



ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT, MS REBECCA TRESTON QC,  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE EXCHANGE OF CHRISTMAS GREETINGS  
AT THE SUPREME COURT OF QUEENSLAND  
ON WEDNESDAY 12 DECEMBER 2018

MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT

The Christmas Greetings held at this time each year are generally a time of reflection of the year passed, and of hopes for the year to come.

But the Bar Association recognises that not all reflections are the same.

For some it is a time of great anticipation – warm beach days and cool oceans swims. For others it is the enjoyment of peace and goodwill. For many it is time of sadness because of loss, illness, stress or difficulties at home. For some, mostly women and children, it is a time of alcohol fuelled domestic violence. For others, persons displaced from their homes by war, famine or religious oppression, it is a time of uncertainty, helplessness and fear.

In these court rooms and the corridors outside, people whose lives are affected by the justice system, have the same mix of experiences. They come before the court system, trusting in fairness and the rule of law. And they come at what is often the lowest time of their lives.

Our professions, barristers, solicitors and judges, combine together to deliver the most just outcomes we can for these people, using the best of our abilities and the court's precious and limited resources.

Judges struggle under difficult, and sometimes oppressive, workloads to deliver justice in a timely way. If timeliness is not always achieved, that is generally the product of overwork and underfunding. Even in those trying circumstances, the Bar Association and its members remain committed to assisting the court and the litigants before it in the best ways they can – ensuring that matters are prepared and conducted as efficiently as possible, offering sensible advice, and the highest standard of specialist advocacy.

The Bar Association will continue to press at a state and federal level for proper funding for the court system, adequate time for judgement writing, and where necessary, more judges. On behalf of the Bar Association, may I thank the judicial officers of all courts who work tirelessly in difficult and stressful environments to deliver and administer justice in this state. We also thank those same judges who, after long days in court, devote hours of their free time to community service, to professional development, and to school and sporting activities sometimes at the expense of the family and loved ones. The Bar Association sees your contribution and we value it.

May we also thank the judicial officers, and also the Bar's own members, who give hours of work every year in the pursuit of sensible and effective law reform. With your help, we are able to influence debate, and outcomes, for reforms to bail, juvenile detention, sentencing, compensation for historical sexual abuse, a bill of rights and so the list goes on. That sensible and informed contribution helps build a more productive relationship with government, leading to better outcomes for the people of this state.



The Bar Association is working hard to build a respectful and healthy dialogue with government on important matters of policy. We value that relationship. We thank the Attorney General for her co-operative and consultative approach in 2018. The Bar Association will continue to work hard to improve that relationship in 2019 for the good of our members, our judicial officers and the people of Queensland.

So at the end of 2018, we look ahead as usual with hope and optimism for the future. The profession, and in particular the Bar, face exciting times. Commercial pressures and the relentless march of technology are causing us to innovate. Our practices and our workplaces are becoming more flexible. We are geared towards developing more creative solutions for our clients. At the same time we reflect upon the real value that the Bar offers and will continue to offer in 2019. Our craft is our advice, our experience in court and our specialised advocacy. The Bar will continue to offer and grow its role as specialist advocates in 2019 and beyond.

From our most newly minted silks through to our newest barristers who all appear before the court today, the Bar extends its sincere good wishes for a safe and happy Christmas break.

May it please the court.