



**ADDRESS OF THE HONORARY TREASURER, MR THOMAS BRADLEY QC,
ON THE OCCASION OF A SWEARING-IN CEREMONY FOR
HER HONOUR MAGISTRATE VIVIANA KEEGAN AND
HER HONOUR MAGISTRATE PHILIPPA BECKINSALE
ON WEDNESDAY 20 JUNE 2018
AT THE BRISBANE MAGISTRATES COURT**

May it please the Court

Your Honour the Chief Magistrate, Magistrate Keegan and your Honour's family, Magistrate Beckinsale and your Honour's family, other members of the Court; I acknowledge the Honourable Attorney-General of Queensland, the Honourable Chief Justice of Queensland, Justices of the Supreme Court, Judges of the District Court and the Federal Circuit Court, members of other courts and tribunals, retired members of the judiciary, distinguished guests and members of the profession, ladies and gentlemen.

On behalf of the Bar Association of Queensland, it is a great pleasure to congratulate both your Honour Magistrate Keegan and your Honour Magistrate Beckinsale on appointment as Magistrates. The President of the Association, Mr Thompson QC, has asked me to pass on his personal congratulations and his apology that he is unable to appear this morning.

The magistracy is a role dating back to classical times. In ancient Rome, magistrates presided over civil and criminal trials in which Cicero and Hortensius appeared as Counsel. Their role was to check the excesses of the powerful, to do justice for women in disputatious personal relationships, to protect the interests of children and to ratably punish offenders. Your Honours might reflect on how little has changed.

The blend of judicial and executive powers exercised by members of this court links your Honours to those officers of classical times. And, through the resident and stipendiary magistrates who carried the common law and kept the peace in England, Wales and Ireland, the stream flows from medieval to modern times and to this time and this place.

This morning the court officially welcomes new appointments drawn from two of the powerhouse regions of the State; regions that are productive of much of our natural wealth, our great infrastructure projects, dynamic and outward looking people and a great deal of our significant litigation.

Your Honour Magistrate Keegan graduated from James Cook University with a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Arts with Honours (majoring in politics). Your Honour also holds a Bachelor of Arts (majoring in Government) conferred by the University of Sydney.

Your Honour was called to the Bar on 27 March 1998, commencing practice at the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions office in Townsville. Your Honour's early

evident skill and diligence led to an appointment as a Crown Prosecutor, then Senior Crown Prosecutor, and then Principal Crown Prosecutor, at the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions in Townsville where your Honour acted as Counsel in Supreme and District Court trials and sentences, and in appeals in the Court of Appeal and the District Courts.

The role of a Principal Crown Prosecutor in a major provincial city carries responsibility for prosecuting the most serious offences, assisting the Courts to play their part in enforcing the rule of law, which is to say upholding the architecture of civility on which our security and good fortune depend.

Your Honour came to the private Bar in 2008 and quickly developed a well-respected reputation in civil litigation, criminal law, family law and mediation.

Over ten years at the private Bar your Honour acted in some of the most difficult and significant criminal cases. As well, your Honour attracted a certain celebrity, including acting for NRL players from the North Queensland Cowboys in less serious, but reputationally significant, matters.

The Bar Association particularly acknowledges your contribution to the Association and its members; and thanks your Honour for it.

Your Honour was a regular presenter at the pre-Christmas Townsville Annual Case Reviews, often with your AB Paterson Chambers' colleague, Wayne Elliot. Your Honour also contributed to legal education across the North, presenting at conferences and seminars in Cairns and Mackay, as well as Townsville.

Your Honour was Treasurer and a member of the Executive of the North Queensland Bar Association from 2013.

On behalf of the NQBA and in conjunction with the Townsville District Law Association, your Honour coordinated a continuing professional development program enabling regional practitioners to obtain CPD points locally and live. Your Honour may be pleased to learn that the Bar Association's Townsville Advocacy Intensive is set to take place later this year.

Your colleagues at the Bar elected your Honour to the Bar Council. In that forum you brought a characteristic robustness and good humour to discussions, which will be missed. Your Honour also served as a member of the Bar Association's Regional Issues Committee.

Your Honour made a significant contribution to the community, providing pro bono legal advice and mediation services through LawRight (formerly QPILCH). Your Honour was also a member of the Court of Appeal Pro Bono Scheme.

Your Honour also made a significant contribution to the North Queensland region.

I understand your Honour has been appointed to the bench at the Toowoomba Magistrates Court for a year, before returning to the Townsville Magistrates Court. In Toowoomba, we trust your Honour will have the benefit of the support of fellow Magistrates and will bring some of the warmth of your Northern home to the more temperate Garden City and apply your

Honour's extensive experience as a professional advocate to the benefit of the people of the Darling Downs.

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

Your Honour Magistrate Beckinsale graduated from the University of Queensland with a Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Arts (with a double major in Psychology).

Your Honour was admitted to the Supreme Court of Queensland, and the High Court of Australia, on 29 January 1991.

Your Honour commenced practice as a solicitor in family and criminal law at Swanwick Murray Roche Solicitors, a firm serving the communities of Central Queensland for more than 120 years, with deep historical roots in Rockhampton, Mount Morgan and Clermont. Your Honour's next move was to the somewhat younger firm of Kerry Connolly and Howard Solicitors, also in Rockhampton, broadening your range of practice to include personal injury and employment matters, in addition to criminal and family law.

Your Honour was an accredited Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner, as well as an accredited mediator.

Your Honour was actively involved with Legal Aid Queensland serving as a member of the Central District Committee. Your Honour served as Chair of Conciliation Conferences and Family Dispute Resolution Conferences.

Your Honour practised as a mediator with the Dispute Resolution Centre for the Department of Justice in Rockhampton.

In time, your Honour was appointed a sessional member on the Guardianship and Administration Tribunal; dealing with some of the most difficult and, to the parties, the most important matters for decision. When that body was replaced by the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal your Honour was appointed to QCAT, and served as the only sessional member based in Rockhampton; travelling to Mackay, Gladstone, Bundaberg and Hervey Bay to hear and determine matters.

Your Honour's time at QCAT has, no doubt, been an interesting prelude to the fine work ahead on this Court. Early in that period, your Honour travelled to Brisbane to hear the challenge to the steward's decision to suspend the then up and coming trainer of five-year-old gelding Rusty Hunter, a horse who tested positive for a substance after running fourth in Race 2 at Rockhampton's Callaghan Park.¹

More recently, your Honour adjudicated in Mackay on whether Bandit (a black Labrador) and Pugsley (a Huskey cross) were correctly accused of a fatal attack on Gracie, an elderly tabby

¹ *Vale v Queensland Racing* [2011] QCAT 642.

cat. (A matter of which your Honour was, in all the circumstances, comfortably satisfied.²)

Your Honour's appointment as a magistrate at Rockhampton is very welcome. This addition to the court's existing compliment in that city will, no doubt, be appreciated by the other Magistrates in a very busy region of the State.

Both of your Honours join a formidable bench, comprising the largest court in the State and one of the busiest in the nation.

At a time when the court is re-robing, your Honour Magistrate Keegan will have the privilege of running on the field in the new strip as number 100. This appears to be the first time the Court has made a ton. It marks a milestone for the Court, but one that will surely be surpassed in your Honour's time as the Court's workload and importance continues to grow.

Your Honour Magistrate Beckinsale has already, we believe, noted that as number 99, your Honour takes up a role played in the movies by Anne Hathaway and on television by Barbara Feldon in the 1960's series *Get Smart*. Ms Feldon once remarked that her fans looked on agent 99 as a role model, "because she was smart and always got the right answer."

Both of your Honours have been and will continue to serve as role models for other capable woman in stressful careers.

The Bar Association and its members extend to your Honours congratulations on your appointments and wish your Honours long and successful careers at the bench.

May it please the Court

² *Hazelgrove v Isaac Regional Council* [2018] QCAT 134.