



ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT, MS REBECCA TRESTON QC,
ON THE OCCASION OF THE WELCOME CEREMONY FOR
THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE WILSON AND
THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE BRADLEY
OF THE SUPREME COURT OF QUEENSLAND
ON FRIDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2019

May it please the court.

Justice Wilson, your Honour brings to the bench extensive skills developed over many years in your work in criminal law, administrative law and, in more recent times, your work in constitutional law. You have acted in complex litigation across a range of practice areas. Your Honour appeared with Sofronoff QC, as the President then was, in the Arukun Nine case, bringing to justice the nine men and youths who had sexually assaulted a 10 year old girl; your Honour cross-examined the former prime Minister Kevin Rudd in the Royal Commission into the Home Insulation Program; you acted as one of the Counsel Assisting the Flood Commission, and as Counsel for the State of Queensland in the Barrett Adolescent Centre Commission of Inquiry and the Youth Detention Review. Your Honour was known for your concern for your clients, your thoroughness, and your cross-examination skills.

Your elevation to the bench will bring an end to what I understand to be your dedication to observing the time honoured practice of criminal defence lawyers making sure that criminal law clients who finish the Court day walking out the front door of the Court have enough money to get home.

The profession thanks you for your years of hard work where you have dedicated your time to the advancement of the profession and the law, including, in your role as Chair of the Criminal Law Committee of the Bar Association of Queensland. This is the busiest of all subcommittees of the Bar Association, called upon to make numerous submissions every year, including, as your Honour did, by the giving of evidence on behalf of the Bar Association to parliamentary committees.

Your Honour has served on the Queensland Barristers Board, the Board of Barristers Chambers Limited and the Bar Council, both as Member and Executive. Your contribution to the work of the Bar Association cannot be overstated. In addition your Honour has served on the Professional Conduct Committee; the Law Council of Australia's Human Rights and Criminal Law Committees, the Supreme Court Library Committee, the Incorporated Council of Law Reporting for the State of Queensland, Bond University Advisory Board and the Supreme Court White Ribbon Day Breakfast Organising Committee.

Your unpaid contribution to the profession also extended to voluntary teaching, including many years at the Bar Practise Course, and at several advocacy intensives for the Bar Association of Qld and the Australian Bar Association, including in Papua New Guinea and South Africa (in

conjunction with the General Bar Council of the Bar of South Africa), work which your Honour found particularly rewarding.

Beyond the known contribution to the profession in your publicly observable work were the countless hours of unseen contribution – your open door policy to mentoring other practitioners, and your considerable *pro bono* efforts, not least of which included your work on the Court of Appeal *pro bono* scheme, which your Honour has been a part of for the last 11 years. That work included a relatively recent appearance in the Court of Appeal, succeeding in the overturning of a murder conviction.

No doubt your work as a Tribunal Member for 5 years on both the Anti-Discrimination Tribunal and QCAT will assist you in the discharge of your judicial functions on the Supreme Court.

Leaving the Bar you also leave behind the likelihood of encountering the confusion sometimes caused by having a criminal lawyer and a commercial lawyer in the same family. One of your Honours' clients had been looking for a commercial lawyer and had heard that your husband, David Smith was such a lawyer. You explained to your client that David was in “mergers and acquisitions”. The client went pale, believing your Honour had said David was in “murders and acquisitions”. It took some time to get the conference back on track.

Your Honour will bring to the bench traits which you have shown throughout your career – fearless dedication to principle, equal treatment of all and intellectual rigour informed by a strong sense of social commitment and an understanding of the human condition. That you have these character traits is no surprise given the example set by your parents, Beth and Blair Wilson, - each of whom encouraged independent thought, compassion and integrity for all of their children. There was always room for one more person at the Wilson table, your mother often saying it didn't matter whether it was 5 or 50 for dinner. Your parents lived a life of loyalty, inclusivity and friendship and it is certain that they would be proud of your Honour today.

You have successfully replicated this rich family life in your own loving, close family, with your husband David, and your two daughters Sybil and Betty, who are extraordinary young women in their own right. No doubt David, Sybil and Betty, and your siblings and extended family, many of whom are here today, are justifiably proud of you.

The Bar extends to your Honour its sincere congratulations and its heartfelt support, and wishes you all the very best in this new chapter of your life.

Justice Bradley, you come to the Bench after a glittering career at the Bar and, before that as a highly respected solicitor. Your time at the Bar saw you acknowledged as a leading commercial silk, acting for large corporations and even larger-than-life characters. Your practice ranged across a wide variety of areas: everything from complicated commercial disputes to defamation, from industrial matters to constitutional law. Because of the wide respect you command amongst the Bar and amongst our colleagues in the solicitors' branch of the profession, you have often acted for lawyers in professional disciplinary matters, and you have sat on professional disciplinary matters in the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

In the early days, your practice was conducted alongside various teaching positions at the University of Qld, Qld University of Technology and Griffith University. Later, you served on Tribunals such as the Dental Board of Queensland, the Commercial and Consumer Tribunal and, as already mentioned, the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal. Your Honour was an active member of the Intellectual Property Society of Australia and New Zealand, and was a member and Deputy Chair of the Law Council of Australia's Competition and Consumer Committee. Your Honour enjoyed many years as a member of the Selden Society, the only society and publisher devoted entirely to English legal history.

For all the breadth and depth of your remarkable legal career, that is only a sliver of who your Honour is, and why your colleagues hold such high expectations for your career on this Court.

Your Honour has always understood the importance of charitable work. You've been a generous contributor to charitable and community organisations, particularly within the arts sector. Your Honour was, until recently, the long-standing chairman of Access Arts, a wonderful organisation dedicated to recognising the artistic talents of people with disabilities, and providing an avenue to such people to express themselves through art. Under your guidance, that organisation has grown to be a considerable force for good and for comfort to those it serves.

Your Honour's contribution to the arts community in this state does not stop there. You have, for many years, been a member of the board of the Gallery of Modern Art, and a generous contributor to the Brisbane Festival, including as the Chair of the Brisbane Festival Giving Committee. Your Honour is also responsible for keeping more than the odd artist in bread and cheese. The great number of art purchases your Honour has made exceeds the wall-space available to you, and a number of works in your collection adorn various lucky chambers in the Santos building.

That your Honour is able to find spaces for those artworks in the rooms of your colleagues is no great surprise. Even if they were not so very grateful to have the chance to enjoy the art, they would be happy to help because of the affection with which you are regarded. In asking people what might be said in today's speech there were common themes: a kind and reliable friend, and a generous one. Generous with your time, and with your advice. In a time of sometimes shrill excess, your Honour stands out, without intending to, as a person of intellectual agility, politeness, compassion and empathy, who is never patronising or proud.

Another common theme is the breadth of your general knowledge. Former chambers colleagues tell me that they used to refer to you as Dr Google because they cannot recall you ever being unable to answer a question on any topic. You are just as comfortable discussing the tide times at Double Island Point as the works of Gustav Mahler.

All of that has to come from somewhere. No doubt an important foundation was the large, tightknit family of which your Honour is a part. Your Honour is the second of 8 children born to Jack and Margaret Bradley; seven sons and one necessarily forthright daughter. Your first two years were lived in the Australian Hotel in Cairns. Your mother was reportedly one of life's great listeners, whilst your grandmother Ada was known to lull you off to sleep with a nip of whiskey. Over the intervening years your Honour has honed your listening skills to rival your mother, while enjoying the odd whiskey, but rarely now falling asleep in the process.

The Bradley Clan moved to Mt Gravatt East in 1964, and, when the time came for high school, you were enrolled at Clairvaux College. It is said that learning came easily to you, that you blitzed your studies with minimal effort, leaving plenty of time for socialising and encouraging the odd rebellion against unfair school rules. That combination of social aptitude and political intuition is one that your friends still see in you today. Your Honour's friends describe that you enjoyed university in a leisurely way, using it as an opportunity to enhance the mind and feed the soul.

Your Honour's contribution to the Bar Association has been most valuable. Your strong commercial experience and abiding good sense has guided many debates and achieved sensible outcomes. Until your appointment, your Honour was the Honorary Treasurer of the Bar Association, a role which you balanced among the many other voluntary works already mentioned. The Bar Association is most sorry to lose your Honour's wise counsel. Our sadness at your departure is however tempered with pleasure at the thought of appearing before someone possessed of such fine intellect, good grace and equanimity.

Of course, all of us who pursue careers in the law rely on those around us for support. None of us does this alone. None of us could. Because of that, no-one could hope to touch on the most important reasons for your Honour's achievements without speaking of Matthew. We know that his support for you is unwavering, even if in his often bemused way, he is sitting there now, wondering what all the fuss today is about.

We are very happy to see all the members of your Honour's family here today. The Bar congratulates your Honour on your appointment and wishes you a long and successful career on the bench.

May it please the court.