Bar Dinner. Our members were clear on what those ingredients are.

First, it has to be glamorous. Well I only have to look around the room tonight to see that we have that ticked that box – many times over. The ladies look spectacular and the men look debonair. Apropos of that, if someone finds how Patrick O'Shea KC managed to organise the table arrangements so that he is the only male at a table of 9 beautiful women from North Quarter Lane Chambers, please let me know. I know silks have magic but that is impressive. Hats off to you Patrick.

Second, our members said that the speeches have to be short and sweet. Now it does not get any sweeter in the speaker department than the dulcet tones of Peter Dunning KC, President of the ABA, to toast the Judiciary, and the wit and precision of Justice Peter Flanagan to respond. And I am told by both Peters that the speeches will be short.

The Third and final essential ingredient our members identified of a Bar Dinner was - "O'Brien and Treston on the dance floor at two o'clock in the morning". Well, Ladies and Gentlemen, I can promise you that at this Bar Dinner - O'Brien and Treston will be on the dance floor at two o'clock in the morning.

On a serious note, one of the initiatives I have sought to bring about since taking on the Presidency is to give greater recognition to those of our current members or past members who have made a valuable contribution to the law, the Association and the Bar. One way we can do that is through recognition of those contributions is at a night like this.

First, to those Judges who retired since last year's Bar Dinner, which originated from the barrister arm of the profession:

- The Honourable Justice Patrick Keane AC

- The Honourable Justice Hugh Fraser – former President of the Qld Bar
- The Honourable Justice Philip McMurdo
- The Honourable Justice David Jackson

Those appointed to the Bench who also come from the Bar:

- The Honourable Justice Tom Sullivan - former President of the Qld Bar
- His Honour Judge Nicholas Andreatidis KC – long-time member of the Bar Council
- Her Honour Judge Jennifer McArdle
- Magistrate Michael Holohan
- Magistrate Michael Dalton

Court Elevations

- The Honourable Justice David Boddice from the Supreme Court to the Court of Appeal
- The Honourable Justice Catherine Muir from the District Court to the Supreme Court

Can I then turn to three outstanding members of the Bar who have recently announced their retirements. Each of these gentleman are life members of the Association.

First, Mr Robert Bain KC has retired after 47 years in practice, 31 as silk. Robert was a true all-rounder and a formidable advocate in Court. Through his almost half a century in practice, Robert had a very successful and busy commercial practice.

Robert was a huge contributor to the Bar and the Bar Association. One of his most significant contributions was his involvement in the Bar Practice Course and Bar Exams, including as member of the Bar Practice Course Committee from 2000 until this year. Robert had an abiding commitment to educating and mentoring the junior Bar. He mentored many juniors who are now judges and silks.

Second, Mr Phillip Hack KC has announced his retirement after 42 years, 31 as silk, in a career spent in private practice and as Full-Time Deputy President of the AAT. Prior to his appointment, Phil was known first for his criminal and appellate practice, then for his skill in commercial law, with a particular emphasis on revenue, insolvency and administrative law matters. Importantly for the Association, Phil was for many years the Honorary Treasurer of both the Association and the Australian Bar Association, and spent 16 years as a member on the Bar Council. In 2006 he was appointed Full-Time Deputy President of the AAT, and

worked as Executive Deputy President for Queensland and the Northern Territory and was responsible for establishing national practices and procedures for the tax and commercial lists. Phil returned to the Bar in 2015 and practiced until the conclusion of the last practising year.

Third, Mr Douglas Murphy KC has retired after 41 years in practice, 17 of which as silk, practising in the fields of commercial, property, trusts and wills and estates law and more recently as one of Queensland's leading mediators. As well as his 18 years of membership of the Bar Council, where he was Honorary Secretary for four years and Honorary Treasurer for another year, Doug has been an instrumental member of the Association's Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee and a key part of the Association's Alternative Dispute Resolution Conference, where his extensive rolodex gave the Association access to many world-renowned speakers and presenters. The success of that conference for many years was due in large part to Doug's hard work.

On behalf of the Association and all of the Barristers of Queensland, I would like to congratulate Robert, Phil and Doug on their achievements, thank them for their valuable contributions and wish them all the best in retirement from the Bar.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge Mr Francis Redmond on his achieving 50 years in practice. Frank was first called to the Bar on 15 December 1972 (the year after I was born) and is the most experienced junior counsel in Queensland, practising in insolvency, consumer law and mediation. Frank has maintained a busy and active practice over those 50 year appearing in all courts. Frank is with us here tonight as our guest of honour. Congratulations Frank on this great achievement. We wish you all the best as your career continues.

Now as promised we are going to keep things short and sweet tonight. We will now have entrée. After entrée we will have the toast to the Judiciary to be immediately followed by the response – and that will be the end of the formalities. The rest of the night is yours to have fun and catch up with friends.

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To give the toast to the Judiciary, can I introduce a man who needs absolutely no introduction, Mr Peter Dunning KC.

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To respond on behalf of the Judiciary, Justice Peter Flanagan.

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Ladies and gentlemen, that is the end of formalities. The rest of the night is yours. Now as I promised, Treston and I will be kicking on – as we hope some of you will be - we have secured a cordoned off section at Mr Percival's for the Bar – so we will see you there.

Have a fantastic night and good evening