



**ADDRESS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, MS REBECCA TRESTON QC,  
ON THE OCCASION OF A WELCOME CEREMONY FOR  
THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE GRAEME CROW AND  
THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE SORAYA RYAN  
OF THE SUPREME COURT OF QUEENSLAND  
ON MONDAY 19 MARCH 2018**

May it please the Court

Your Honour the Chief Justice, Justice Crow and your Honour's family, Justice Ryan and your Honour's family, Justice Keane, your Honour the President of the Court of Appeal, Justices of the Supreme Court, Chief Judge of the District Court, Chief Magistrate, retired members of the judiciary, current members of the judiciary, distinguished guests and members of the profession, ladies and gentlemen.

On behalf of the Bar Association of Queensland it gives me great pleasure to congratulate the Honourable Justice Graeme Crow and the Honourable Justice Soraya Ryan on your appointments as Justices of the Supreme Court of Queensland.

The President of the Bar Association of Queensland, Mr Thompson QC extends his sincere apologies for his inability to be here today. As your Honours know, Mr Thompson is in Court in Sydney, and although he has personally contacted each of you to extend his apology, he asks that I mention this and record his wish to be associated with my comments.

Your Honours share some important characteristics. Your respective professional careers were underpinned by excellent academic foundations. You commenced at the Bar in the same year, and you developed very busy practices, marked not only by personal success but by your Honours' respective contributions to the community and, in particular, to the education and professional development of your colleagues.

**The Honourable Justice Crow**

Your Honour, as we have heard was born and educated in Rockhampton.

Importantly to the members of the Bar, your Honour was called to the Bar on 20 May 1991, commencing practice in your home town of Rockhampton. There, your Honour grew a large practice in common law, personal injury, insurance and equity law. Your Honour was appointed Senior Counsel on 22 November 2010. I am sure many shared the civic pride shown by the *Rockhampton Morning Bulletin*, which boasted that your Honour was the first barrister born, raised, educated and practising in Rockhampton to be so appointed.

As the Central Judge, your Honour will be involved in nearly all the most significant legal cases in the region. Some would say this changes little, as your Honour is well-known for an immensely busy practice in the Central region. Your Honour will continue your commitment to central Queensland on the bench.

Your Honour has served as a member of the Bar Council. Your Honour was a member of the Bar Association's Professional Ethics Committee, and was also an Ethics Counsellor, one of a number of senior practitioners who play the invaluable role of assisting members with ethical enquiries. I thank your Honour for your significant contribution to the Association over nearly 27 years of membership.

As well as building a practice in Rockhampton, together with your wife Vicky, your Honour has raised a family in Rockhampton and we welcome Vicky, Thomas, Oliver, James and Isabella today. No doubt they share pride in your Honour's achievements and in the recognition implicit in your Honour's appointment to this Court.

Your Honour has played important roles in the community, serving as Chairman of directors of the Rockhampton Leagues Club, a director of Stanwell Corporation and as a long-term member and patrol captain for the Emu Park Surf Lifesaving Club.

Aside from an interest in running marathons, your Honour is well-known for organising hiking expeditions for your colleagues and friends, as far afield as the Kepler Track in New Zealand.

While your Honour is no stranger to the practice of criminal law, your Honour's most recent involvement with the police was on one such trek, when the local constable had to be called over a dispute as to whether someone in your Honour's trekking party had stolen a German hiker's boots. According to the *Southland Times*, no punches were thrown and everyone walked off in the correct shoes.

No doubt your Honour's new judicial colleagues can look forward to invitations to join further adventures in the great outdoors, perhaps adorned with slightly less publicity.

Finally I should say something of your Honour's well recognised optimistic approach to life and work. At lunch time of your Honour's second day on the job, your Honour enthusiastically shared with a friend over dumplings that your Honour was loving your new role, and did not have a single reserved judgement. The Bar hopes your Honour might continue to enjoy that day-two enthusiasm for your judicial office.

The Bar Association and its members warmly extends to your Honour congratulations on this well-deserved appointment and wishes your Honour a long and successful career on the bench.

### **The Honourable Justice Ryan**

As with Justice Crow, I will not repeat all of your Honour's academic achievements and the career path as set out by the Chief Justice and Mr Dunning on behalf of the Honourable Attorney General.

Importantly to the members of the Bar Association, your Honour was called to the Bar on 18 November 1991, commencing at the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, where your Honour progressed to Crown Prosecutor in 1992 and then to Senior Crown Prosecutor in 1996, conducting trials, sentences and applications on behalf of the State. In that period the DPP was a colourful place and your Honour worked with many interesting colleagues, some of whom now serve as judicial officers, while others comprise much of the senior criminal Bar. Your Honour observed and enjoyed the colour, but mostly set about quietly but steadily honing your craft as an advocate.

Your Honour was a Course Coordinator and lecturer in Evidence, and a tutor in Ethics at the University of Queensland. Your Honour also found time to contribute as an author of Carter's Criminal Code.

In 2002, your Honour joined Legal Aid Queensland as Counsel, appearing on behalf of persons charged with criminal offences where you remained for several years. In 2008, your Honour was seconded to the Queensland Law Reform Commission as an Executive Legal Consultant to assist in the review of the excuse of accident and the defence of provocation. Your Honour's most valuable contribution to that work was not underestimated by the then Chair of the Law Reform Commission, Justice Atkinson, nor was it unnoticed by the other members of the Commission, including Justice Bond.

In 2010, your Honour joined the private Bar, practising in criminal law, mental health law and administrative law.

Your Honour was appointed Queen's Counsel on 14 November 2013.

In private practice, your Honour's willingness to represent legally aided defendants continued unabated. Your Honour will be remembered for taking on the cases of some of the most disadvantaged, isolated, difficult and despised members of our community in serious criminal trials and dangerous prisoner cases. Your Honour was an exemplar of the highest ideals of the Bar, faithful to the cab rank rule, affording the ablest of representation to those without any of the ordinary advantages of life.

Whilst in private practice, your Honour was also a part time member of the Queensland Law Reform Commission from December 2010 to December 2013.

Your Honour has been a member of the Association's Bar Practice Course Committee, and your Honour has made a significant contribution to the legal education of new members of the Bar, and to the Bar in Papua New Guinea, for all of which the Association is most grateful.

Your Honour is devoted to your family, your husband Tim and your children Lydia, Sabrina and Leo who we also warmly welcome today. Your family, like you, will be sorely missed by colleagues at your former chambers; although your Honour may have left one prisoner to destiny.

On the day your Honour's appointment was announced, a certain handy greyhound, named "Swizzle Stick" achieved a great victory in his race at Ipswich. Swizzle Stick's owner, someone well-known to your Honour, noted how uncharacteristic it was of you to draw attention away from the success of others. The owner, your husband Tim, was correct of course – your Honour's approach has always been thoughtful of others and enthusiastic of their successes whilst genuinely modest in respect of your own achievements.

The Bar Association and its members extend to your Honour congratulations on this well-deserved appointment and wishes your Honour a long and successful career on the bench.

May it please the Court.