



ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT, MS REBECCA TRESTON QC,
ON THE OCCASION OF A SWEARING-IN CEREMONY FOR
HER HONOUR MAGISTRATE BRONWYN HARTIGAN
HIS HONOUR MAGISTRATE KURT FOWLER AND
HIS HONOUR MAGISTRATE PETER SAGGERS
ON WEDNESDAY 26 JUNE 2019
AT THE BRISBANE MAGISTRATES COURT

May it please the court.

It is a necessary consequence of three Magistrates being welcomed on the same day that time does not permit me to do justice to each of your Honour's careers as might otherwise be the case. Let me say at the outset then that an attempt at brevity should not be confused for feint praise. The Bar Association welcomes the appointment of all three new Magistrates, all of whom bring with them a wealth of experience, significant legal acumen, and most notably, a proven commitment and dedication to serving the community and the court through the application and administration of the law.

Magistrate Hartigan. Your Honour joins the Magistrates Court following a distinguished career at the Bar. You graduated from the Queensland University of Technology in 2004 with a Bachelor of Laws, with First Class Honours, having also received the QUT Brett Thorpe Memorial Award for Excellence in 2003. With such accolades upon graduating university, it is difficult to conceive that at the time, your Honour had no plans to become a lawyer after leaving high school. Your Honour actually envisioned a career in the banking and finance industry. However, life took your Honour down a different path. After working in and applying for various jobs (which included being a mortician at a funeral parlour), your Honour started your job as a legal secretary. It was then that your Honour realised your passion for the law.

During the early days of your legal career, your Honour worked as an Associate to the late Honourable Justice Peter Dutney, in the Supreme Court at Rockhampton. You were called to the Bar in February 2005 where you principally practised in criminal law, family law, commercial, equity and personal injuries. However, criminal law became your primary area of practice. For the past 11 years, your Honour was the only female barrister in the Mackay region. Your Honour has, and will continue to, serve as a role model for other capable women in the legal profession.

Aside from your work in the private bar, your Honour is also an active supporter of the Queensland Bar Association having held a number of positions including member of the Bar Council, Criminal Law Committee, and Regional Committee, and for that the Bar sincerely thanks you. You were also a member of various community services and committees, such as the Mackay Regional Council Taskforce Against Domestic Violence, the Mackay Community

Legal Centre and Advisory Board Member of the Horizon Club House (a State and Federal Initiative for people with mental illness).

Your Honour has given hundreds of hours performing pro bono work. In 2015, your Honour was named as one of six finalists for the Australian Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year Award. It was your strong sense of duty to the court, and your ability to foster a human connection with your clients that led you to offer your services pro bono to self-represented litigants, a quality that we all admire and aspire to have as legal practitioners.

Amongst that busy life, your Honour finds time to be an avid royal watcher and your book collection of royalty is apparently a sight to behold.

Your Honour's husband David and your two boys Norman and Frank, no doubt share your Honour's delight today on your appointment, as they should.

Finally it would be remiss of me not to mention the importance of your Honour being appointed as a regional judicial officer when you come from regional Queensland. An appointment from the regions to the regions is most welcome.

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.

Magistrate Fowler. Your Honour was awarded a Bachelor of Laws from Bond University in 1994. In 1995, you were admitted as a solicitor in the Supreme Court of Queensland and commenced your career at Watling Roche Solicitors. In 1997, your Honour completed a Master of Laws from the Queensland University of Technology in the areas of Criminology and Evidence.

You became a partner at Laurie Watling Solicitors in 1999. In 2011, you started your own firm and became principal of Fowler Lawyers. Since then, you have developed a reputation as a highly respected and dedicated criminal lawyer, and a particularly skilled advocate.

In 2012, you were awarded the Highest Achiever among your peers when you completed your Specialist Accreditation in Criminal Law. As an accredited specialist, you bear a nationally recognised mark of excellence and are widely recognised as a leader in the profession, with a commitment to providing only the best expert legal advice and strong representation.

Over the years you have also held a number of significant appointments which include Chair of the Queensland Law Society Specialist Accreditation Committee for Criminal Law, Chair of the Queensland Law Society Criminal Law Committee and Queensland Law Society Legal Advice Panel Member. Your Honour was also heavily involved with a number of committees, including the International Society for the Reform of Criminal Law, Sunshine Coast Law Association and Moreton Bay Law Association, to name a few.

Your Honour made a significant contribution to the community, by providing pro bono legal advice through Legal Aid Queensland and later establishing a pro bono scheme within your practice. Outside of the criminal law sphere, your Honour was also a sponsor and volunteer at various community events including Youth Leadership Forums, Melanoma March and the Leukaemia Foundation.

In March 2018, your Honour was presented with the Queensland Law Society President's Medal, an award presented to a solicitor who embodies the spirit of justice, leadership and tradition.

Your Honour is widely known for honest and ethical behaviour, described as a real gentleman, of calm temperament, and a courteous and refined manner. With qualities such as these it is no wonder that your Honour's former staff cannot speak highly enough of your Honour, a sentiment they share with the profession. Your Honour's wife Danni and sons Will and Henry are no doubt justly proud today.

The Bar Association welcomes your Honour's appointment and wishes your Honour a long and successful career at the bench.

Magistrate Saggars. Your Honour has had a long and distinguished legal career as one of the State's finest criminal lawyers. Born and raised in Brisbane, your Honour graduated from Brisbane State High School and represented the school at cricket and rugby union. I am informed that your Honour was an uncompromising forward.

Your Honour went on to study at the Queensland University of Technology where you were awarded a Bachelor of Laws with Honours. Your Honour also holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Queensland. You commenced your legal career at the Public Defender's Office in 1989, which later became the Legal Aid Office. It was there that your Honour's interest in criminal law grew.

Your Honour became a solicitor at Goodfellow and Scott Solicitors, and in 2002, your Honour co-founded the firm Howden Saggars Lawyers along with Magistrate Mark Howden. Howden Saggars quickly developed into a thriving criminal law practice, no doubt a testament to, in large part, your legal acumen, sound judgement and talent as an advocate. Magistrate Howden might also claim some of the credit for the firm's success, but today is not his day for accolades.

In 2008, you became an Accredited Criminal Law Specialist. Throughout your career, your Honour has represented clients in some of the most high profile, difficult and complex criminal trials that have come before the Courts in this State. You are known for your meticulous preparation and a work ethic that is second to none. Your Honour was also the former Vice President of the Law and Justice Institute of Queensland where you were involved in advocating changes in criminal law legislation.

Your Honour has been described as a man of impeccable integrity, who possesses a "common touch", a trait you inherited from your parents Norm and Yvonne. You are held in high regard

by your fellow practitioners for being an outstanding, highly skilled and ethical lawyer. The barristers with whom you have worked with say it was a privilege to have been briefed by you, and that your professionalism and good humour will be missed.

Outside of work, your Honour has a wide array of interests such as rugby league and racing. I am also informed that your Honour has an encyclopaedic knowledge of professional wrestling. Your fellow magistrates hope never to test this rumour.

The Bar Association extends to your Honour, and your family, wife Annette and children Amos and Claire, congratulations on this appointment and its best wishes for a long and satisfying career on the Bench.

May it please the court.