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IN THE DISTRICT COURT
OF NEW SOUTH WALES

THE CHIEF JUDGE
THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE D PRICE AM
AND THE JUDGES OF THE COURT

THURSDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2019

**SWEARING IN OF HER HONOUR JUDGE NANETTE LEE WILLIAMS AND
HIS HONOUR JUDGE SEAN ELWIN GRANT AS JUDGES OF THE
DISTRICT COURT OF NEW SOUTH WALES**

Attorney-General Mark Speakman SC MP on behalf of the New South Wales
Bar Association
Ms Elizabeth Espinosa, President, Law Society of New South Wales on behalf
of solicitors

(Commissions read)

(Oaths of office taken)

PRICE CJ: The oaths of office will be placed in the court archives and the bible will be suitably inscribed to be presented to you as a memento of this occasion.

Judge Williams and Judge Grant on behalf of all the judges of this court I congratulate you and warmly welcome you. Both of you bring to the court a wealth of experience in the criminal law, I am sure you will make a significant contribution to the court. Mr Attorney.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Judge Grant and Judge Williams, on behalf of our State and the bar, it is my great pleasure to congratulate you on your appointments as judges of this court.

Judge Grant you are well represented here this morning by your family. I am pleased to welcome your mother Joan, Mitch as her friends know her, and I am sorry that your late father Frank, known to all as Bill, or at 6 foot 1 to you

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and your siblings as the big fella, is not here to celebrate with you today, but I am sure he would be proud.

I acknowledge your Honour's wife of 30 years, Therese Lynch and your three children, Phoebe, Eugenie, and Finnian. And three of your five siblings, welcome Rilla, Frank and Audas.

Your Honour spent much of primary and half of high school in Albury at St Patrick's Primary and then Aquinas College. And then a quick splash across the Murray to spend the last few years of high school in Wodonga. These early border crossings set the scene for your Honour's professional life. You were admitted to the Victorian Bar, the New South Wales Bar, and you have appeared in every State and territory in Australia as well as the High Court.

And just as Albury-Wodonga invites visitors to see both sides of the Murray, your Honour has seen the law from both sides appearing variously for the defence as well as for the Crown. Your father was the second Dr Grant of Wodonga. Your grandfather was a doctor too. He set up practice in 1927 and your father followed in his footsteps in 1953. But your Honour was never going to hang up a third Dr Grant shingle. You could not stand the sight of blood, and needless to say you did not share your father's or your brother's and sister's excitement when your father asked you all along to watch an operation. But in the age old intellectual contest, that is university entry marks, for doctors versus lawyers, I understand that your dad fought the law but the law won in the end and you went to Monash University.

For the first time ever, in 1978, the entry mark for law was higher than the entry mark for medicine. At Monash, your Honour undertook a Bachelor of Economics and Bachelor of Law, and graduated in 1983. You were admitted

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to practice in Victoria and New South Wales in 1985. You first went to work with the firm of Murphy, Boyd and Robb in Wodonga. You worked there as a solicitor and senior associate before going on to read with Colin Lovitt, now Colin Lovitt QC. With your mentors, Colin Lovitt, and then the late Ross Ray QC, your Honour fell into a life of crime.

In 1988, you were called to the Victorian Bar and then to the New South Wales Bar in 1989. Although you were firmly a Victorian at the time, you frequently appeared in Albury, partly because apparently members of the Victorian Bar were happy to head to Albury, happier than their colleagues in Sydney who thought it was too far. At those appearances in Albury, your Honour also often opposed two men who will now be your judicial colleagues, Judges Lerve and Ellis. In 2005, your Honour, with Therese and your children, moved once and for all to the Emerald City. By 2006 though, the Victorian Bar had acknowledged you had flown the coop and you adapted to the life of a fully-fledged Sydney-siding barrister and even took up Swans membership.

Your Honour's career as a trial advocate is distinguished, all parochial quips aside. You have been involved in many a complex, high profile matter in New South Wales, Victoria and other jurisdictions. Those who worked with you, know you to be a highly talented trial advocate, forensic in your attention to detail and formidable opponent. Your Honour's cross-examinations are legendary. You have been known to hum quietly to yourself as you walk in to and from the courtroom, on either side of cross-examining a key prosecution witness. Though your seriousness and discipline are universally acknowledged, you are not without a sense of humour when it comes to a good cross. Some years ago, your young junior, the very hardworking Tom

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Sawyer - yes Tom Sawyer - was on the receiving end of your mischievous streak, during a case you were defending in Western Australia. The main Crown witness was in the stand, awaiting your cross-examination, and you, ready with a word of encouragement for your charges, turned to Tom Sawyer and said, "well mate, up you get", to which an ashen faced Tom had absolutely no response and you waited, just long enough, before rescuing poor Tom from his heart palpitations with a re-assuring pat on the shoulder and as you stood for the cross-examination you always planned to conduct, "don't worry, son, I've got this".

When the time comes to perform, it is said that you are not given to mischief at all. That you negotiate with clients fairly and never try to complicate cases. Your Honour has been called the, "go to" criminal lawyer in chambers at Henry Parkes, with a great understanding of the Evidence Act and forensic strategies. This great understanding, certainly instilled confidence in your colleagues, for whom you are a valued advisor and it gave your clients great confidence too. A colleague in chambers tells the story of recent case in which the accused was so impressed with your representation that he fell asleep in the dock. Much to the distress of the jury, as they delivered their guilty verdict. Those before whom you have appeared, commend your Honour for always being prepared and for fully understanding the issues in a brief, before the trial commences. One of your now judicial colleagues commented, that it is an advantage that a barrister prosecuting or defending a case, knows more about it than the Judge knows at the commencement, and that your Honour does not waste time entertaining yourself or the jury with unnecessary arguments.

You are a committed family man to Therese, Phoebe, Eugenie and Finn.

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In fact, I might take a moment to congratulate daughter Eugenie, who turns 21 this weekend. Your commitment to cricket is fanatical, so much so that when Finnian dispensed with his cricket coach recently, you retained the coach's services yourself, and in your own words, the coach, "throws a ball at you every Friday", and while you that "Gentleman's Game" on a Friday in the nets, you are known as a gentleman always, a fine lawyer and a man of the real world.

Your Honour is known to be to be an exemplary barrister who will be a loss to the Bar but an asset to the Bench. Congratulations on your appointment and thank you for your ongoing service to the law, to the Court and to justice.

Judge Williams, I am delighted to congratulate you on your appointment, and to welcome your family to this ceremony. To your partner, Searle Indyk, to your children, Samuel, Shoshanna and Asher, Isabella and Sebastian, Cordelia and Joel, a warm welcome, and to your brother Sheldon, and your sister Genevieve, their partners, and some Williams cousins who are here. Thank you for showing such support and pride on this special day for Judge Williams.

Your Honour spent your first five years in Maclean on the North Coast. When you were five, your Honour's late father, Leonard, and your later mother, Shirley, moved the family to Dubbo where your father was promoted with the PMG. Shirley and Leonard were wonderful parents. They provided nurturing, love and support, and a stable family life. They instilled in your life, the importance of being kind to people and looking after others. I am sure they would be proud of the fine person you have become. These values are clear and enduring in your Honour's character. Many colleagues commented that

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you have unfailing courtesy and respect, and that you care greatly about the wellbeing of your colleagues, and that you are a loving, positive person.

In those early years in Dubbo, Sheldon, Genevieve and you swam in the river and did the things that country kids do. You went to Dubbo North Primary and then Dubbo High School. At Dubbo High, the teachers encouraged all students to pursue academic qualifications. A young Nan Williams received a portentous nickname, "The Bush Lawyer", such was your propensity to argue the point and ask, why. So it was no surprise when your Honour chose to study law. You thought it would be fun and provide a welcome escape to the city.

In that escape to the city, your Honour earned a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Law from the University of Sydney and went on to a Master of Laws from Sydney too. Armed with this Masters degree, in 1986, your Honour joined what was then the Office of the Clerk of the Peace, as a solicitor. In 1987, this Office became the Office of the DPP and your Honour has had a distinguished career with that office for 32 years.

You have worked as trial lawyer in the New South Wales District and Supreme Courts and as an appellate advocate appearing regularly in the Court of Criminal Appeal. You have been a Crown Prosecutor for 19 years and you have come to the Bench from your role as Deputy Senior Crown Prosecutor. You have appeared in more than 280 jury trials in the District Court. Your preparation for cases is legendary. I have it on excellent authority, that you would start at page 1 of your brief, and not only read the brief in its entirety, but commit great swabs of factual information to memory. I am told you would know the evidence inside-out.

In the many comments that colleagues have made about your Honour,

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your strength, your sincerity, and your other commitment to the law, shine through. Your Honour is said to have an abiding interest in victims' rights and sexual assault law. In recent years, you prosecuted many difficult murder trials and historical child sexual assault trials. Your ability to build rapport with victims, to bring the best out of them in giving evidence, and the care you have shown victims of crime, and their families, during these trials, are widely respected and envied by many. The values that your Honour's parents instilled in you have no doubt influenced the consideration and dignity with which you have conducted some of your more sensitive cases. I am speaking of cases that include a trial last year with 19 counts of historical child sexual abuse, including victims who were middle-aged men when the case was tried, and the first trial in Australia for the prohibition of female genital mutilation, a 16-week trial in 2015, in which you were the lead counsel and which received worldwide media attention.

Amid all such stressful, complex trials, your Honour remained composed and objective as a prosecutor, an invaluable trade in a Crown Prosecutor. Your colleagues highly value your care and concern, your humanity and your integrity. We can rest assured that that care and concern will be extended to all who come before you and expected of all who do, just as you have been a fine role model for, and supporter, of women in the profession. Your Honour is known as a strong advocate and mentor to women, encouraging, when it comes to instructing solicitors, to share their opinions and tactics. You are known to always make sure that your good results were credited to the entire team and to support young solicitors in their efforts to expand their skills and seek promotion.

For the past 22 years, your Honour's been a commissioned officer in the

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Royal Australian Navy Reserve. In the mid-90's you'd run a case that involved a senior navy lawyer, which had gone a bit awry. The navy lawyer asked if you ever thought of joining the Navy legal panel which Sir Laurence Street set up in 1964 in the wake on the HMAS Voyager disaster.

You had not thought of that but the Navy was encouraging female lawyers to join the panel and it piqued your interest. So after passing an intense exam in which you were asked all manner of seafaring questions about classes of ships and naval law you joined as a lieutenant and in the years since your Honour has been promoted through the ranks to now Commander. You valued your time on the Navy panel as one of the most important aspects of your career. You have made firm friends and you have been able to make a contribution valuable to you and to the RAN.

Between the RAN and the ODPP your Honour has had a career and a character that are distinguished and widely respected. It is said that even after more than three decades with the ODPP you never stopped caring for the office or giving back. It is little wonder that your colleagues have said you will be irreplaceable at the ODPP. Your Honour's career and professional moments are such that there may not be many waking moments left for extra-curricular activities. But among your colleagues at the ODPP you have often been nicknamed "Super Mum" with your utter commitment to your children and your family as your enduring priority.

You are credited widely with elegance from your turn of phrase to your love of all things French. You are revered as a wordsmith and a style icon of discerning taste. You like to cook but I gather your latest love outside Searle and your children and France is in fact your red setter Melly. You love walking with Melly and Searle and it was through walking beautiful pups who have long

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since passed away that you met Searle more than 18 years ago. In those days your Weimaraner Sasha was your first love and you two would cross paths regularly with Searle and his red setter Claude. I am sure there is a joke in there about puppy love but I will not make it. Your Honour loves to travel, whether it is your regular trips to Broome's Head for beach holidays and swims in the surf or trips further afield. Your Honour your ethical standards, your sound judgment and the values which your parents instilled in you from the beginning are invaluable qualities for a judge of this court. Congratulations on your appointment to the bench, may it please the Court.

PRICE CJ: Thank you Attorney, Ms Espinosa.

ESPINOSA: May it please the Court. I acknowledge the Gadigal people of the Eora nation, the traditional custodians of the land on which this honourable court stands and I pay my respects to the elders, past, present and emerging.

Judge Williams as President of the Law Society of New South Wales I am deeply honoured to congratulate you on your appointment to this Court. The 13 years' experience your Honour gained as a solicitor, first at a private firm then the Office of the Clerk of the Peace now the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions is greatly valued by solicitors. I know that three of these years your Honour spent as a Trial Advocate. This senior litigation role is a prominent means by which solicitors contribute to court advocacy in New South Wales and this background gave your Honour the firm grounding necessary to become a Crown Prosecutor in 1999. It also gifted you an appreciation for the work solicitors do and a connection with many dear solicitor colleagues who are here today.

In the 20 years that have followed your Honour has conducted hundreds of jury trials, including prosecuting many serious and sensitive trials. You have

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performed your duties with great commitment, skill and passion and are known today as one of the State's finest Crown Prosecutors. Your work has brought great credit to the reputation of this vitally important function in criminal justice. By virtue of the matters your Honour has been allocated by the Office over the years you have become a go to counsel for historical and contemporary child sexual assault matters. Your careful, compassionate work with child victims or victims who were assaulted as children and are now adults set you apart. Your expertise culminated in giving testimony before the Royal Commission into institutional responses for child sexual abuse and will now serve as an asset to this court.

Within the office you have contributed positively to the culture in three ways. First your Honour was an important driver of the office embracing the early appropriate guilty plea system. Second you would always encourage others to be willing to have a go and broaden their horizons. You would commute to parts of Sydney outside what some would have termed the golden 5 kilometre radius of the CBD. There you would engage with homicide victims support groups or speak with survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse. Now third is your generosity of spirit. This helps to shape the career of many solicitors within the office. This mentoring was extensive, be it assisting in drafting legal arguments or opening addresses for junior advocates appearing for their first few trials. You also ran many workshops about conducting a trial in your own time despite being a mother to seven and balancing your own intense workload. Solicitors who have worked with you describe your Honour as a total pleasure with whom to work, warm, respectful and generous with your time throughout every case. They would often come to your Honour for support when they felt diminished by the atmosphere in court or because they

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felt overwhelmed by crushing workloads.

You have also been particularly popular with witness assisting officers and victim representatives. This is because you work well with victims as we have heard, understanding and empathising with the human condition in a way that not many could. You provided invaluable emotional support, demonstrating profound sensitivity to hundreds, if not thousands, sexual abuse and sexual assault complainants and next of kin of homicide victims.

As mentioned your Honour has appeared in matters of great sensitivity, including conducting the first prosecution in a Commonwealth nation of charges of female genital mutilation. Even when matters were harrowing or stressful you would keep your composure and objectivity as a prosecutor.

Your Honour once prosecuted another murder trial involving defences of provocation and self-defence. The evidence of the Crown's pathologist was in issue and the defence called expert medical witnesses as a result. Your Honour was able to lead the evidence of the Crown's expert in a way understandable to the jury while also cross-examining the defence experts highly effectively. You kept the family members of the deceased informed of what was happening at every step of the trial. This accomplished balancing act resulted in a guilty verdict. This sense of balance, composure and proportion accompanies you in the aftermath to cases as well as in the cases themselves. Indeed during difficult trials it was not unknown for you to forego your beloved one glass of wine with dinner. As such at the end of the trial your Honour would be careful to make up for it with two glasses.

In your role as Commander in the Royal Australian Navy Reserve of which we have heard you brought your skills as a prosecutor to both military prosecution and defence for more than 22 years. You have successfully

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prosecuted and defended before both court martial and defence force magistrates as well as undertaking many sensitive and complex enquiries for the Inspector General of the Australian Defence Force. You are appointed as a s 154 Reviewing Officer under the Defence Force Discipline Act and have sat and reviewed over proceedings heard by others. Bringing your passion for mentoring to the Navy Reserve Legal Panel you have supported many junior members of the Reserve.

We have heard of your Honour's family background growing up in Maclean and Dubbo, matriculating in 1974, moving to Sydney to study law at University. Your Honour's parents both worked for what was then known as Telecom. Your father Len putting up telephone lines in the early days of their use and your mother Shirley working as a telephonist prior to their marriage. As a child your Honour would holiday in Broome's Head, an unspoilt paradise 25 kilometres from Maclean. Coming full circle your Honour and your partner Searle now take your youngest children to Broome's Head on holiday. Outside the law you are devoted to your partner, your seven children, Joel and Isabella who are both solicitors. Sebastian, Cordelia, Asher, Samuel and Shoshanna. Your sister Genevieve and her husband Peter and your brother Sheldon and his wife Emelia are also here today. As we have heard also beloved to you is your red setter Melissando. She was named after a twelfth century queen of Jerusalem.

You are an enthusiastic Francophile, speaking French fluently and spending as much time in Paris as practicable. Perhaps it is your love of France that has inspired your Honour's sense of style. You have a penchant for strings of pearls and drop earrings that we are sure will continue to make an appearance on the bench.

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Judge Williams, your Honour has been described as one of the most decent people to ever don a wig and gown. This morning you don a slightly different wig and gown, which bring with them a new set of responsibilities and duties. Friends and colleagues say it is the decency of the human being that will continue to shine through, making a positive difference in the lives of those who come before you. Your courtroom will be defined by civility, respect and the principle that everyone should be heard.

Your wealth of experience will be irreplaceable at the DPP, but is now the profound gain of the District Court and the solicitors of New South Wales wish you well for your time on the bench.

Judge Grant, it is an honour to congratulate your Honour on your appointment to this bench. You bring to this Court all the experience associated with such a distinguished career at the bar in Victoria and New South Wales, underpinned by a substantial trial practice. In earlier years your Honour spent four years as a senior associate solicitor at a Wodonga firm, Murphy, Boyd and Robb, before being called to the bar in Victoria in 1988 and then New South Wales in 1989.

These three decades at the bar have seen your Honour work across all jurisdictions, in the Local Court of New South Wales, in the County Court of Victoria to the High Court of Australia, the Federal Court and Courts of Appeal. Your practice has involved carriage of complex fraud matters, financial crime cases, murder trials and serious drug offences.

Those who have instructed your Honour over the years feel they have briefed a counsel who brought significant commonsense, energy, drive, resolution and a certain degree of modesty to the task. A significant part of your Honour's work has involved providing legal representation to the

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marginalised, vulnerable or down and out in our community.

Your passion for work was infectious, making it easy for solicitors to work with you in a collaborative, high energy team. As a result your Honour won yourself a coterie of repeat solicitors and clients.

No matter how early in your career or whether you were previously known in a certain jurisdiction, your Honour made a strong first impression wherever you went. I will detail two examples of this quality. Your Honour once appeared in the District Court of Western Australia, where at the commencement of the case the trial judge made a point of nothing that he did not recognise you. Confirming you were from Victoria, your Honour and your junior were then requested to produce your practising certificates. This was done without fuss and the trial continued.

At the end of the trial the judge's associate pulled you aside and advised you that the judge had been impressed with your cross-examination and management skills in running the trial. The associate passed on a message from the judge that your Honour could appear "in the west" in any trials with his highest recommendation.

The second example of your great promise, in this case appearing as an unled counsel, dates back to the late 1990s. It was then that you became involved in several serious drug trials which became known as "the Mega trials", known as such because they were so lengthy and so large. The *Beljajev* case was the last of these trials. It involved nine months of pre-trial work and argument, then a 15 month jury trial, which followed from a hung jury a number of years before. The trial was notoriously difficult with a parade of glamorous criminal witnesses lining up for the stand, one of whom had reportedly commenced his drug dealing in the time of the famous 1971 Gene

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Hackman film, *The French Connection*. The case was multi-faceted and had driven the court system mad from the time of the first trial's 1989 committal to the stunning conclusion in the year 2000, at which your Honour was present.

The cross-examination within the trial was unabating, to the extent that a prominent Crown police witness ended up in hospital from the stress of it all. The trials were known at the time as the costliest and longest running criminal proceedings Australia had ever seen, but your Honour never took a backward step in the incredibly long and hard fought trial. Your Honour was acting on your own and your client in this trial was a colourful figure by the name of Lambert. He was a man with a taste for trouble. He was not renowned for his intelligence.

On the morning of the jury's verdict, Friday, 13 October 2000, your Honour's client was heard to call out from the cells, "Hey, isn't Friday the 13th meant to be a lucky day?" Despite his mix-up, it turned out Friday the 13th really was a lucky day in the year Y2K and the three accused were acquitted.

You went on to appear for Beljajev himself in a 2007 murder trial in which he was acquitted and appeared for the accused at the committal in the *Silk-Miller* double police homicide. You also appeared in the famous *Salt Night Club* trial, a murder trial involving two armed groups of Vietnamese youths, which ran for approximately eight months in Victoria. It was during this trial that senior barristers observed your initiative in responding to and accounting for any live issue in the trial. They also witnessed the way you were able to connect with the jury. They began nicknaming you "Top Silk" and the moniker has stuck.

Outside of the law your Honour is committed to your wife Therese, and

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you are a proud father to Phoebe, Eugenie and Finnian. Your mother has already been mentioned today, Joan Grant, known by all as Mitch, 93 years old and very proud of your Honour. We acknowledge her presence today.

We also honour the influence of your father Frank, known to all as Bill, that he had on you. Although your Honour left Melbourne for Sydney in 2005, I understand your heart is still in Tigerland. Such is your support for the Richmond Football Club that your Honour has spent most of your life in a state of abject misery as far as AFL is concerned, with 2017 being a joyful anomaly.

Your Honour was the captain and coach of a university AFL team as the faded framed team photo in your chambers attests. Your Honour's ability to wrangle young beer loving footballers to do anything is, colleagues believe, a testament to your leadership qualities at every stage of your life.

You are very much missed in Victoria by men in the legal fraternity who always valued the loyalty, respect and friendship you afforded to them.

Your time at the New South Wales Bar has been marked by these same values and the solicitors and barristers with whom you have engaged in Sydney value your approachability and willingness to answer any and all questions. Judge Grant, solicitors are confident that your Honour will discharge the challenges that come with this appointment ably and honourably.

Your extensive experience in civil and criminal law, your intellect, experience and knowledge so unselfishly shared will make a fine recipe for an excellent judge. I congratulate you once again on behalf of the solicitors of New South Wales and welcome you warmly to the bench. As the Court pleases.

PRICE CJ: Thank you, Ms Espinosa. Judge Williams.

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JUDGE WILLIAMS: Thank you. Chief Judge, judges of this and other courts, Mr Attorney, Ms Espinosa, legal profession, family and friends, I acknowledge the traditional owners of this land the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, their elders, past, present and future.

Mr Attorney, Ms Espinosa, thank you for those most kind words, I am truly humbled by them. Thank you Chief Judge and my fellow judges for your very warm welcome, and I sincerely congratulate my fellow judges who have been sworn in over the last few weeks and in the days to come. I wish you all wonderful and rewarding judicial careers. I thank the support staff of this Court who have been very kind to me in my transition to judicial office.

May I also thank the Court staff of this Court and the Supreme Court for their courtesy and many professional kindnesses to me over the decades that I have appeared in those courts. May I also thank Mr Neville Menzies for his superb effort in making sure that all of us new judicial officers are resplendent in our new robes.

It is a great honour to be appointed a judge of the District Court of New South Wales. The solemn judicial oaths I have just taken are now a part of the very core of my being.

I am so happy that my sister Genevieve and her husband Peter Jackson and my brother Sheldon and his wife Emelia Williams could share this special day with me. I am so grateful for everything that you have done for me, the countless house moves that you assisted and unpacked boxes and made a house for me and a home, so much help with my children over the years. You also looked after mum and dad so well, thank you.

I am delighted that my cousins Charles and Zilla Williams, Stephen and Marika Williams and Paul and Kim Williams, my cousins and partners are here

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today too. We are all proud descendants of Ann Forbes, a convict who arrived as a 17 year old woman on the Prince of Wales in the First Fleet.

Given my now revealed convict lineage, there is a lovely symmetry about my appointment today. My wonderful partner, Searle Indyk, is here and my seven amazing children. Just as a little bit of background, both sets of my grandparents, Charles and Maryanne Williams and Hedley and Clara Lee, were pioneers in the Richmond and Clarence Rivers in Northern New South Wales.

My parents, Len and Shirley Williams, surrounded Genevieve, Sheldon and I with unconditional love. They were hardworking people, honest and with great integrity. They cared deeply about us and the world they lived in. Dad was stoic, humble and a perfectionist and as a true child of the Depression just born days before the great crash of October of 29, he could fix anything. He was forced to leave school at 14 and he worked in a quarry but he retained a deep love of learning all his life.

My mum was a pocket dynamo. She was not quite five feet tall and she worked tirelessly to provide the foundations of our life. Mum was blithe of spirit, a woman of great faith, she loved people and was kind to everybody. Mum did not drink or swear and I know that there will be some of you here today who perhaps would doubt that I really could be her daughter.

I would not have made it into law school without the dedicated teachers of Dubbo High School who gave unstintingly of their time to the sixth form of 1974. They encouraged the pursuit of academic excellence, believing that country kids too deserved a precious tertiary education. In 1986, as you have heard, I started at the Clerk of the Peace but that was without any interview at all because they needed staff, there was a curious thing, the public service had

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to recruit staff before the end of the financial year freeze.

Paul Lynch, an inspirational Crown Prosecutor, was responsible for my permanent position. He always encouraged my career with fabulous advice and good humour. The ODPP was my second family so it was very hard yesterday at 5 o'clock to leave after 32 years, seven months and 20 days. The Director of Public Prosecutions, Lloyd Babb of senior counsel, is right to be very proud of the office he leads with great vision.

I marvel at the deputy directors who juggle the enormous challenges and non-stop demands of their role, making countless high level decisions every day. Solicitors from the office have instructed me with great legal skill, efficiency, insight and intelligence. They have saved me from courtroom disasters and on one occasion Pearl Jassy shared her lunch with me. It was Vita-Weats and nectarines but when you had nothing else to eat it was very delicious.

They made me tea, they found me Kit Kats and gave me Panadol. John Sfinas I thank you for your unconditional friendship and unwavering support for many years. In 2015 Sevinch Morkaya and Catherine Kirkpatrick instructed me in a complex trial, you have heard it was the FGM trial. They assisted me with legal excellence, grace and good humour for 16 gruelling weeks. I thank each and every one of you for your many kindnesses, your dedication to the rule of law and your commitment to justice.

Resilience is an essential part of our work. But from my observations, resilience alone is not enough, it must be reinforced with unfailing kindness to our colleagues. Keith Alder, John Bowers, Sarah Bowers, Virginia Lydiard, Richard Herps and Maria Cinque SC, you have buoyed me up, you have consoled me, you have given me sage legal advice and celebrated my

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achievements with nothing less than Krug or Billecart Salmon. Thank you.

And when the dark storm clouds gathered, Sally Dowling SC and Richard Lancaster SC in the very finest traditions of the Bar were swift to provide a beacon of light. They were generous and wise and they helped me very much and I will never forget their kindness. Chris Maxwell QC you, simply put, are a warrior for justice in this State and you are a much loved senior Crown Prosecutor.

Tanya Smith, acting deputy director, always gave me the best legal advice. On issues so complex I could hardly articulate them to her, Tanya unravelled them in moments. Tanya you are a lawyer's lawyer, you helped not only me but every person in the office, you are a star. My dear colleagues, my dear friends your collegiality, your wisdom, your encouragement, your kindness and loyalty has sustained me. Prosecutors do not work in a vacuum.

The witness assistance officers are central to the administration of justice in New South Wales. They work tirelessly empowering the vulnerable, the frightened and the traumatised. In the same way as I pay tribute to the witness assistance officer of the DPP, I pay tribute to the amazing work done by the homicide victim support group under the direction of Martha Jabour and her incredible staff who go above and beyond the call of duty to help members of our society in their darkest days.

I also acknowledge the commitment, professionalism and dedication of the Public Defenders of New South Wales, the solicitors of the Legal Aid Commission, the Aboriginal Legal Service and the many upstanding barristers and solicitors in private practice in this State who toil endlessly to ensure that their clients receive justice.

You may well wonder what I will be like as a judge. To assist in

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answering that, I commend you all to the fondest memory of the late Commodore Kenneth Victor Taylor AM, AM Military, RFD and former District Court Judge. His understanding of the human condition was legendary. His judicial colleagues described him as fair, wise, brave and gentle in equal measure. In answer I wish for those qualities to guide my judicial career.

My family has a proud tradition of military service. My grandfather Hedley was, my dad, my uncles were all members of the ADF. My uncle Lance Corporal Robert Keith Williams, second fifth battalion of the AIF, made the ultimate sacrifice and was killed in action in PNG just days before the end of World War II and I am sure my cousins and my brother and sister will all agree with me that his death has had a ripple effect through the decades since his passing in July 1945.

Sheldon my dear brother, a highly decorated Captain in the Royal Australian Navy, my niece Holly has served in the Australian Reserve as a nurse and my beautiful Bella is a newly minted Lieutenant in the Royal Australian Navy Reserve. I have been greatly privileged to serve the New South Wales Navy Reserve legal panel under the leadership of various leaders, Heads of Panel as we call them

Since I started, Captain Peter Callaghan SC, Rear Admiral Michael Slattery, Judge Advocate General, Justice of the Supreme Court of New South Wales, Captain Jeffrey Hilton SC, Captain Timothy Hoyle SC, Captain James Renwick CSC, SC and I congratulate you James most sincerely and our first Head of Panel Commander Felicity Rogers, these people, these naval officers are outstanding leaders, they encourage all panel members to be the very best legal officers they can be in the interests of serving the military justice system in Australia. I thank each and every one of my naval colleagues, many of

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whom are here today, for their friendship and generous support over many years.

I move now finally to my family. Searle, you are a fabulous father to our three children. You love them dearly. You are steadfast, reliable and deeply loyal. You are an outstanding freelance musician playing violin and viola, you keep the perfect beat not only in music but in our lives. You stood by me when times were tough, you never lost faith in me and you wept tears of joy when my judicial appointment was announced.

My children you are the light of my life, you anchor me and you give me a safe harbour. I did miss Easter hat parades, school concerts and there were times on school dress up days when my children either had a pathetic costume or no costume at all. There were times when you were sick and you had to come to my chambers and we made a camp bed under my desk, you never complained and I thank Christine Griffin for the many kindnesses to my sick children in those years.

Joel, you have achieved great success as a commercial lawyer. You are a gentleman, you are thorough, hardworking and meticulous. You are a first class black run skier. You are prophetic, you always believed in me too. You are a wonderful brother and a devoted partner to the beautiful Christina who is a highly talented solicitor and I am so happy that Christina is here today too.

Isabella, you are beautiful by name and beautiful by nature. You are committed to the pursuit of justice, particularly for children, the poor, the violated and the disenfranchised for whom are you a powerful advocate. You steadied my ship, you edited job applications for me, pep-talked me before important interviews, gave me fashion tips and discussed the finer points of the criminal law. You are a superb and natural communicator.

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Sebastian, your twin brother, you are tall and handsome, you are a superb athlete and a fabulous surfer. I am so proud of your achievements in the competitive world of real estate. You never give up, you were born to drive and born to sell. You are persuasive, passionate and intensely committed to doing the right things by your clients. Every telephone conversation you ring off by saying, I love you Mum.

Cordelia, my beautiful, exquisite wild child, you are steadfastly pursuing a career in property development in Melbourne. Cordelia, you live your true self every day and you are completely unapologetic about it. You love your family and your friends passionately and you would do anything for them. Moreover, you are relentless in the pursuit of happiness, not just for yourself but others, too.

Asher, my most funny, loving and generous young man, you love cricket, football and surfing. You love your friends and our dog, Melly. You are lovely to Shoshi and Sam, and Daddy and I are so very proud of you as you begin high school this year.

Sammy, you are so adorable, handsome, smart, funny and curious about the world. You love Japan, your iPad, the weather reports, music and your friends. You are a treasure and you make the world a happier place.

Shoshi, you are the sweetest little girl in the world. You are kind, loving and thoughtful and have the longest hair at school. You love learning the violin, too. You are blithe of spirit like your grandma, you are a complete joy to me.

My children, you have been my constant companions with me on this journey to where I am today, I am truly blessed. I have taken too much of your time. May I invoke the naval blessing and wish you all fair winds and following

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seas.

PRICE: Thank you judge. Judge Grant.

GRANT: It is with great humility that I look forward to serving the chief judge and the people of New South Wales. I thank my wife of 30 years, Therese Lynch, the love of my life. Without her this day would not have been possible. Her support, her encouragement and her way of letting me know when it is time to get my head out of a trial and into the home has kept me and our family life real.

My wife and I have three wonderful children, Phoebe, Eugenie and Finnian. All three have been dragged to Court to watch Dad in action. They all have strong voices, keeping me well grounded in political correctness, dress sense, current affairs and pop culture. I know that Ice Cube is not something you put in a drink and Drake did not defeat the Spanish Armada. My son, when told of my appointment said, it's about time Dad had a real job. My children give me so much joy, I'm tremendously proud of them.

My mother is present, she is 93. She lives independently and still drives, some say too fast. She is a very proud mother of six children. I was with her the day my appointment was announced. She went straight to her telephone book and spent the next three hours calling anyone and everyone who would listen. I thank my mother and father for a warm, stable upbringing, and my mother's common sense approach to life which I hope will be reflected in my future judgments.

Mr Attorney, she thinks you must be a very nice man for appointing her son. I thank you and Madam President for your kind and welcoming words.

Present today is my sister Rilla, the best sister I could have, who inspired me as a young man. Her husband Joe, my brother Frank John and his wife

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Claire and my brother Audas. Nancy Boyes, my mum's best friend, is also here. I am a country boy. My first job was at 15 years of age working on a Strawberry farm, nine hours a day in 30+ degree heat, earning \$1 an hour, the next year \$1.50, the following year \$2. At 18 I worked in a dog food factory. This was my first experience in occupational health and safety in a workplace. We were waiting to go on shift, we were in the canteen, we were seated around a table when a worker walked in and threw a box onto the table. Out jumped a very angry tiger snake. It was a sight to see the entire shift all racing for the entrance, including me. It was then that I decided it would be a good idea to take up my place at university and study economics and law.

At the completion of my combined degrees, I returned home and on a handshake commenced my articles of clerkship in 1984. I was admitted to practice as a solicitor in New South Wales and Victoria in 1985. Shortly after my admission my mentor died. He was the only Court advocate out of four partners. Within my first week I was appearing in Court. I enjoyed it and wanted to get better at it. I married Therese and went to the bar in 1988. In 2003 my wife and three others set up a company. It had no employees. It now has over 180 employees. An opportunity presented itself to relocate to Sydney. We did so in 2005.

At that stage I was becoming the prince of murders in Victoria. I had committed to two murders that year. The first went from February to September and the second occupied October. I felt like a fly-in, fly-out miner, leaving Monday morning and flying back Friday night.

In 2006 I started working on my New South Wales practice. Sometimes it was like starting all over again. I returned from a four-week murder trial in Melbourne. My clerk, Mark Dally, who I have had since 2005, told me he had

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a fantastic brief for me. The bubble in my head said Supreme Court trial, District Court trial. The conversation went like this. So, Mark, what's the fantastic brief you've got for me? He replied, speeding case in the Katoomba Local Court.

My first big break came from Phil Stewart, now a Local Court magistrate who is present today. I was briefed by him to do the Suduko retrial. I did the trial in a third of the time and had my client acquitted. Briefs from Nyman Gibson Stewart and other firms then followed. I was on the map.

My father before his death saw me in action. My younger brother Audas was a Crown witness. It was necessary for me to cross-examine him. I know of no barrister other than myself that has cross-examined a sibling in a criminal trial. As there is no property in Crown witnesses, my brother and I had a conference during a family dinner. My father was taking time off due to some ill health. He wanted to watch me cross-examine my brother and to see me in action against another witness who was a doctor, of whom my father did not think highly. The doctor had taken a blood test as a result of an admission made by my client that he was the rider of the bike at the time of the accident which killed a pillion passenger.

Off to Court we went. My father sat in the upstairs gallery, no pressure. Cross-examination of my brother went well. He played a straight bat and confirmed that due to the closed head injury of my client, you could not rely upon a word he said. Now for the doctor. I gave him some rope. He had a precise and clear memory of events, even though he had taken blood from hundreds of individuals over the last 12 months due to road accidents. He had no doubts. I then turned to the minute and went through in great detail the taking of the blood, the filling of the three vials, the labelling of the vials, the

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signing of the vials, the placement of the vials in the safe, the signing of the certificate, the dating of the certificate and placing his name on the certificate. He remember it all. It was him and no other doctor.

Buried at page 3,500 in the brief was the certificate, which the prosecutor had not read. I showed the doctor the certificate. He admitted it did not have his name on it, nor had it been signed by him. He then retracted his evidence and cross-examination stopped. I turned and looked at my father, who was a man of few words. He had a slight smile, nothing else was said.

I have had two readers. My first reader is a Magistrate, my second reader is one of the hardest-working junior counsel in Victoria. Tom Sawyer is with us today after having appeared in Mildura yesterday and will be appearing in Melbourne tomorrow. I thank my clerk Mark Dalley and my colleagues at Henry Parkes Chambers, particularly John Galluzzo who helped me understand the machinations of the Local Court. I am thankful for the support I have enjoyed from the following solicitors and firms since coming to New South Wales Victoria Havryliv, who briefed me in some big trials and the High Court, John Gould, Nyman Gibson Miralis, Bill O'Brien, Ross Hudson, Chris Cole. Armstrong Legal, particularly Michael Hemsall, Phil Sim, Carol Younes and Karen Espiner, Robert Simone, Andrew Cheung, Lucy Patterson, Miranda Scott and Amarande Chauvet. And lastly I wish to thank Rob Fornito.

ADJOURNED