



**ADDRESS OF MR JIM MURDOCH QC, ON THE OCCASION OF
A SWEARING-IN CEREMONY FOR COMMISSIONER JOHN DWYER,
COMMISSIONER CATHERINE HARTIGAN, COMMISSIONER JACQUELINE
POWER AND COMMISSIONER ROSLYN MCLENNAN
ON TUESDAY 9 JULY 2019**

May it please the Commission.

I am pleased to stand in for Ms Rebecca Treston QC, the President of the Bar Association of Queensland to welcome the four new Commissioners, all of whom bring with them a wealth of knowledge and skills in the areas of employment and industrial relations law. Ms Treston, who is currently overseas, asks me to pass on her particular disappointment for not being present today.

COMMISSIONER DWYER, joins the Commission following a distinguished career at the Bar. After completing your secondary education at Villanova College, you obtained a Bachelor of Laws from the Queensland University of Technology. You were admitted as a solicitor in 1993, having decided to give away life as a taxi driver. You commenced your career in the law at Sciacas Lawyers primarily in industrial relations and employment law. In 1999 you became Head of Industrial Relations at Reidy & Tonkin Solicitors, where you acted for the Transport Workers Union, the Australian Services Union and other prominent unions. In 2002, you were appointed Senior Industrial Advocate at the Queensland Chamber of Commerce and Industry (QCCI). You appeared in a wide variety of employment matters. These involved policy based matters including the State Wage Cases in 2002, 2003 and 2004, the Queensland “TCR” general ruling case, and the Queensland “minimum wage” case.

In 2005, you joined the Bar and specialised in industrial matters. As a barrister, your work included dismissals, unpaid wages, industrial disputes, discrimination, workers compensation and workplace health and safety cases. You have regularly appeared in the Queensland Industrial Court, this Commission, Industrial Magistrates Courts, the Federal Court of Australia, the Federal Circuit Court and the Fair Work Commission and are known to be highly regarded by the judges and members who sit on those courts and tribunals.

You were a visiting lecturer at the Queensland University of Technology Legal Practice Course, lecturing in the areas of advocacy and employment law. You have been an active member of the Bar Association’s Industrial Law Committee and a regular presenter at the Association’s Conferences.

You have many interests outside the law, regularly sporting lycra for cycling in all weathers, and being well known for your talent on the guitar.

The Bar and its members extend to you, your wife Angela, and your children Erik and Maud, their best wishes on this well-deserved appointment.

COMMISSIONER HARTIGAN, also joins the Commission after a distinguished career at the Bar. After completing your secondary education at All Hallows School in the Valley, you obtained a Bachelor of Laws from the Queensland University of Technology and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Queensland. You commenced your professional life in 2001 as an Associate to Justice Mackenzie, who is here today. You had decided at an early age that you wanted to pursue a career in employment and industrial relations law. I understand that one of the many reasons you were delighted to be his Honour's Associate was because Justice Mackenzie had previously served as President of the Industrial Court.

You were admitted as a solicitor in 2003 and commenced practice at Hall Payne Lawyers. Your work there was not exclusively confined to employment and industrial law. One of your early victories as an advocate was defending a client on death row, Milo the dog. The central issue in the case was the identity of the dog involved in the crime. Showing considerable forensic skill, you demonstrated that Milo's collar was a colour that differed from that of the dog in question, ensuring Milo walked free with his tail wagging.

In 2009 you joined the Private Bar, specialising in employment, industrial and administrative law. Your keen intellect, coupled with your tenacity, earned you a reputation as a formidable advocate. You were a member of the Bar's Industrial Law Committee, making a considerable contribution in that regard, including with respect to the Bar Association's Employment and Industrial Law Conferences.

Your parents Trevor and Marie instilled in you, and your sister Fleur, the importance of public service and commitment to the rule of law. In many respects you have followed in your father's footsteps. While at the Bar your father, a former President of the Bar Association, practised in many areas of the law, including administrative and industrial law before being appointed as a Federal Court Judge, who held a dual commission as President of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

You are heavily supported by your husband Simon, a Judicial Registrar at the Federal Court as well as your children Annabel (8), Harriet (6) and Chloe (2). They, like Simon, are full of pride at your recent appointment, although I understand their excitement at being here today is somewhat tempered by the possibility that lollies may not be on offer at the afternoon tea to follow.

COMMISSIONER POWER, you obtained a Bachelor of Laws from the Queensland University of Technology in 2004, and a Master of Laws from Griffith University in 2006. You were also awarded a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Queensland.

You were admitted as a solicitor in February 2004 and commenced your legal career as a solicitor at Sciaccas Lawyers working predominantly in the areas of family law, child protection and workplace relations. In 2007, you took time out for your family and, while on maternity leave, completed a course on Mediation at Harvard Law School.

Later, you undertook a number of roles, including as a Sessional Academic at the Queensland University of Technology Law Faculty, Policy Advisor at the Office of the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, and Course Convenor and Lecturer at the Griffith University Law School.

In 2015, you commenced employment as an in-house Legal Advisor at the Australian Worker's Union. At the AWU you have worked on a wide variety of matters concerned with both the public and private sector.

Over many years, appointees to the Commission from the Australian Workers Union have contributed substantially to the services which the Commission provides to the Queensland community. You follow in the footsteps of Deputy President Swan, Commissioner Pont and Court Member W.J. (Bill) Reardon.

Beyond your work at the Australian Workers Union, you are a member of the Queensland Law Society and TJ Ryan Foundation. You also squeeze in time for coaching a community netball team.

The Bar Association and its members extend to you, your husband Linus, and your children Jack, Caitlin and Lucy, its best wishes on this well-deserved appointment.

COMMISSIONER MCLENNAN, joins the Commission following a long and prominent career in the trade union movement. You obtained a Bachelor of Economics from the University of Queensland in 1993.

Since then you have acquired experience of extraordinary depth and breadth in the labor movement, and in industrial relations in a wide range of industries. Commencing as an organiser with the Shop Distributive and Allied Union in 1993, you went on to an organiser's role with the Independent Education Union of Australia in 1998; then to Assistant General Secretary of that Union's Queensland and Northern Territory Branch from 2004 to 2014. From there, on to Assistant General Secretary and, later General Secretary of the Queensland Council of Unions. Since August 2015 you also have been a member of the Executive of the Australian Council of Trade Unions.

You became a Director of Sunsuper in October 2015 and have since served on several Sunsuper Board Committees. You also served from July 2016 as a Director of WorkCover Queensland, and since June 2017, as Deputy Chair of that body.

The QCU and its predecessor body, the Trades and Labor Council have provided many great contributors to this Commission. Commissioners John Thompson, Don Brown, Ray Dempsey and H.J. Harvey, to name a few. You continue a long and proud tradition.

The Bar Association and its members extend to you, your husband Brad and your children Frances and Oliver, its best wishes on this well-deserved appointment. It is said that your family dine well on Saturday nights because your preferred means of relaxation is cooking up a storm on a Saturday afternoon while listening to 80's music.

May I finish by congratulating the Honorable Minister Grace Grace for her astute selection of the new Commissioners. The new members bring a combination of fresh legal and industrial skills to ensure the Commission can successfully manage its increasingly diverse workload of cases.

If the Commission pleases.