



QUEENSLAND COURTS AND TRIBUNALS

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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SUPREME COURT OF QUEENSLAND

BOWSKILL CJ
MULLINS P
BOND JA
BODDICE JA
BROWN JA
BRADLEY JA
DOYLE JA
NORTH J
HENRY J
RYAN J
CROW J
WILSON J
CALLAGHAN J

WILLIAMS J
FREEBURN J
KELLY J
MELLIFONT J
COOPER J
HINDMAN J
CROWLEY J
SULLIVAN J
MUIR J
COPLEY J
TRESTON J
JOHNSTONE J

**IN THE MATTER OF THE SWEARING IN OF THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE
SHANE DOYLE AND THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE CHRISTOPHER
JOHNSTONE AS JUDGES OF THE SUPREME COURT OF QUEENSLAND**

BRISBANE

9.03 AM, MONDAY, 28 JULY 2025

DAY 1

Any rulings in this transcript may be extracted and revised by the presiding Judge.

WARNING: The publication of information or details likely to lead to the identification of persons in some proceedings is a criminal offence. This is so particularly in relation to the identification of children who are involved in criminal proceedings or proceedings for their protection under the *Child Protection Act 1999*, and complainants in criminal sexual

offences, but is not limited to those categories. You may wish to seek legal advice before giving others access to the details of any person named in these proceedings.

Also present:

On behalf of the Government of Queensland:

The Honourable Deborah Frecklington MP, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity

The Solicitor-General:

Mr Gim del Villar KC

On behalf of the Bar Association of Queensland:

Ms Catherine Heyworth-Smith KC, President, Bar Association of Queensland

On behalf of the Queensland Law Society:

Ms Genevieve Dee, President, Queensland Law Society

REVISED

REGISTRAR: We hold this ceremony today for the swearing in of Justice Doyle as a judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland and a judge of appeal and Justice Johnstone as a judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland.

5 THE CHIEF JUSTICE: I will first invite Justice Doyle to present his commission.

DOYLE JA: Chief Justice, I present a commission appointing me as a judge of the Supreme Court and a judge of appeal.

10 THE CHIEF JUSTICE: Let the commission be read.

COMMISSION READ

15 THE CHIEF JUSTICE: I will now invite Justice Doyle to take the affirmations of allegiance and of office.

20 **OATHS OF ALLEGIANCE AND OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED**

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THE CHIEF JUSTICE: Justice Doyle.

5 DOYLE JA: Chief Justice, President. Attorney-General, judges of this and other
courts and former judges, friends and family. Chief Justice, thank you for your kind
words and the friendly reception that I received from both you and indeed everyone
on this court. Such warmth from a court is, as you might expect, something of a
novel experience, indeed a little unsettling as someone who's been an advocate for
close to 40 years. But I do have a great many friends on the court and I'm very much
10 looking forward to working with all of them.

Attorney-General, you have been especially generous in your comments and in your
congratulations to me. For my part, I'm grateful for the chance you've given me to
provide some service to the public in my career and I'll do the best I can to make my
15 contribution a worthwhile one. As to that photograph of experience you referred to
in the Land Appeal Court, frankly I would defy anyone to show any emotion or
animation in discussing the meaning of the expression "intangible improvements."

20 President of the Bar, Ms Heyworth-Smith, for the first and very likely the last time
on the bench, I can say that I was sorry that you stopped, at least for the first part of
your address. I lost interest for a bit towards the second half. Listening to you was,
for me, a treat. Having been in your place, I know this is the only occasion when a
barrister can address really disconnected from the truth, and you certainly have done
that and grossly overstated my position. You did exceedingly well in that and I'm
25 thankful for that.

I've practiced, as you've heard, as a barrister for 38-and-a-half years and about 30 of
those as a silk. In that time, I've led hundreds of barristers. I've appeared with and
against many hundreds more with a wide range of skills and of styles and of interests
30 and of expertise. The virtually universal common characteristic of all of them is a
dedication to their client's cause, hard work and integrity. I think few people can
really appreciate the long hours and stresses which application to life at the bar
demands and I will remember it. I believe the bar plays a vital and central role in
the administration of justice in our adversarial system and long may that continue.
35 As to the stories you've told, I suspect I can identify your informants and I have a
long memory.

Ms Dee, President of the Queensland Law Society, before my time at the bar I was a solicitor, or working in a solicitors' office, for in all about six years and those years were for me formative, educational, interesting and challenging. I really enjoyed my
5 time as a solicitor and there was a time when I toyed with remaining so. I have no regrets that I didn't, but it was a wonderful time. There are various paths to the bar but, for me, the best was to have that educative practice in a solicitors' office first. You are exposed to not just litigation but to lots of other things which we at the bar seldom see. Happily for me, my relationship with the solicitors' branch didn't come
10 to an end when I came to the bar in 1987. I have been briefed by a very wide range of firms over those years; It is fair to say mostly at the larger national or international firm size, but also by many small, medium city, provincial city and country solicitors. And again, overwhelmingly they have in common a dedication to hard work in representing the interests of their client with integrity for their clients
15 and their community,. It is one of the great strengths of our divided profession that the two branches can work so effectively together in the administration of justice.

I am fortunate to have my family here today. The bar has been good to me and my family in many ways. I met my lovely wife, Margaret, when she and I were acting
20 for the same client in a matter. She has supported me throughout my career, including my mid-career decision, some might say mid-career crisis decision, to collocate my practice to London and Australia. In addition to Maggie, who is a practicing barrister, two of my sons, Matthew and Christopher, and my daughter-in-law, also a Maggie, are all practicing barristers at the Queensland bar and I am
25 delighted to have you here appearing as members of the bar. My other children, Tim and Alice, have been able to get leave from their studies in Europe and drag themselves away from the attraction of a northern hemisphere summer to be here today, albeit substantially jetlagged. You should both know how much that means to me. Two of my siblings, Maurice and Kathy, are also in court together with at least
30 one of my nieces. Having you all here for me is uniquely special. While the bar has been good to me, the demands it makes on everyone around me are obvious and varied. I owe to my wife and children my gratitude for their love and tolerant patience, though I'd add that the intensity of the latter has varied from time to time.

There are many other close friends and colleagues here today and really too many for
35 me to mention everyone. I hope you all understand that. There are many members of the bar here today. I will, of course, take complete credit for the large number of barristers here today rather than Justice Johnstone and he and I both know the truth. I've made many friends at the bar, including in my former chambers. It is for Justice
40 Johnstone a misfortune that he spent more than a decade in chambers with me and took his northern appointment possibly to get away from me only for us to end up being sworn in on the same day today and serving on the court at the same time. There are also many solicitors here that I've worked with and against over the years and it's good to see all of you.

45 I'd acknowledge, in particular, the Hon Ian Callinan KC who was for me a role model, a supporter of me and my career as well as being a very good friend. Also I notice present are his Honour Justice Andrew and Ulla Greenwood and my good friends Philip, Brett, Damien and Jackie, Graeme and Sue, Glen, Roger and

Samantha, Damian and Sarah and Quentin. Quentin has come here today from his practice in the Cayman Islands. I also would like to offer a particular thanks to Justice Peter Flanagan, really for two reasons. His premature retirement made way for me, which is the first of the reasons, and the second is that we've been good
5 friends for over 55-something years. To all of you, thank you for taking the time to be here. It's made what was an important day for me very special indeed. Thank you. Chief Justice.

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THE CHIEF JUSTICE: Well, thank you all for attending. I'm just going to join in the competition. I think you've come here for the Court, for the institution. But whatever your reason, we are very grateful and honoured by your presence and you are all invited to join the judges for morning tea in the Portrait Gallery. Let these
15 proceedings be recorded. Adjourn the court.

REVISED