

THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE D M PRICE AM

CHIEF JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT OF NEW SOUTH WALES

30 OCTOBER 2018

- 1 On behalf of myself and the Judges of the District Court, I welcome you to this ceremony and congratulate you upon your appointment as Senior Counsel. I also extend a welcome to Clerks of the Floor and any family members who are here this morning.

- 2 **Neil John Adams SC**, since your admission to the Bar in 1986, you have made your reputation primarily in criminal and civil practice. You were also appointed Deputy Senior Crown Prosecutor in July of this year.

- 3 **Lee John Carr SC**, since your admission to the Bar in 1989, you have made your reputation in criminal trial work. You were also appointed as Deputy Senior Crown Prosecutor in 2016.

- 4 **Paresh Navin Khandhar SC**, since your admission to the Bar in 1999 you have made your reputation primarily in common law, personal injury, indemnity recovery and alternative dispute resolution.

- 5 **Shane Eric John Prince SC**, since your admission to the Bar in 2000, you have made your reputation in industrial relations, employment law and areas of public law. Your professional experience includes work for the NSW Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors in asylum seeker matters.

- 6 **Farid Assaf SC**, since your admission to the Bar in 2000, you have made your reputation primarily in commercial law in particular the areas of insolvency and corporations law. You have also authored textbooks and published articles on these areas.

- 7 **Edward George Harvey Cox SC**, since your admission to the Bar in 2000, you have made your reputation primarily in commercial law and equity, including maritime and international commercial disputes.
- 8 **Mark Gibian SC**, since your admission to the Bar in 2002, you have made your reputation primarily in employment law, discrimination and administrative law. Your career also includes academic endeavours as a lecturer in employment and industrial law since 2005.
- 9 **Neil Robert Murray SC**, since your admission to the Bar in 2004, you have made your reputation primarily in intellectual property and patents law.
- 10 **Suzanne Michelle Christie SC**, since your admission to the Bar in 2004, you have made your reputation primarily in equity, family law and alternative dispute resolution.
- 11 **Ertunc Yasar Ozen SC**, since your admission to the Bar in 2004, you have made your reputation primarily in criminal law, civil appeals, Commissions of inquiry and coronial inquests. You have presented papers on specialist aspects of criminal law including admissibility of covert recordings and cross-examination of police witnesses.
- 12 **Simon Jules Buchen SC**, since your admission to the Bar in 2004, you have made your reputation primarily in criminal law, appellate, industrial and employment law, commissions of inquiry and coronial inquests.
- 13 **Anna Margrit Mitchelmore SC**, since your admission to the Bar in 2004, you have made your reputation primarily in public and administrative law, environment and planning, civil and criminal appeals and commissions of inquiry and coronial inquests. You were also elected to the Bar Council and serve as Treasurer of the Bar Association.

- 14 **Vanessa Elizabeth Whittaker SC**, since your admission to the Bar in 2005, you have made your reputation primarily in commercial law, equity and appellate.
- 15 **Michael Anthony Izzo SC**, since your admission to the Bar in 2005, you have made your reputation primarily in commercial law, equity, appellate and administrative law. You were elected to the Bar Council and have served on professional Committees.
- 16 **Kristen Jane Deards SC**, since your admission to the Bar in 2006, you have made your reputation primarily in appellate and taxation law.
- 17 **David Frederick Callum Thomas SC**, since your admission to the Bar in 2006, you have made your reputation primarily in commercial and corporate law, trade practices, taxation and constitutional law.
- 18 The short recitation of your achievements demonstrates how well-deserved your appointments are. The tradition of the appointment of Silk dates back, as you know, over 400 years. Although the name and method of appointment may have changed, the leadership role you play has in no way diminished.
- 19 On occasions such as these, it is important to reflect on the rich history of the District Court. Judge Alan Stredwick Lloyd E.D., Q.C. was a judge of the District Court between 1947 and 1959. Judge Lloyd often took a quiet demeanour on the Bench but could also be very humorous. Former Senior Crown Prosecutor Mr R.R. Kidston QC tells the following anecdote:

At Darlinghurst one day there came before his Honour a young man who may have heard of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde and may have decided that their case might avail him to lighten penalty and excuse his fairly bad record.

Shrewd enough not to appear too learned, he put himself forward much as follows: *“Your Honour, I’m not really a bad man, myself – It’s just that I’m a – what they call a split personality. I want to do the right thing; but there’s another chap inside me who pushes me. I try to fight him, but he’s too strong for me. It’s really he that does all these wrong things, not me.”*

The judge, who was regarding him quite benignly, then said: *“Yes I understand. As you say it’s not your fault at all. But this other fellow, we’ll*

have to do something about him, won't we? Now I'm going to put in him gaol for two years – but don't let that upset you, he'll be doing the sentence.” As the prisoner left the court, he had the grace to smile. He too had a sense of humour. He may have expected, and probably deserved, three years.¹

- 20 With your appointment to Senior Counsel, I am confident that humour will prove a necessary and useful tool for all aspects of life.
- 21 On behalf of all judges of the District Court, I wish you every success in your leadership roles at the Bar. Please now join us for morning tea.

¹ H.T.E. Holt, *A Court Rises: the Lives and Times of the Judges of the District Court of New South Wales (1859-1959)*, (1st ed 1976, Law Foundation of New South Wales) at 238.