



**ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT, MS REBECCA TRESTON QC,
ON THE OCCASION OF THE WELCOME CEREMONY FOR
HIS HONOUR JUDGE JOHN ALLEN QC
AND HER HONOUR JUDGE VICKI LOURY QC
OF THE DISTRICT COURT OF QUEENSLAND,
ON THURSDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2019**

May it please the Court.

Judge Allen, your Honour joins the District Court following a distinguished career in the law and in public service. You commenced your career as a junior barrister more than 30 years ago at the Public Defender's Office, as Legal Aid Queensland was then known.

Your move to the private Bar saw you join More Chambers, a group which has produced more than its fair share of judicial officers to this court including sitting Judges Rafter, McGinness, Long, Farr and Kent. Your Honour now joins that illustrious list.

Throughout your career you appeared in high profile and challenging trials and appeals.

You appeared for the Queensland Nurses Union in the Queensland Public Hospitals Commissions of Inquiry, also known as the Davies Commission. You later developed a specialty in health law, and obtained your Masters of Law with a major in health law. This particular specialisation also holds your Honour in good stead as the newly-appointed Deputy President of QCAT.

You appeared for the first nurse to be charged with negligent manslaughter of a patient, alongside the co-accused nurse's counsel, then Public Defender Brian Devereaux S.C., as his Honour then was, juniored by Soraya Ryan, as her Honour then was. The trial ended in a *nolle prosequere* with all charges being dropped. When Devereaux S.C. was appointed to the District Court in 2009 following that trial, you replaced him as the Public Defender, and now you follow his Honour's same path, to this Court.

In the position of Public Defender within Legal Aid Queensland, you were recognised as an outstanding and ethical advocate with exceptional cross-examination abilities.

Your skill as an advocate and your legal knowledge, integrity and leadership were further recognised by the Chief Justice when you took Silk in 2014.

Your Honour has contributed to the development of the profession, delivering professional development education for the Bar Association of Queensland and assisting with the development of advocacy through volunteering as a mock hearing Judge of pupils of the Bar

Practice Course. Your Honour's contributions are not confined to the Bar, having also tutored at the University of Queensland. As the Chair of the Bar Association's Human Rights Committee and with particular involvement in the Association's submission to the Queensland Parliament on the *Human Rights Bill 2018* (Qld), your Honour has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the rule of law.

Lest it be thought that your Honour's knowledge of the law was limited to criminal law, your Honour does have some knowledge of the law of tort. Very early in your Honour's career as a young and sometimes exuberant member of the Public Defender's office, your Honour had a run in with a motor vehicle whilst crossing on Hardgrave Road at West End as a consequence of which your Honour gained an understanding of the law of contributory negligence. No doubt your Honour was dashing across Hardgrave Road to assist a potential client your Honour had spied in trouble on the other side of the road, but the compulsory third party insurer simply failed to understand your Honour's commitment to the task.

These days, your Honour puts your body on the line for higher duties. Your Honour is often spied turning the sausages for the P and C at your local Primary School where your daughters attend. With your wife Lisa Hendy, a solicitor who your Honour met and then married whilst she was in private practice, your Honour has 3 daughters, Siobhan, Caitlyn and Imogen from years 2 to 7 at school. Your Honour's oldest daughter Lydia has completed her law degree. Many members of your Honour's family are here today and are justifiably proud of your Honour's achievement.

The members of the Bar extend their warmest congratulations to your Honour on your appointment to this Court and to assure your Honour of the ongoing support and confidence of the Bar in the discharge of your duties of office.

Judge Loury, after completing your education at Toowoomba State High School, you abandoned your dreams of a career in the ballet and completed your law degree at the University of Queensland. You were originally admitted as a solicitor in December 1995. In 1996 you commenced employment as a paralegal clerk in the Office of the Director of Prosecutions. As a solicitor you prosecuted hundreds of committal hearings and summary pleas of guilty.

From your call to the Bar in 2001, your legal acumen, sound judgement and talent as an advocate saw you swiftly elevated through the roles of Crown Prosecutor, Senior Crown Prosecutor and Principal Crown Prosecutor, successfully prosecuting hundreds of jury trials and sentences in the District and Supreme Courts, including some of the most serious and notorious criminal trials and appeals in Queensland. You prosecuted Susan Stewart and Tyson Taylor who were charged with the murder of football referee Tony McGrath, as well as the trial of Brendan Bennetts who murdered Jayde Kendall in Gatton. Your efforts were featured in a Nine News expose in which you were described as a 'soldier' of justice and your robes were your 'armour'. You were so frequently in the media that you were popularly thought to be the 'face of the DPP'.

You were frequently sought out for advice by other Crown Prosecutors on evidentiary, tactical and ethical issues, and you were a valuable source of sage counsel to the Director and Deputy-Directors.

Many assembled here today may not know that in addition to your legal work, your Honour holds a boat captain's licence and that you and your partner Mark Hardwick go fishing; and whilst you rarely trouble the fish with your angling skills, you do know intimately, the pontoons along the Brisbane River that give ready access to great coffee.

It is a poorly kept secret at the DPP that your Honour's favourite movie is *Dirty Dancing*, and perhaps it was the line, "*Nobody puts Baby in a corner*" that has had a profound effect upon your Honour such that you became a strong advocate for women. This was recognised in your 2018 nomination as 'Woman Lawyer of the Year' by the Women Lawyers Association of Queensland. And as anyone who knows you can attest, you have never spent any time in 'the corner'.

As a practitioner, you enjoyed a reputation amongst the judiciary and the profession on 'both sides of the fence' of being an outstanding, highly-skilled and ethical prosecutor. A natural mentor, you assisted tertiary students, police and other agencies as well as fellow legal practitioners, all a testament to your commitment to the future of the legal profession.

Your Honour has also demonstrated a significant commitment to training and ongoing education in relation to the development of the advocacy skills of the Bar Association's members, and the pupils of its Bar Practice Course. You volunteered as a coach in the workshops and masterclasses of the Association's 2018 Regional Advocacy Intensive, delivered training on indictable criminal trial preparation for the Bar Practice Course in 2018 and volunteered as a Judge for criminal trial mock hearings of the Bar Practice Course in 2017. Also in 2017 your Honour participated in the Association's voice and performance masterclass for the benefit of your fellow barristers. You were elected to the Bar Council in 2012, 2013 and 2018 and were a member of the Association's Constitutional Review Committee prior to your appointment. The Bar Association thanks you for your most valuable contributions.

The Bar Association extends to your Honour, congratulations and its best wishes on this well-deserved appointment. We assure your Honour of the ongoing support and confidence of the Bar.

May it please the Court.