



**ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT MS REBECCA TRESTON QC, ON THE
OCCASION OF A WELCOME CEREMONY FOR
HIS HONOUR JUDGE KENNETH ANTHONY BARLOW QC
OF THE DISTRICT COURT OF QUEENSLAND
ON FRIDAY 26 JULY 2019**

May it please the Court.

On behalf of the Bar Association of Queensland, it gives me great pleasure to welcome your Honour, Judge Barlow, as a Judge of the District Court of Queensland. I extend particular welcome to your wife Melissa, and your children Nicholas and Alistair, who are here with us today. Your son Alistair assured me before court today that he was only missing the “bad bits” of school this morning and would be back in time for soccer.

Your Honour is known for many things, one of which is that you have always acted without fanfare, in a humble but effective way. I hope that your Honour will not be too troubled by the attention to your abilities and achievements today.

Your Honour joins the Court following a long and prominent career at the Bar. With over 33 years experience in commercial law and litigation, and 11 years experience as a Sessional Member of the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal, your Honour is sure to be an invaluable member of the bench.

You were awarded with a Bachelor of Arts (with Honours) from Monash University in 1979, and a Bachelor of Laws in 1984. You commenced your legal career as a Solicitor at Mallesons Stephen Jaques Solicitors in Melbourne, practicing principally in commercial litigation and mediation. You became a Senior Associate and practised in the Brisbane and Melbourne offices of that firm.

In January 1996, you were called to the Bar and were awarded the James Archibald Douglas Prize for the Bar Practice Course. As a barrister, you practised in a wide variety of areas including contractual disputes, native title and cultural heritage, and real property disputes, to name a few. In June 2007, you became a Sessional Member of the Queensland Commercial and Consumer Tribunal, and in December 2009, a Sessional Member of the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal. Your legal acumen and skills as an outstanding advocate were recognised in 2010 when you were appointed Senior Counsel.

Aside from your work at the private Bar, your Honour also developed a specialty in alternative dispute resolution. In 1994, you became a qualified mediator, in 2015, an Associate of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and, in 2018, an Accredited Family Law Property Specialist.

Throughout your career, your Honour has made significant contributions to the Bar. The Bar particularly acknowledges your Honour’s commitment to providing support and opportunities for

Indigenous lawyers. Your Honour assisted with facilitating the Bar's Reconciliation Action Plan and served as Chair of the Indigenous Barristers Committee from 2013 to 2017. Of particular note, are your Honour's efforts in establishing the Indigenous Students Mentoring Scheme. Your Honour was the progenitor and co-ordinator of this scheme, which aimed to provide mentoring to Indigenous senior secondary and tertiary students, to encourage such students to complete tertiary studies and to consider a career in the law. Noble aims which over the last few years have borne fruit and will continue to do so. The Bar Association thanks you for this important work which you quietly carried out for years.

Your commitment to the training and ongoing education of the profession saw you present at various Bar Association CPD Seminars, Legalwise Seminars and Lexis Nexis Advocacy Conferences, although some might have paused to wonder about the content of the article published in the Australian Law Journal entitled "Alice, Humpty Dumpty and the Law". In addition to that, your Honour also assisted with the Bar Practice Course over many years by regularly delivering presentations and acting as a coordinator. Again, the Bar sincerely thanks you.

Outside of work, your Honour is equally as busy. Over the last 15 years, your Honour has been a steadfast member of QPILCH, now LawRight, providing pro-bono legal services to people with physical or mental disabilities. Since 2015, your Honour has also served as Secretary of the Queensland Coeliac Society and, since 2018, as Board Member of Coeliac Australia. Your Honour has also been a Member and Chair of various Scout Group organisations.

Your Honour is also well known for your enthusiasm for exercise and in particular, running. You especially enjoy running with your sons, Nicholas and Alistair. Unfortunately, these pursuits are not always as good for your health or as safe as they might seem. Recently, while enjoying bushwalking (nature being another of your great loves), you tripped and fell landing on your own water bottle and breaking a rib. More recently still you sought to include the family dog, Archie, in your running. Archie unfortunately did not understand that running across your path while enjoying sprint training with your sons may not be a wise choice. We trust your Honour will take a little more care whilst negotiating the corridors of the District Court.

Across the profession, your Honour is widely respected. Your Honour possesses all of the skills to make a fine judge both in terms of knowledge and temperament.

The Bar and its members extend to you, your wife Melissa, and your children Nicholas and Alistair, 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.