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REVISED 2/9/2015

IN THE DISTRICT COURT
OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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

MONDAY 24 AUGUST 2015

**SWEARING IN OF HER HONOUR JUDGE JENNIE ANNE GIRDHAM SC
AND HER HONOUR CATHERINE MARGARET TRAILL AS JUDGES OF
THE DISTRICT COURT OF NEW SOUTH WALES**

The Honourable Gabrielle Upton, Attorney General of New South Wales, on behalf of the Bar
Ms Pauline Wright, Junior Vice President, Law Society of New South Wales, on behalf of solicitors

(Commission read)

(Oaths of office taken)

HIS HONOUR: Judge Girdham, Judge Traill on behalf of all the Judges of the District Court of New South Wales I very warmly welcome you both and I wish you all the best in your judicial careers.

JUDGE GIRDHAM: Thank you Chief Judge.

JUDGE TRAILL: Thank you Chief Judge.

HIS HONOUR: Attorney.

ATTORNEY GENERAL: Your Honour ladies and gentlemen it is my privilege to speak today not only as Attorney General of New South Wales but also on behalf of the New South Wales Bar Association.

We gather today to swear in not one but two outstanding lawyers to the bench of the District Court. On behalf of the State of New South Wales it is my great pleasure to congratulate her Honour Jennie Girdham SC, her Honour Catherine Traill on their appointments.

Today is also an important occasion for the justice system in New South

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Wales. The appointment of these two judges to the bench of the District Court is part of this government's ongoing commitment to better protect and deliver justice for our children and our young people.

The justice system can be stressful and at times traumatic for victims, particularly for our children and for our young people. So it is critical that the legal profession and judiciary find new ways to better support victims of child sexual assault at trial while not compromising the fundamental right to a fair trial.

Both Judge Girdham and Judge Traill will dedicate most of their time to the conduct of child sexual assault matters before the Court. Additional specialist training undertaken in child sexual assault issues will enhance their existing experience in the area of child sexual assault matters.

Judge Girdham I congratulate you on your appointment. This must be an extremely proud moment for you, for your husband and for your family. Clive wherever you are I have been asked to thank you specifically as I understand you were not thanked at her Honour's 50th birthday and fear of a repeat offence today. I am also informed that your two children Fergus and Missy are disappointed they cannot be here but are equally proud of their mum.

Judge Girdham you grew up in the Apple Isle, graduated from the University of Tasmania before beginning work as a civil litigation lawyer in Hobart. You became well-known in the close-knit Tasmanian legal circles, not only for your readily apparent legal skills but also for your bright and engaging personality.

After several years of post-admission work you moved to London for a working holiday and you ended up staying. You worked as a complaints lawyer with the Law Society of England and Wales before becoming a

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prosecutor with the Crown Prosecution Service in London. I understand you had some interesting experiences in the Old Bailey and you came across some colourful characters. This has given you a keen sense of empathy for those caught in the criminal justice system.

You later convinced Clive to relocate back to Australia, moving to Western Australia to work for the Western Australian DPP. After seven years working in Western Australia on difficult and high profile matters including the Eastern Affair, you migrated east to Sydney in March 2002 at which time you were appointed a New South Wales Crown Prosecutor.

It is said you happily agreed to go to the Campbelltown office of the DPP, mistakenly thinking it was Camperdown, thus not too far away from your home. Luckily a good sense of direction was not a prerequisite for your new position and you fully embraced your role during your time at Campbelltown Court.

Your Honour you believe in the need for advocacy to be undertaken with courage and you have shown that every day of your career including when you received applause after a trial from the jury that had witnessed your vigorous cross-examination.

In 2004 you moved to the Sydney Crown Chambers and had been preparing submissions and appearing in appeals in the High Court, the Court of Criminal Appeal and Court of Appeal since that time. You have appeared in some of the most complex criminal appeals including *Carroll v The Queen* and *Keli Lane v R*. You appear in the *Australian Criminal Law Reports* 56 times at last count.

Your Honour has relished the opportunity to lead many appeals in the Court of Criminal Appeal often serving as a contradictor because it is the harder road that served the public interest.

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Your Honour is not known for ever making a concession. You have had epic legal duels with some of the best jurists of the day about some of the most difficult legal questions of our time. Your high level of professionalism and skill as an advocate was acknowledged when you were appointed Senior Counsel in 2012.

Your Honour's colleagues at the DPP, Crown Prosecutor and Public Defender have told me that if there was a dictionary definition for "down to earth" that would be one word "Jennie". You have always been inclusive and you have taken the time to talk to your colleagues especially junior lawyers to ensure they feel part of the team and that their input is valued.

You have been described as someone who is generous, humble, courageous, downright wonderful and intellectually superior without being superior in attitude or approach. I am told the DPP and Crown Prosecutor will miss your finely honed whistling skills and anticipate the District Court being the next beneficiary of your passion for interior design.

Judge Girdham you will be an invaluable addition to the Court in an important role that will better support victims of child sexual assault at trial and this will challenge and test you every day.

Judge Catherine Traill, may I congratulate your Honour on your appointment today. I also extend my congratulations to your husband, Douglas, and to your two children Jack and Cate. I know how much family means to you and how proud they must all be of you.

Your Honour I have been told that Jack was made house captain of Southwell of St Ignatius' College Riverview on the very day of your appointment so that must have been a very special day for your household.

Judge Traill you graduated from the University of Sydney with a degree in

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Arts, with Honours in Politics and Fine Arts and a Diploma of Law from the Barristers Admission Board. Your Honour I understand that while you have never been a drama queen, your studies in drama underpinned your fine advocacy skills with colleagues describing you as one of the finest jury advocates at the Bar.

From 1984 to 1987 you served as an Associate in this Court to Judges Flannery, Ducker, Ford, Shadbolt, before being admitted to the Bar in 1987. During your time at the Bar you have built up an impressive practice in Criminal Law, Inquiries, Defamation, Administrative Law, Equity and Military Law.

What is admirable about your criminal law practice is that you have served both ends of the bar table as defence and prosecution. You have represented the Crown and accused alike, serving as defence for a number of years before taking up a position as a Crown Prosecutor from 2009 to 2010.

You have been a tireless advocate for colleagues during your time at the Bar, serving as a member of the Bar Council for the New South Wales Bar Association since 1990. Your time on the Bar Council follows in the steps of your father, John Traill QC, who served from 1964 to 1967. I am sure he would be incredibly proud of you and all your achievements. Your longevity in the role reflects the high regard in which your colleagues hold you.

Your Honour you have a passion for travel that has taken you around the world. Your Honour has worked as a legal practitioner in the United Kingdom and as a teacher of Law and Advocacy in Bangladesh. I understand you were sailing on a friend's boat in Europe when you found out about your appointment and that explains why you and I ended up trading calls across time zones upon that appointment. For your contribution to the practice and

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teaching of law around the world you were ordained a Dame of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre in 2002.

Your Honour helped establish and run the Duty Barristers Scheme. The Scheme helps people who cannot afford a lawyer, who do not qualify for legal aid and who have a matter before the Court. You have also helped advise this Court on how to improve the way it deals with criminal law in your capacity as the Bar Council representative on the Criminal Listing Review Committee of the New South Wales District Court. Your dedication to justice has ensured that people now have access to advice and representation in matters before the Court.

It is clear that serving the interests of the people of New South Wales and Australia has been the central focus of your career. You served as an elected councillor on Mosman Council from 2004 to 2008 and I understand that you were instrumental in setting up a Friendship Agreement between the Mosman Municipality and East Timor.

You continue to serve as Lieutenant Commander in the Royal Australian Navy Reserves, where both the Director of Military Prosecutions and the Director Defence Counsel Services rely on your deep expertise in criminal law.

You have been Aide-de-Camp to His Excellency the Governor of New South Wales. The Honourable General David Hurley and former Governor Professor, The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir. Your time as a Board member of the Young Endeavour Youth Scheme where you served as a Navy Ministerial Appointment, as a member of the Dental Board and numerous professional committees show your dedication to helping Australians from all walks of life.

Your colleagues at the Bar, especially at St James Hall, will miss your

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lively discussions about the law, your sense of humour, your dedication to your clients and your penchant for a smart pair of shoes, I am told.

Judge Traill, I am convinced that your common sense and your wisdom, your sense of commitment to community will enable you to continue to serve the State of New South Wales.

Your Honours your practical approaches to problems and your sense of empathy will stand you in good stead for dealing with the varying challenges of judicial office. Your professional and personal qualities will help better protect and deliver justice for our children and for our young people. There is no higher nor important calling.

I extend to you both and to your families and to your colleagues my best and warmest wishes and congratulate you again on your well-deserved appointments to the Bench. May it please the Court.

HIS HONOUR: Thank you Attorney. Ms Wright.

MS WRIGHT: May it please the Court. I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet and pay my respects to their elders both past and present. I also acknowledge their youth in whose hands rest our hopes for reconciliation in this nation.

It is a great honour to speak at this swearing-in on behalf of the Law Society of New South Wales and its 28,000 members. Today we mark not only two fine appointments to the bench but an important milestone in the approach to child sexual assault matters in the Courts of this State.

The sensitive handling of such matters should be a priority for our justice system but that, of course, hasn't always been the case. Too often victims have not faced Court because of the ordeal they would have faced in the witness box. Too often they have faced Court and come away scarred by the

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experience. But the legal system has become more supportive of those who do come forward and having specialist judges who will hear child sexual assault matters across New South Wales is another step in the right direction. And the Children's Champion will provide child witnesses with important support through the Court process.

The Criminal Law Committee of the Law Society has been pleased to work with the government on these changes and will continue to provide constructive feedback that will ensure the rights of all are respected. The appointments of Judge Girdham and Judge Traill will add to the wealth of talent and commitment to the rule of law shown by judges of the District Court in this State and I will follow the Attorney's lead and first address the appointment of Judge Girdham.

Your Honour is one of the State's finest appellant advocates in criminal law. You have been trusted with some of the most testing work of the Office of Public Prosecutions has ever seen in recent years at least and the Court of Appeal, Court of Criminal Appeal and the High Court. You have been involved in high profile cases such as those that have been mentioned Kathleen Folbigg, Keli Lane, Keisha Weippeart but you have also handled matters across the spectrum of the criminal law, with sentencing, an important and special area of your expertise.

We, of course, at the Law Society would like to think your career started only when you arrived in New South Wales but via Tasmania, London and Perth in 2002. However, you already had a proven record in trial and appellant work with significant cases on your CV such as Dinsdale and Lowndes, both important matters on sentencing.

And for the past decade you have been a mentor for all those doing

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appellant work at the Office of Director of Public Prosecutions. You have also been a leader for the entire office which includes hundreds of solicitors and members of our New South Wales Law Society for which we thank you.

Your colleagues will remember, not only the quality of your work but your qualities as a person. They will miss your warm and engaging personality. A woman who remembers special occasions, who spoils co-workers with a cake or quiche and who always has time and a kind word for others. But a word of warning for your new friends at the Court, keep an eye on the lolly jars, the new judge has form.

Today is also a special day for your husband, Clive and your extended family which now includes the family of your late sister-in-law, Allison. And we can excuse your failure to thank Clive at your 50th, you were probably still in shock after allowing him to take up drumming, no doubt part of his mid-life crisis adjustments and then, of course, you missed the deadline for an appeal so--

But your Honour's relative youth means you will have the chance to serve this Court for many years to come as will Judge Traill. The Attorney's sketch of Judge Traill's career reflects a commitment to the law and to the community and your Honour has served it as an elected representative, naval officer, board member, committed member of your church and leader of this profession.

The Duty Barrister Scheme which you championed at the Local Court is a fine example. There are thousands of people who might not have received a fair trial or stayed out of gaol had it not been for this scheme. Indeed one suspects that your popularity in the Bar Council elections, voted in for 25 years straight, is that right, would be replicated at the Law Society had you chosen to

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be a solicitor.

Your Honour has proved to be a skilled all-rounder after your three decades at the Bar. It is to the benefit of this Court that over the past decade you have taken on more criminal work and you have been most accepting of this development, "sex and drugs, that's my thing" is the way you put it.

You are respected for your skilful handling of complex sexual assault matters. This is reflected in the fact that you have acted for the Crown, both as Prosecutor and a privately-briefed barrister and for the defence. So all sides have appreciated your diligence, empathy and fairness and this will, no doubt, stand in good stead, those who come to this Court for justice especially in child sexual assault matters.

Your balanced approach has been evident since you started at the Bar after four years as an Associate at the District Court to Judges Flannery, Ducker, Ford and Shadbolt. This came, of course, after an early stint at NIDA proving again that the stage to the Bar has never been much of a leap.

But going from the Bar to the Bench is a different matter. For a start your wardrobe is going to be severely curtailed. One black robe but no doubt you will accessorise. But help is at hand. For any emergency moments I am informed, for example, that Silks in the Law Society Building has promised to keep delivering its raspberry and white chocolate muffins to your new address but the transition might be easier given your Honour's special powers and here I am talking, not about super powers, but about your status as a Dame of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre since 2002.

The order is more than 900 years old and its members have the right to pardon prisoners they might meet on the way to the scaffold to be exempt from taxes and to enter a church on horseback. This last privilege proved

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irresistible to your Honour at her wedding. On that day you arrived at the steps of St Mary's Cathedral on a white horse. An entrance I am sure none of your guests will forget.

This is another day for your Honour to celebrate with your friends and family, so many of whom are here today and it must be especially gratifying to join this Court following in the footsteps of the Judges who provided you with your first jobs in the law.

The Law Society is sure that both Justice Traill and Justice Girdham will again prove the wisdom of elevating women of merit to the bench. These are two outstanding lawyers and people who we are sure will serve this Court with distinction. May it please the Court.

HIS HONOUR: Thank you Ms Wright. Judge Girdham.

JUDGE GIRDHAM: Chief Judge, Ms Attorney, your Honours, distinguished guests, family and friends.

This is a rare occasion that I wish I could rely on my written submissions.

First let me thank the Attorney General and Ms Wright for their kind words. I trust I can live up to your expectations.

Let me also welcome the Honourable Justice Helen Wood of the Tasmanian Supreme Court, my law school classmate and loyal friend who has travelled from Hobart to be with me here today.

My grandmother Molly Stephens would have been full of wonderment at today's events given that on this day 178 years ago her great grandfather left England for Van Diemen's Land, he having been sentenced to life imprisonment and transportation. His offence was no mere misdemeanour. He was a violent offender. His offence was robbery. His crushing sentence served no specific deterrence. In the ship hulk during his journey he stole from

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the person of a fellow convict and for this he was punished with 12 lashes.

Having been granted his ticket of leave, his rehabilitation was only complete when he married the delightfully-named Mary Anne Louisa Crumb who had left Spitalfields, London as a free woman, aged just 18.

An occasion such as this marks both a beginning and an end. Leaving aside a healthy dose of fear, I am both honoured and humbled to be afforded the privilege of joining this bench renowned for its warm collegiality.

In embracing the new challenge I am all too aware of what I leave behind.

I have been so fortunate to have had the opportunity to watch and work with some truly wonderful lawyers. John McKechnie QC, a man of fierce intellect and a temperament to match, took a chance and employed me unseen when I rang him from London. It was he that introduced me to the law of appellant advocacy.

After seven years and upon his elevation, I set out to work for another leader with great integrity, Nicholas Cowdery.

After my arrival at Crown Prosecutors' Chambers I was eager to embrace the opportunity, no direction, to present myself at what I thought was the conveniently located Camperdown office. One hour and 60 kilometres later I realised it was, in fact, the Campbelltown office.

Notwithstanding the tyranny of distance it was there that I forged what have become long standing friendships. We worked hard, very hard prosecuting in an environment with limited resources and limited time to prepare. Two years later I was granted my ticket of leave and returned to Sydney. Mark Tedeschi took a chance and allocated me to the Court of Criminal Appeal team, then under the command of David Frearson.

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The next few years were halcyon. I learnt much from the strategic and sharp David Frearson, the calm and gentlemanly David Arnott, the divine and always understated Donna Woodburne and the genius that is Naz Bruni.

Thank you.

I shall miss the everyday contact with the solicitors with whom I worked so closely, now under the leadership of George Galanis, formerly Dominique Kelly. I thank each member of that team, past and present, for their unfailing support and the long hours spent over some very difficult and demanding matters. Throughout it all Brod Gilson Cohen has done whatever has been asked of him and more and always with a smile. Thank you.

I have been so grateful to have worked against many gifted counsel, some of the very best, a core of solid and too often for my liking brilliant defence counsel whom I watched with fear and awe.

I express my particular gratitude to Mark Tedeschi. He has always encouraged me in my work and personally has demonstrated great care and kindness. It has to be said, however, on more than one occasion he has provided some very interesting work challenges and on that note I am honoured with the presence today of Wendy Abraham QC and Hugh Baker. Thank you.

To those who occupy Ladies' Chambers, both ladies and gentlemen, I never appreciated that so much and such tough work could be that much fun. Thank you.

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions together with Legal Aid run at full capacity, neither would run at all where it not for the dedication and professionalism of their staff. The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Crown Prosecutors' Chambers could not have achieved its strong

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work ethic and its huge output without the benefit of strong leaders, during my tenure, Nicholas Cowdery and Lloyd Babb under whose leadership that office has flourished.

Notwithstanding Kara Shead's recent departure to the Public Defenders' and John Pickering's appointment as Deputy Director, each contribute meaningfully to my life and the enjoyment of chambers. Both possess unique personalities and great talent, each has innate love of the law as well as a powerful loyalty to the colleagues and the Court. Thank you both for the friendship and the laughter and I look forward to many more adventures.

Those of you who know me best understand that I would not have arrived at this place without the constant support of my friends and family, especially Clive the soul and centre of my life. Whatever success I have had as a lawyer is counted equally by the personal and professional achievements in his life. Thank you for your unwavering support past and future, the constancy of your love and companionship, and instilling in me humility, an understanding of the human condition and an unflinching sense of humour.

Our family is small and suffered a devastating loss last year. My mother, as she always has in times of crisis, came to the rescue and bravely moved interstate from her lifelong home in Hobart to watch over and support my beloved brother Peter, his children Tom and twins Lucy and Charley, as they adjusted to life without Allie, and to help to ensure that they enjoy a happy environment. For that after everything else that has been said today is what life is really all about. Their courage and strength of character inspires me. Thank you mum.

To my most valued and lifelong friend Barbara Walsh, without whom I could barely function, Karen Burrand with whom my life runs parallel, and

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Natalie Gouda, each of you have supported me in good times and in bad and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

My brother Peter cannot be here today but he has taken the opportunity to give me some advice, to be more patient, and I will endeavour to do so, starting tomorrow.

Our parents taught us by example to place our trust in hard work, perseverance and determination, to treat others with respect. As I stand or rather sit here today that lesson has served each of us well.

During these past 14 years I have been a witness to a great deal of change in the justice system in New South Wales, overall the change has been for the good. There have been attempts to make justice more accessible and more responsive to the needs of victims. Of course there is always much more to be done. It has been my experience that it is easier to set goals than to attain them but I am convinced that if we apply the same values my parents imparted in me we can achieve even our highest aspirations.

I ask for your support and goodwill as I attempt to play my part to deliver a system of justice at once open, accessible, efficient and fair to and try to make a difference.

Finally, I acknowledge and thank my judicial colleagues for the warm welcome extended to me from the very moment of the announcement of my appointment, the pleasure of which is enhanced by reason of the fact that it is shared with Her Honour Judge Kate Traill.

I look forward to working with and learning from you all. Thank you.

PRICE CJ: Thank you Judge, Judge Traill.

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JUDGE TRAILL: Chief Judge, Madam Attorney, Miss Pauline Wright, Dame Marie Bashir, Sir Nicholas Shehadie, your Honours, colleagues, family and friends.

Thank you Madam Attorney and Vice President Pauline Wright for your kind words and exaggerated praise. Thank you all for taking the time to be here today, I am honoured and humbled by the presence of so many good friends and colleagues and members of my large family.

It is a great honour to be appointed to this Court, it is a particular honour to me as I started my legal career in the District Court as the Associate to Judge Paul Flannery QC and Joe Ford QC. I am thrilled to be joining Paul Flannery's daughter Judge Leonie Flannery and Joe Ford's niece Judge Donna Woodburne who will be my fellow Judges.

Madam Attorney it is a huge honour to be appointed a specialist judge who will hear child sexual assault matters. It is a real opportunity to make a difference in such an important area and make access to justice in such cases faster and more effective. I will do everything I can to be worthy of the high trust that has been placed in me.

I am delighted to come back to my roots in the District Court and enter a new phase of my working life and join an outstanding array of judicial officers. I must however pay tribute to all those who have supported me over the years and without whose encouragement and support I most certainly would not be here today.

First my family, I must thank my husband Douglas Carlson to whom I owe a huge debt of gratitude, whose support and partnership has made it possible for me to just practise the law. Words cannot express my gratitude to Doug's achievement in being the cornerstone of our family, raising our

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wonderful children, Jack who is 16 and Catie 12. Advancing his business while supporting me not only in my legal career, but also in my extracurricular activities like naval adventures, Bar Council, Mosman Council, various Boards and Vice Regal duties. I could not have done this without you.

My children, Jack and Catie are a source of great joy and immense pride. I know they will always keep me grounded. How do I know this? Let me briefly share a text exchange between Jack and I on the day the Attorney announced my appointment. Doug and I were overseas at the time; Jack, "Hi mum I heard you became a Judge." Me, "Yes, I heard you got Southwell Captain, well done." Jack, a screen shot of a computer game, "I also beat minesweeper on hard mode, it's a shame your achievement has been eclipsed by mine today, maybe next time."

My daughter's words on learning the news were, "Mum you'll make an adorable little judge." At age 12 she is already taller than me.

Despite their lack of judicial respect they, deserve my thanks for their love and continuing loyalty. Thank you both for understanding all those late nights and weekends spent at work.

My children have at an early age rejected all my attempts to suggest that perhaps they might consider the law. I recall an exchange between Jack and a friend of mine when he was about ten. My friend, "Are you going to be barrister just like mum? Jack, "No, only girls are barristers." It occurred to me he only knew my friends at the bar who were female and he thought being a barrister was solely in the domain of females. Catie, I still have hopes for as she currently loves acting and drama, as I did at her age. John Fennel it may be left to you to carry on the family tradition.

I have been in the law in some way all my life but we rarely have an

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opportunity to publically say how much we admire our parents. They have inspired me with their values and commitment to public service, they brought me up in a loving and supportive household. My mother, Margo Traill who is here today, has always been my biggest supporter and amongst the many gifts my mother gave me, my mother gave me an enduring sense of the importance of career, of financial independence and service to the community. Her mantra was, "Too much is given, much is expected." As I have been given many gifts it is now my absolute pleasure to serve the people of New South Wales.

My father John Traill QC had a very distinguished career at the bar. It is hard to believe he died at the age of 51 leaving my mother with six dependent children. I had the honour of seeing my dad in some famous cases before he died, like the Street Royal Commission and the Wilfred Burchett defamation case. He ignited my love of the law and my mother continued to encourage me from the start.

My father knew I was not keen on studying law and was more interested in arts and drama. It was he on his death bed, who asked Judge Paul Flannery if he would take me on as his associate. Knowing my penchant for drama and acting, the theatre of the law fascinated me from the start and from the first trial I saw as an associate, I was immediately hooked and could not think of any other place I would rather be, than in court. I literally could not wait to get up every day to get into court.

Sadly my father did not live to see me being called to the Bar but it was undoubtedly my father's example that had the most profound influence on my decision to go to the bar. I am extremely grateful to my mother for her love and guidance and my sisters Mary Anne, Pauline, Rosemary, Geraldine and

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my brother John for your continuing support throughout my career.

My parents sent me to Loreto Convent Normanhurst and gave me the benefit of a Loreto education. My uncle Father John Eddy SJ, was a Jesuit priest and enthused our lives with Ignatian service.

The Loreto sisters are a remarkable group of women who for the last 400 years have been dedicated to the education of women, their founder Mary Ward encouraged young women to be “seekers of truth and doers of justice”, this is an apt phrase to keep in mind in my new role. I am thrilled to see some of my school friends here today.

When I came to the Bar, at the ripe old age of 24, I had the support of my judges, Judge Flannery, Judge Ford, Judge Ducker, Judge Shadbolt and in particular Justice Jane Matthews, who was then a District Court Judge. She has been a role model and mentor to me but sadly cannot be here today as she is overseas.

I have been incredibly fortunate to have the most unbelievably generous role models and mentors who have guided me through my professional career. I read with David Russell, who also unfortunately cannot be here today, on the 12th floor of Selborne. I do not think he knew what had hit him. He had no daughters. He would often come home from circuit to a party in his room and find champagne in his Dictaphone. He once mistakenly took my robes with him on circuit to Wagga and had to wear them for the whole week. My robes barely covered his belt buckle. He eventually forgave me and gave me away at my wedding.

I also read with Tony Bellanto QC and I am honoured Tony is here today. Tony and his wife Trish have become extremely good friends with my amazingly glamorous, Canadian parents-in-law Don and Betty Carlson and

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travel to Canada on a regular basis to visit them. Tony taught me jury advocacy, vigorous cross-examination and just really how to charm a jury.

Bruce McClintock SC was also a tutor of my mine, or master as we called tutors in those days. He introduced me to defamation law and taught me how to survive the rigors of the bar. He has always been a great support to my husband Doug and myself and I am honoured to also be a fellow Judge of Judge Ian McClintock, his brother.

Although I knew just what I wanted to do in the law, starting at the Bar at age 24 brought special challenges. However having recently lost my father, I found that I had tremendous support from his friends and colleagues, like Terry Tobin QC and Dennis Cowdroy QC as he then was, who out of respect for my father no doubt, guided me in the early days. I also had the friendship of a fellow reader at the time Malcolm Gracie and thank him for his continual friendship, quick wit and collegiality throughout the years.

Practise at the Bar has been extremely enriching and has presented opportunities barely possible in any other occupation. It is the friendships within the Bar that I will carry most with me. I will always try to remember how hard it is at the bar and leaving the Bar is difficult for me. I love it, it is my passion.

After leaving the 12th floor of Selborne I had a small stint on the ground floor of Wentworth and then moved to three Selborne. A core group under the leadership of Ian Temby QC, then moved and set up 3 St James Hall Chambers. I have been with my colleagues there for now 22 years, that is longer than I have been married. They are my legal family, my friends and my confidantes. They are always ready with a bottle of champagne to celebrate or commiserate the highs and lows at the bar. Ian Temby has guided and

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mentored us, he has showed us how to practise at the Bar with courage, grace style, good humour and courtesy. Sadly, he is in Melbourne today. He is also the godfather of our daughter Catie and relishes in the fact that she just refers to him as 'The Godfather.' To all my floor members I will miss you.

I would also like to make special mention of my clerks Lizzie McCrostie, Melanie Orr and my current clerk Susan McCloughry. It was truly a great pleasure to work with you but most of all I would like to thank my personal assistant Jo Guthrie. I will miss your smiling face and your good humour. Thank you for getting me to court on time.

I have over the years had countless readers too numerous to name. I am proud of them all, most of them now have readers of their own. I also wish to mention my special research assistants Talia Dinte, John Fennel and Prudence Bramwell who are all incredibly bright and make me look good.

I have been fortunate to be briefed by both prosecution and defence solicitors. I would often confuse the Judges when one week I was Madam Crown and the next week, Miss Trill for the accused. I am most grateful to the Director of Public Prosecutions Lloyd Babb SC and the previous Director Nick Cowdery QC and Mark Tedeschi QC who have put a lot of faith in me and given me long complex cases, usually sexual assault. I have been briefed by excellent solicitors over the years both from the DPP, Legal Aid and private firms.

I am pleased to see here today many of those solicitors who have supported me and I have greatly appreciated the confidence that they have placed in me over the years to handle their client's cases. Others who also instruct me are from the Director of Military Prosecutions and Defence Counsel Services and I am thrilled to see some of them here today.

RSB:SND

I have also had the honour to serve on Bar Council for 25 years. I have been part of many policy decisions, strategic plans and served under many distinguished presidents, including of course the current Chief Justice of NSW and I am extremely pleased to see some of the former presidents here today.

My service in the Australian Defence Force as a legal reservist has become one of the most enriching parts of my life in the law. I am greatly honoured that the JAG, the Judge Advocate General, Rear Admiral Justice Michael Slattery QC is here today together with the Head of Panel Dr James Renwick SC and the Deputy Head of Panel, Felicity Rogers and so many of the members of the reserve legal panel. Also, I am thrilled my fellow Aide-de-Camp's are here today and I am very grateful to see them.

I am extremely grateful to Justice Michael Slattery QC and Jeff Hilton SC for inviting me to join the Sydney Legal Panel. It was an invitation that ultimately led me to be appointed the Honorary Aide-de-Camp to the Governor of New South Wales, now Dame Marie Bashir and then the current Governor His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley. I must make special mention of my delight and joy to have both Dame Marie Bashir and Sir Nicholas here today. I cannot put into words the huge impact you have both had on my life. Dame Marie, I often pause before important decisions and ask what would Dame Marie do, all of sudden I feel calm and more confident in handling whatever is in front of me. You have taught me the true meaning of compassion and equality and what a privilege it is to be able to serve the people of New South Wales. I will never forget the fun we had during the International Fleet Review.

Sir Nicholas you have truly been like a father to me, I am grateful for your love and support.

RSB:SND

I have immense pride in being a member of the Australian Defence Force, it is truly an honourable calling. It has been a privilege to work with the permanent and reserve lawyers in the Defence Force.

Chief Judge, I am greatly looking forward to serving as a Judge in this Court particularly under your leadership and in the very important role as a specialist sexual assault Judge.

Attorney General, thank you for your confidence you have placed in me by inviting me to become a member of this Court. I will endeavour to do the best to uphold the important principles of a judicial officer, being independence, impartially, fairness and competence.

I again express my gratitude to all for doing me the honour of attending today and may I say I will do everything I can to be worthy of the high trust that has been placed in me.

PRICE CJ: Thank you Judge.