



**ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT, MS REBECCA TRESTON QC, ON THE OCCASION OF A  
WELCOME CEREMONY FOR  
HER HONOUR DEPUTY CHIEF MAGISTRATE JANELLE BRASSINGTON  
HIS HONOUR MAGISTRATE ROBERT WALKER  
HIS HONOUR MAGISTRATE CAMERON MCKENZIE AND  
HER HONOUR MAGISTRATE ROSEMARY GILBERT  
ON THURSDAY 10 OCTOBER 2019  
AT THE BRISBANE MAGISTRATES COURT**

May it please the Court.

The Bar Association is pleased to support all the appointments being welcomed here today.

**Deputy Chief Magistrate Brassington**, your Honour was a registered nurse at the Royal Brisbane Hospital when you commenced studying law in 1985. You maintained part-time employment as a nurse for some years whilst studying. You graduated from the University of Queensland in 1990, and were admitted as a barrister in 1992.

Joining the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions in 1990 as an instructing clerk, your Honour worked in various positions with the DPP over the next ten years, including as a legal officer and a prosecutor.

In 2001, your Honour commenced working in the Policy and Legislation Division in the Department of Justice and Attorney-General where, as principal legal officer, you were involved in policy projects including the *Crimes at Sea Act 2002*, *Drugs Misuse Amendment Act 2002*, *Terrorism (Commonwealth Powers) Act 2002*, *Evidence (Protection of Children) Amendment Act 2003*, and the *Sexual Offences (Protection of Children) Act 2003*.

In 2005, you worked with the Director General of JAG as Project Director for a review of the ODPP which led to a series of recommendations for the reorganisation of that office. You then acted as Executive Director of the ODPP to oversee the implementation of the review's recommendations.

With your unique blend of legal and medical knowledge and skills, your regional background and your worthy character traits, you were earmarked as one to understand the justice issues concerning community members throughout Queensland and received your first judicial appointment fourteen years ago, on 22 August 2005.

As we have heard, initially welcomed to the bench at the Southport Magistrates Court, your Honour has also served at Innisfail and Cairns. Your Honour has carried out the important role of Regional Coordinating Magistrate in Cairns since February 2019, showing your combined strong legal acumen and management abilities.

Your Honour is widely commended for your most significant work ethic and valuable contribution to the development of the rule of law. The Bar Association is confident that your Honour's

extensive experience, particularly in the Northern Queensland regions, will continue to be a genuine asset to the justice system.

Your significant achievement today is no doubt shared with pride by your partner Peter, and your children, Thomas and Alexander.

The Bar and its members thank you for your ongoing service and we assure your Honour of the ongoing support of the Bar, in your new role as Deputy Chief Magistrate.

**Magistrate Walker.** Your Honour's legal career spans 29 years. Having commenced your career at the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, you rose quickly through the ranks. During your early years in practice, you worked predominantly in crime. As you continued in your career with roles at the Criminal Justice Commission and the Crime and Misconduct Commission, you took a particular interest in issues affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Later, as the Director of the Coroners Court of Queensland, you provided briefing to the highest levels within the Department as well as effective resource management to ensure high quality coronial services and high level support to the State Coroner and Deputy State Coroners throughout Queensland.

Your Honour was first appointed on 17 April 2015 as acting Magistrate, and you have presided over a wide range of matters across both the criminal and civil jurisdictions of the Magistrates Court. Your Honour has also presided over a significant number of applications for domestic violence orders, and sat in the regional Courts.

During your time as acting Magistrate, your Honour has convened many specialist Courts, including the Murri Courts, Childrens Court and Domestic Violence Courts, which your Honour has found particularly rewarding. Your Honour has a deep understanding of the important principles underpinning these Courts and recognises the opportunities to make a lasting positive change for those with a stake in the proceedings and for the community as a whole.

Your Honour is recognised amongst practitioners as a just decision maker, with mastery of the law that makes proceedings seamless for all parties involved. Your professionalism and commitment to justice are appreciated by all who appear before you.

On a personal note, your Honour is a keen cyclist, actively involved in those long and challenging bike rides that fill most people with dread, and not just because of the amount of lycra on show. Your Honour also runs and swims, and is a talented musician, especially on the guitar. Rumour has it that you used to play publicly, but less so since you became an acting Magistrate, and rarely whilst cycling.

Your Honour is joined today by your wife Nadia and your sons Griffin and Oscar. I am reliably informed, by Nadia, that they are very proud of you, and for the caring and supportive father and husband that you have been to them.

The Bar welcomes your Honour's permanent appointment to the bench, and is confident that your Honour will fulfil this new challenge with the same commitment and leadership as you have demonstrated in your acting judicial roles and throughout your entire career.

**Magistrate McKenzie.** Your Honour has had a long and distinguished legal career as a commercial litigation lawyer, full of noteworthy achievements. Your commercial litigation practise has seen you conduct many matters in the District, Supreme, Federal and High Courts. Lesser known is that you have conducted hundreds of matters in Magistrates Courts as well.

Your Honour is a respected alternate dispute resolution practitioner, and as a nationally accredited mediator, have conducted over 350 mediations throughout your career.

Having commenced your legal career at Jones King/Dunhill Madden Butler, your Honour has worked in senior positions at many leading law firms, including as a commercial litigation partner at DWF immediately prior to your appointment. You have been consistently recognised by your peers, having been recommended by the Doyle's Guide as a Leading Alternate Dispute Resolution Lawyer in 2017, and as a Leading Insolvency and Restructuring Lawyer every year since 2010; a period of nine years. You were also the Law Council Representative at the Bankruptcy Reform Consultative Forum, an Insolvency, Registration and Disciplinary Panel member, and a member of the Appeals Costs Board, being an appointment made by the State Attorney General.

Your Honour has been well-regarded by your clients for your decisive, commercial-focused and proactive approach to matters.

Now while it is fair to say that a practice working with banks, accountants, energy and mining companies may not be part of the usual background for appointment as a Magistrate, your Honour has special skills which will suit you well for this Court. Your Honour has, for example, extensive experience in farm debt mediations across Queensland and New South Wales, being a Registered Farm Business Debt Mediator. This work has given your Honour a special understanding of commercial and economic pressures endured by some of the regional members of our society. Your Honour has brought empathy and resolution to some of these most difficult cases.

Less known publically is your Honour's abiding interest in Domestic Violence and Indigenous issues. You were the Deputy Chair of the Queensland Law Society's Domestic and Family Violence Policy Committee, and you are an accredited White Ribbon ambassador. For some years you have been the co-organiser of the annual Lockhart River Art Gala which raised funds of up to \$65,000 each year for the Puuya Foundation and Lockhart River Indigenous Community. Your commercial background has not therefore dampened your enthusiasm for sensitivity to those broader community issues in the legal arena.

Outside of work, family and friends are very important to you. You are a devoted husband to Nyree, and father to Sophia and Annaliese, and a much loved son of Heather and son-in-law of Kate. You are a mean chef, and also something of a racing car driver, though your skills on the road are apparently better than those on the beach. At one stage you purchased an old Nissan Skyline turbo coupe with a flamboyant double decker rear wing from a guy dubiously known only as Pinky. Despite the car being white in colour, it was always referred by one and all, as Pinky. It may not have been the fastest of cars but Pinky did feed your inner motoring enthusiast. Your Honour kept Pinky at your mother-in-law's place which was next door to where you lived. It may have just been a handy place to store the car, or a weak attempt at hiding it from your wife Nyree, but the neighbours were bemused by the new car in your mother-in-law's driveway, thinking that it was a strange choice of car for such a mature lady.

On a sporting note, your Honour played twenty years of rugby, but only ever scored one try. If your Honour can replicate that in this Court, twenty years of trials and only one successful appeal, your Honour will be doing well indeed.

The Bar Association extends its sincere congratulations and best wishes on this well-deserved appointment and wishes you a long and fulfilling time on the bench.

**Magistrate Gilbert.** It seems your Honour's path towards the service of justice was already being paved when you joined the Department of Justice directly after your completion of year twelve in 1977. You were a mere eighteen years of age. Those who told me you were in fact twelve when you started exaggerated only mildly.

As clerk at the Public Defender's office, you prepared criminal matters and instructed counsel in the Magistrates, District and Supreme Courts as well as the Court of Criminal Appeal. This was a valuable experience, so early in your career, paving the way for what was to come.

From these early days, your dedication to the law was evident, as you embraced the mammoth task of maintaining your full time employment with the Public Defender, whilst undertaking your law degree part-time at QUT. In 1991 you were admitted as a solicitor and continued to work for Legal Aid Queensland following its 1990 merger with the Public Defender's office.

Since your admission to the legal profession, you have served as a solicitor advocate, legal officer, senior lawyer, principal lawyer, section manager and coordinator of the solicitor advocates team, daily canvassing criminal matters in all Courts.

Your career itself is a testament to your commitment to providing access to justice for the people of Queensland. For over 40 years you have worked tirelessly through your duty lawyer work and with your casework on behalf of clients of Legal Aid Queensland.

You have consistently demonstrated a high degree of legal expertise in the area of criminal law, as well as sound judgment and temperament, often in situations of urgency and pressure. It is widely agreed that you have always conducted yourself with integrity, with the utmost respect for all participants in the justice system.

Throughout your career in the criminal justice system, you have engaged effectively, efficiently and constructively with stakeholders to achieve just and fair outcomes.

You are fondly known for possessing a seemingly innate ability to think further ahead than those with whom you are engaged in conversation. This mystic gift is known to manifest itself in you completing the sentences of others, effectively reading their minds, to literally take the words out of their mouth, and with alarming accuracy.

Your Honour is also a devoted walker. For years you have consistently knocked out 20,000 or more steps per day, long before counting steps was a "thing". That came to a halt at Easter this year when you fell and broke your ankle. No doubt your husband, Colin and daughter, Anna, who are both proudly here today are pleased you are getting on your feet again.

From Legal Aid's perspective, your departure will be felt as a genuine loss.

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

May it please the Court.