



**ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT, REBECCA TRESTON QC ON THE OCCASION
OF A WELCOME CEREMONY FOR
HIS HONOUR JUSTICE PETER CALLAGHAN SC,
HER HONOUR JUSTICE FRANCES WILLIAMS, AND
HER HONOUR JUSTICE DEBRA MULLINS SC OA,
ON FRIDAY, 28 FEBRUARY 2020**

1. May it please the court.

JUSTICE MULLINS, your Honour has been a member of this Court for the past 20 years. Your extensive trial experience, your commitment to the efficient conduct of court proceedings and your keen intellect mark you as a most fitting addition to the Court of Appeal. Your Honour has an amazing work ethic, which is welcome in this Court where hard work is the Court's daily routine. The President, Justice Sofronoff once said that a person shouldn't go to the Court of Appeal unless they liked writing judgments, because judgment writing occupies 90% of a judge's time. The other 50%, the President said, is spent listening to arguments.

2. On behalf of the Bar Association and its members, we extend to your Honour our congratulations and sincere thanks for the years you have spent, and will continue to spend, serving this court and the people of Queensland.
3. **JUSTICE CALLAGHAN**, the Bar Association extends a particular welcome to your wife, *Mara*, and your children *Olivia* and *Leo*, as well as other members of your family, including your Honour's father, who all join us here today.
4. Your Honour joins the court following a distinguished career at the Bar. You obtained a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws with Honours from the University of Queensland.
5. The first decade following your admission was spent in various prosecutorial agencies. Your reputation as a prosecutor was and remains "steadfastly firm but resolutely fair".
6. After this time your Honour joined the Private Bar, specialising in the areas including criminal law, appellate, administrative, civil, human rights, discrimination, inquests, commissions of inquiry and statutory tribunals.
7. Your Honour has been involved in a number of high-profile cases. In your first case for a defendant, you were junior counsel to now-retired District Court Judge Terry Martin SC, acting for Ivan Milat. Although the result of the trial may have been inevitable, remarkably, at its conclusion the trial judge acknowledged that the defendant's "legal representatives had displayed tactical ability of a high order, and conducted Mr Milat's defence in a skillful and responsible manner".

8. As counsel, your trial work was renowned. You were a true “jury whisperer”.
9. Your Honour was appointed Senior Counsel in 2004. Justice Elizabeth Fullerton now of the NSW Supreme Court, gifted you your carry bag for your silk robes, as you were appointed while you were both mid-trial together.
10. You have continued your prosecutorial practice, and relatively recently, you appeared on behalf of the Commonwealth DPP and successfully secured the conviction of a defendant who had committed quarantine offences relating to her two dogs. Your Honour was thanked not only by the defendant in this matter, but also by her then-husband, Mr Johnny Depp.
11. Your forensic judgement and skill as an advocate has also been much sought after in other areas beyond your criminal practice. In 2011, your Honour was appointed as Counsel assisting the Flood Commission of Inquiry, and in 2016, your Honour became Senior Counsel assisting the *Royal Commission into Child Protection and Detention in the Northern Territory*.
12. Your Honour, in your work at the Bar you have supported many notable organisations, including Bar Association itself. Your service has included membership to the Bar Council, the Editorial Committee of Bar News, Criminal Law Committees, and an Ethics Counsellor. Your Honour has been a frequent contributor to the Bar’s CPD program, and, beginning in 2013, was part of the Bar’s delegation to training lawyers in Papua New Guinea. Your Honour gave generously of your time by being a member of the Board of Legal Aid, a past president of the Queensland Branch of the International Commission of Jurists and the Law and Justice Institute.
13. You have donated much of your time in *pro bono* work and legally aided cases. Among many public interest appearances, you appeared for the Doomadgee family during the events of Palm Island in 2004. You have undertaken work for the Caxton Legal Centre, the Environmental Defenders Office and many other public institutions.
14. Throughout your time at the Bar, you have remained available to many a junior counsel, both as a leader and a mentor. Many acknowledge the benefit of your succinct final words of advice when they had the opportunity to perform a prized speaking role. Just as they would rise to their feet to take a witness or make a submission, you would offer encouragement in the form of words such as “*just don't stuff it up*”.
15. Your Honour has many interests outside the law, including art, cooking, and travelling with your daughter to see theatre.
16. You are known amongst the profession, for your independence, your fairness, trustworthiness, clarity, strategic thinking and true commitment to the rule of law. Your successful career at the Bar will build upon these traits – all of which will define your judicial office, we are sure.
17. The Bar extends to you and your family its best wishes on your appointment.

18. **JUSTICE WILLIAMS.** The Bar starts by extending a special welcome to your parents, Glen and Roberta. Aside from recognising your mother as being, by her own description, “the original Roberta Williams” and, I hasten to add, no relation to the Melbourne crime family, it is appropriate to recognise your father, the Honourable Glen Williams AO, former judge of this Court. We welcome both of them back to this Court on the very special and no doubt proud occasion. We also welcome other members of your Honour’s family who are present today.
19. Your Honour joins the Court following an extensive career in the legal profession, most recently as a partner of one of Australia’s largest law firms.
20. Your Honour also studied at the University of Queensland and was awarded a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws with First Class Honours. Your Honour served, as we’ve heard, as an associate to the late Justice Richard Cooper of the Federal Court. You started your career, though, as a solicitor specialising in litigation. One of your first cases was a hard-fought dispute in the Anti-Discrimination Commission where you acquired an encyclopaedic knowledge of woodworking, with a particular emphasis on the relative benefits of the dovetail joint over the dowel joint. To this day, more than 25 years later, you are happy to share that knowledge with any who asks.
21. You went on to complete a Master of Law, with First Class Honours, at the University of Cambridge and you have had, as we’ve heard, a number of academic achievements and awards. Your Honour joins, for example, a number of other distinguished Menzies scholars on the Bench in Australia.
22. Your Honour served as associate to Chief Justice Kiefel when her Honour was a judge in the Federal Court, before you moved to Melbourne.
23. Your Honour did spend some time in Melbourne but, the joyless, dark Melbourne winters eventually gave way to a permanent return to the Sunshine State.
24. Your Honour’s litigation practice, though, has remained a national one. Over more than 25 years it has included major commercial and construction disputes, competition, anti-trust and consumer protection law.
25. Your Honour has a particular experience in managing major litigation and running large-scale electronic trials involving complex issues. While on the Bench, your Honour’s enthusiasm for e-trials may ultimately rival Justice Bond’s.
26. Most recently, your Honour acted in a matter which was heard in the High Court at the end of last year after a record 11 days in the Queensland Court of Appeal. It is worth noting that the lawyers had appeared for ASIC throughout the life of that case have now generated six judges of Superior Courts around Australia, including Justices Dalton, Flanagan and Bowskill of this Court, which must surely be something of a record. And the case more broadly has seen counsel for other parties elevated, including Justice Davis of this Court.

27. Your Honour has a calm nature and a methodical approach to cases. Whilst major litigation is intensely stressful, your Honour's approach has always remained unflappable and conscientious, which are attributes which will undoubtedly serve you well in your new role.
28. In addition to a busy work-life, your Honour has also found time to contribute to the profession, including as Deputy Chair of the Law Council of Australia, in the Business Law Section and Competition and Consumer Committee and as Deputy Chair of the Queensland Law Society Litigation Rules Society. Your Honour was also a member of the National Association of Women in Construction, and you served as a director of the Menzies Memorial Scholars Association. You have also regularly given your time as a volunteer and supervisor of junior lawyers involving *pro bono* advice.
29. The Bar extends to your Honour its best wishes on your appointment.
30. May it please the court.