



**ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT, CATE HEYWORTH-SMITH KC  
ON THE OCCASION OF A SWEARING-IN CEREMONY FOR  
JUSTICE THOMAS BRADLEY AND JUSTICE PAUL SMITH AM  
ON WEDNESDAY, 2 APRIL 2025**

1. May it please the court.
2. It is a great pleasure to speak on behalf of the Bar Association of Queensland on the occasion of the swearings-in of two already accomplished jurists. Each of them is, perhaps more importantly, also an accomplished human being. Each of them makes us wonder what we have been doing with our time.
3. It is important on these occasions to acknowledge that none of us achieves success, none of us has the time to serve, except with the support of those closest to us. We in the community of the law demand much of our families. We presume heavily upon their support. Days like this happen because of them.
4. **JUSTICE BRADLEY**, I am pleased to welcome your Honour, your partner Matthew, and your immediate and extended family and friends to this ceremony. After seven years in the trial division of this Honourable Court, and over three outstanding decades in the legal profession before then, there is no room for surprise to find you elevated now to the Court of Appeal.
5. Your Honour's arrival on the Court of Appeal has, to many of us, for a very long time, seemed inevitable. When you first came to the bar, when you were squatting with a promising young junior named Sue, as her Honour Justice Brown was then known, I would hazard that each of you would have regarded with astonishment any suggestion that you would inevitably find yourselves here. That has more to do with the humility and modesty for which each of you is known. The rest of us knew exactly where you were bound.
6. So much has been and will be said of your time as a solicitor and then a barrister; every accolade richly deserved. Every position held, every brief accepted, and every succinct and sensible argument made, forming you up for judicial office.
7. The legal skills, the advocacy skills, those are essential elements of your success. They are part of what bring you here today. But, remarkable as they are, they cannot be

allowed to overshadow the other qualities that have drawn people to you ... that have made you, throughout the profession and the community, the obvious choice for elevation to your new position.

8. I speak of your Honour's wit and intelligence, your industry, the joy you take not only in your friends and family, but in your colleagues and, yes, even the barristers appearing before you from time to time. Your patience, your good sense, your collegiality and your warmth.
9. Your Honour's life of service has extended well beyond service on the Bench. The arts community would be a very different place without Thomas Bradley. Your patronage of the fine arts has kept many a painter and sculptor in wine and cheese. But that devotion has not merely kept your walls decorated and your chambers' colleagues happy with the overflow. You have also worked tirelessly to bring the performing arts and literature to the people of Queensland.
10. You are the chair of the Brisbane Festival Giving Committee, the Brisbane Writers Festival, you are the vice-patron of the Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art Foundation and a member of the Queensland Committee of the Australiana Fund. There is not enough time to list all of your Honour's achievements and roles. Perhaps between the three of us at the Bar Table today, we will at least touch the sides.
11. Those interests and achievements demonstrate that your Honour combines art and heritage and history, and these all resonate in your Honour's approach to the law. You see it not only for what it is now, but with a deep understanding of its history and its context in society.
12. In 2016, your Honour drew these strands together for the Selden Society, presenting a paper on the *Dobell Case* – an action brought by two disaffected Archibald Prize entrants against William Dobell and the Gallery's trustees. It has been, as your Honour knows, podcasted by the Supreme Court Library and... I am reliably informed, is one of their most popular downloads.
13. In 2021, your Honour presented Pride in the Law's 5<sup>th</sup> annual address entitled *Some thoughts on Love, Work and the Future*. Again, your Honour weaved together history and the law in this instance relating to same-sex marriage and sex-based discrimination in the workplace. It was not merely a discussion of present rights, but of the legacies – good and ill – of years past and an optimistic view of the future.
14. Perhaps most poignantly, your Honour has been a crucial part of Access Arts, the organisation which gives talented disabled artists the opportunity to succeed in what can be an intimidating pursuit.

15. Your Honour's service to the disadvantaged has recently seen you become an ambassador for the Pinnacle Foundation, which provides educational scholarships and mentoring for young LBGTIQ+ Australians.
16. Now, your Honour does not claim artistic talents *per se*, but your appreciation and love of art might be best exemplified in your Honour's old chambers photograph: you insisted on being photographed off-centre so as to not obscure the stunning landscape which hung behind your desk.
17. I cannot finish this speech without mentioning your Honour's work over the years in furthering the profession, supporting the Bar and in legal education. At the time of your elevation to the Trial Division, you were the Treasurer of the Bar Association of Queensland. You left the books in good order for your successor.
18. When your Honour was sworn in as a member of the Trial Division, you spoke of your family and your friends. You were generous in your acknowledgements of those who contributed to your successes and walked beside you in harder times. You said that you think friendship is one of the most civilising of relationships. Your Honour has lived that sentiment. And we, your friends, and former colleagues at the Bar, could not be more pleased for your success on this day.
19. The Association looks forward to your time on the Court of Appeal.
20. **JUSTICE SMITH**, it gives me great pleasure to speak on this occasion on behalf of the Bar. I welcome your wife Lisa, and your immediate and extended family, who, themselves, have been part of the court's family for last 12 years.
21. Your Honour joins the Supreme Court of Queensland from the District Court, to which you were first appointed in 2013.
22. Your Honour commenced your time on the bench in Rockhampton before returning to Brisbane in 2014 and being appointed to the role of Senior Judge Administrator. Your Honour's acceptance of this arduous position came as no surprise to your former colleagues at the Bar – you were well known for your work ethic, your desire to serve your community and your near-pathological devotion to efficiency.
23. At the start of each week, you would write yourself a list of all your tasks and 'power through' until the work was done. Considering your standing amongst the criminal bar, and the many matters your Honour appeared in during your twenty-three years as counsel, one can safely assume it was always a long list.

24. In your time at the Bar, you were known as a willing mentor, a steadfast friend, and a fearless advocate who willingly appeared in appeal matters on a *pro bono* basis, upholding the rule of law and ensuring your clients' access to justice and the right to a fair trial.
25. And if that wasn't all sufficiently annoying, your Honour is also an avid runner, cyclist and triathlete. I am reliably informed by those with whom you trained, that you gloried in starting your runs with much younger competitors at a punishing pace and then engaged them in a conversation that required substantive responses beyond a breathless grunt in agreement. When your companion flagged, you would give a nod, put on a turn of pace and burn off into the distance.
26. There is a strong tradition in the Queensland judiciary and legal profession of military service. You were a soldier in the Army Reserve for four years before your commission in 1984. You served with the Queensland University Regiment, where you won the Sword of Honour. You transferred to the Australian Army Legal Corps in 1993. You currently hold the rank of Brigadier, have been Deputy Judge Advocate General since March 2019.
27. Your Honour was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for exceptional service to the military in 2024. Your citation for the Order advised that you were an exceptional officer and mentor who has displayed outstanding leadership in a most complex role as Deputy Judge Advocate General – Army. Your expertise, experience and wisdom have directly contributed to the development of advocates who appear in Defence Force magistrate and court martial proceedings. Your exceptional service has resulted in a superior discipline system that continues to contribute to the good order and discipline of the Australian Defence Force.
28. The whole Bar celebrates your elevation, but the enthusiasm of the criminal bar is especially high. In my research for this speech, it became evident that every one of them has their own impersonation of your bass vocal stylings. Some are more accurate than others, but all are performed with genuine affection and respect. Importantly, the Bar is certain that your Honour will have done everything to make sure your successor as Senior Judge Administrator has the resources they need to keep powering through the list in the same way you did.
29. The barristers of Queensland warmly welcome your Honour's appointment to the Supreme Court and look forward to appearing before you.
30. May it please the Court.