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THE SUPREME COURT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

FULL BENCH

WELCOME TO THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE CRAIG BYDDER

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

AT PERTH ON WEDNESDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 2026, AT 4.14 PM

QUINLAN CJ: The Court sits this afternoon to welcome the Honourable Justice Craig Bydder to the Court. Justice Bydder was sworn in as a judge of the Court, commencing on 5 January this year. In doing so, we acknowledge that the Court sits on the traditional lands of the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation, and pay our respects to their elders past and present. We warmly welcome members of His Honour's family who are here present.

His Honour's wife, the Reverend Bec Bydder, and children Ashleigh and Daniel. We also welcome His Honour's father, Mr Gary Bydder, and mother, Mrs Cheryl Bydder. His brothers, Bill and his partner Ronnie, John and his wife Vikki, Richard and his wife Shelley, and Mark and his wife Kari, who are all either here present or watching on the live stream, together with many of His Honour's friends and colleagues.

We also welcome many other distinguished guests here this afternoon, including their Honours Justices Feutrill and Vandongen of the Federal Court of Australia, her Honour Justice Gail Sutherland, Chief Judge of the Family Court of Western Australia, her Honour Judge Julie Wager, Chief Judge of the District Court, and many of our judicial brothers and sisters from the District Court, their Honours Judges Vernon, Wallace, Barone, Jackson, Astill, Curwood, Sefton, Cormann, and Jeyamohan, and His Honour Judge Hylton Quail, President of the Children's Court.

We also welcome His Honour Chief Magistrate Steven Heath, Acting State Coroner Sarah Linton, Ms Joanne Stampalia PSM, Deputy Director General of the Department of Justice, Ms Kelly Martinelli, Executive Manager of the Supreme Court, Ms Jean Shaw SC, Solicitor-General for Western Australia, Mr Robert Owen SC, Director of Public Prosecutions, and Ms Simone Fishbourne, Acting Senior Executive Lawyer of the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions, together with many past members of this and other courts.

We also make a particular welcome of the Very Reverend Chris Chataway, the Dean of Perth and I think, in the audience, the former Attorney-General, the Honourable John Quigley. Finally, I welcome those who will address the Court this afternoon, the Honourable Attorney-General, Dr Tony Buti MLA, Mr Gary Mack, the immediate past President of the Law Society of Western Australia, and Ms Julie Taylor SC, President of the WA Bar Association.

Justice Bydder joins the Court following the recent retirement of the Honourable Robert Mazza, who retired at the end of last month following more than two decades of service as a judge in Western Australia. We take this opportunity to publicly commend and congratulate Emeritus Justice Mazza on his outstanding contribution to the administration of justice in this State. Like myself and Justice Thomson to my left, Justice Bydder has, on joining this Court, had to endure what might be described as a fall from grace to arrive at his rightful place on this bench.

His Honour now joins that band of judges on the Court, including Justice Mitchell, who have come to the Court following service in the office of Solicitor-General for Western Australia. Hence the fall from grace from the dizzying heights of level 28 of this building to level 15, where his Honour now resides during the day. His Honour's service as Solicitor-General, in which his Honour appeared before this Court and the High Court of Australia, was marked by the excellence and clarity in legal analysis that has been the hallmark of his Honour's service for almost 30 years at the State Solicitor's Office, and its predecessor, the Crown Solicitor's Office.

The great number of present and former members of those offices here present today is a great testament to the esteem with which you are held, your Honour, by your former colleagues, and their respect for your skills and your integrity. Those former colleagues are too numerous to name, although I expect your Honour will name a few in due course. I cannot help but observe, however, that it takes a uniquely special occasion these days to get George Tannin SC into a suit and attending this building. So well done, your Honour.

Your Honour's legal skills and experience, but the beginning of the gifts that you bring to the Court. I described his Honour earlier as experiencing a fall from grace. I am sure that all in this room will understand that that was entirely an architectural metaphor. His Honour is very much a person characterised by grace, manifested in his always welcoming and inclusive presence, and in his deep humanity. His Honour's unassuming and humble manner make him ideally suited for the judicial role where we must be ever conscious of the privilege and the burden that has been placed upon us.

Reflecting on these qualities, I realise why it was that when his Honour was offered a choice of chambers in this building, he chose, not one facing the Swan River to

the south, Kings Park to the west, or Northbridge to the north. His Honour, rather, preferred chambers facing to the east, and in particular upon our nearest neighbour, St George's Cathedral. Not only is his Honour matrimonially connected to St George's Cathedral, where Bec is the Director for the Centre of Spirituality, but His Honour is also a lay canon of the cathedral.

It is no surprise then that his Honour should choose to have that location close, as he is called upon to sit in judgment of his fellow men and women, as a reminder of the commitment that we all have to the equal human dignity of all those who come before us. Your Honour, we are delighted to have you join us in our work and to welcome you, Bec, Ashleigh and Daniel, to the family of the Court. As you hear the bells of Vespers peal from next door every day at 4 pm, please be assured of our support and solicitude in the days, weeks and years ahead.

Yes, Mr Attorney.

BUTI, DR: May it please the Court. Thank you, Chief Justice Quinlan. I would like to begin by recognising the distinguished guests that you have already welcomed this afternoon. I also pay my respects to the Traditional Owners of the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation and their elders past, present and emerging. It is my great honour and privilege to stand before you this afternoon on behalf of the State of Western Australia and the Government, as well as the people of Western Australia, to welcome the Honourable Justice Craig Bydder SC to the Supreme Court of Western Australia.

I also extend a warm welcome to Justice Bydder's beautiful family, who are here in person and also online. Justice Bydder, you are eminently qualified to join the Supreme Court bench with your wealth of experience and expertise. Your Honour graduated from Murdoch University with a Bachelor of Arts majoring in History, and a Bachelor of Laws in 1999. In fact, you got a First Class Honours degree in your Bachelor of Laws, and I very well know that because I had the privilege and pleasure of marking your Honour's thesis. And look where you are now.

You completed those degrees while working as a professional assistant to then Crown Counsel Robert Cock KC, which was the start of your 27-year career at the Crown Solicitor's Office, as we all know, later to be called the State Solicitor's Office. After your Honour's admission to practice in December 1999, you steadily rose through the

ranks at the office. You supervised various practice areas, and took a keen interest in mentoring and developing junior practitioners.

As a result of your Honour's strong work ethic and versatility, you went on to lead numerous sections of the office in the provision of advisory and litigation services to the State Government across a wide range of areas and law. You also appeared as counsel in all courts and tribunals in various complex and high-profile cases affecting the Government and the community. Your Honour was appointed to the position of Deputy State Solicitor in 2019.

In that role, you were known for, not only your legal prowess, but also your patience, kindness and pastoral care of those on your team. Not long after your appointment as Deputy, you became responsible for leading the team advising the Government on the management of the COVID-19 pandemic, and drafting directions under emergency management and public health legislation, often urgently and within very short timeframes.

You assisted the Government to weather the unprecedented storm that was COVID-19 with aplomb. Your Honour was appointed Senior Counsel in October 2022, and in 2023, your Honour was appointed the Solicitor-General for Western Australia. In that role, you represented Western Australia in a number of High Court proceedings. Your Honour also assisted with the Commonwealth's defence on the claim made by Clive Palmer's Singaporean company under the Free Trade Agreement, which involved you attending a hearing of preliminary objections in The Hague. You lucky fella.

Further, during this period, your Honour contributed to the broader legal profession through your service as a member of the Law Library Advisory Board, the Legal Practice Board, the UWA Law School Advisory Board, and the equivalent advisory body for Murdoch University School of Law and Criminology.

Justice Bydder, I understand that you bring with you to the Supreme Court the largest private book collection the Court has previously seen. Potentially, the largest personal contribution to the judiciary made since forming the Supreme Court Justice Library in 1889. I am very envious. Although, in case anyone thinks this means all your Honour does is read, I am reliably informed by your wife, Bec, that you also enjoy spending time watching 'The

Secret Lives of Mormon Wives', and 'The Bold and Beautiful'. I also believe you do enjoy watching cricket.

When your Honour is not working to uphold justice within the WA legal system, you also serve as a lay canon at St George's Cathedral, where your wife is a priest and the Director of the Centre for Spirituality.

Justice Bydder, your appointment to the Supreme Court is a testament to your hard work and dedication to the law and public service. Your Honour has already provided three decades of outstanding service to the State, and with this appointment, your service will continue, but in a different form. You will be a valuable addition to this honourable court. On behalf of the Government of Western Australia and the people of Western Australia, I congratulate you, Justice Bydder, on your well-deserved appointment, and wish you all the best in this new role. May it please the Court.

QUINLAN CJ: Thank you, Mr Attorney. I can assure you that Justice Bydder's library and the visiting rights that he's given to the Chief Justice have absolutely nothing to do with the warm welcome that he has been given this evening. Yes, Mr Mack.

MACK, MR: May it please the Court. It is my privilege to appear today, representing the Law Society of Western Australia, in welcoming his Honour Justice Bydder to the bench of this honourable court. I would also like to welcome his Honour's family. His wife, Reverend Bec Bydder and, of course, their two children, Ashleigh and Daniel. I would also like to acknowledge that we convene today in the Boodja, the Traditional Custodians of the land that we meet, the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation, and pay my respects to elders past and present, and also pay my respects to any Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person who may be amongst us today.

As has been said, his Honour has dedicated his entire working life to the community of Western Australia through Government service and through other institutions. As has been said, this includes primarily through the Western Australian State Solicitor's Office and its antecedents, and advising and representing the Government in Western Australia on diverse legal disciplines of constitutional law, administrative law, regulatory prosecution, local government, planning and environment law.

I was in a meeting with his Honour last year, in his

then role as Solicitor-General, that I learned of his Honour's expertise and interest in local government and planning law. I was pleased to hear this, and to discuss some mutual interest in this area of law, as I do not often come across many lawyers who have an interest and expertise in local government and town planning law. However, the law is not the only capacity in which his Honour has served the community. As has been said, his Honour's also served our community through the Anglican Diocese of Perth, where he was elected as lay canon at St George's Cathedral, and a member of its chapter, its governing body, in 2022, and this was made in recognition of voluntary service, leadership and expertise.

His Honour has also been a member of the Synod of the Diocese of Perth, the overall governing body of the diocese and in addition, his Honour has been a benefactor to the diocese. His Honour has also contributed to our community through the ever important area of school education, where his Honour was a member of the board of John Wollaston Anglican Community School in the foothill suburb of Camillo, between 2005 and 2018, including a time as chair of the school board.

In addition to this, his Honour served as a member of the board of AngliSchools, then called the Anglican Schools Commission, which is the overarching governing body of a system of community schools within the Anglican framework. In addition to school education, his Honour has also contributed to tertiary education, as has been said, by way of service to its former alma mater, Murdoch University School of Law and Criminology, where he was an advisor, active and a very helpful member of the school advisory board.

I also want to note that the Law Society has been very fortunate to count his Honour as a member of the Society for over two decades. I acknowledge and thank his Honour for his enduring membership. Now, his Honour's commitment to serving the community of Western Australia now finds expression as a justice of this honourable court. Western Australia is indeed fortunate to benefit from his long career, and not only his expertise in the law, but also his considerable leadership and governance experience.

Finally to conclude, right under Lady Rose Colmworth DBE, a justice of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom, in a speech delivered to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, titled, "What Makes a Good Judge," notes that over the centuries, there has certainly been no

shortage of descriptions of the qualities that one should be looking for in a judge from ancient times to modern. However, her Honour comes back to the four qualities that belong to a judge that many attribute to Socrates, and these are, to listen courteously, to answer wisely, to consider soberly, and to decide impartially.

There can be no doubt that his Honour fulfills these qualities and more. On behalf of the Law Society of Western Australia and the wider legal profession, we warmly welcome your Honour on your appointment, and wish your Honour all the very best in your new role in the administration of justice and, once again, serving the community of Western Australia. May it please the Court.

QUINLAN CJ: Thank you, Mr Mack. Yes, Ms Taylor.

TAYLOR, MS: May it please the Court. It is my privilege today to speak on behalf of the WA Bar Association to welcome your Honour Justice Craig Bydder as a judge of this honourable court. I, too, acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet today, on the banks of the Derbal Yerrigan, the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation. I pay my respect to their elders, past and present.

Your Honour has had a long career in the law already, and has devoted that career to the public service and the administration of justice. Your Honour commenced work in the law in 1996 as a professional assistant to Crown Counsel Robert Cock KC, before commencing articles at the Crown Solicitor's Office. Following graduation from Murdoch University in 1999 with the First Class Honours that the Attorney-General has already referred to, your Honour has since enjoyed a successful career at the Crown Solicitor's Office, as it was then known, and now the State Solicitor's Office since that time.

Your Honour conducted a wide range of complex matters through that office on behalf of the State of Western Australia. Most recently, of course, your Honour was the Solicitor-General since November 2023. Your Honour is, of course, the most recent in a series of Solicitors-General to have been appointed to this honourable court, and they quite literally surround you today with their support of your appointment. Your Honour has fulfilled that role with equivalent integrity and vigour. Of course, every departure creates an opportunity, and I take this opportunity to welcome the appointment of Ms Jean Shaw as the first woman to hold that role since the inception of it

in 1906. Of course, Ms Shaw has big shoes to fill, but we have every faith in her ability to do so.

Your Honour is a talented advocate. During your Honour's time as Solicitor-General, and previously at the State Solicitor's Office, your Honour appeared in a range of courts and tribunals, and also as intervenor in the High Court on a number of occasions on behalf of the State.

Indeed, your Honour has appeared in over 115 reported cases since the Lexis reporting system was introduced in 2002. The first of these in time involved an appeal from a magistrate's decision that a driver was driving without due care and diligence, colliding, unfortunately, with another vehicle while towing two horses on the freeway near the Royal Perth Golf Course.

Your Honour successfully defended the appeal in 2002 before Justice Pullin. The most recent decision was in October 2025, involving your Honour's intervening on behalf of the State in the High Court proceedings conducted before seven Justices in a case involving the constitutional validity of the Treasury Laws Amendment Foreign Investment Act, where the decision of *University of Wollongong v Metwally*, relating to the proper application of Section 109 of the Commonwealth Constitution, was reopened and overruled.

In the same month, the High Court published the decision that your Honour intervened in, known as CD in the Commonwealth, where the Court considered what constitutes an impermissible interference with judicial power, and an impermissible interference with the integrity of the courts. This very short review, from beginning at one end to most recently in October last year, demonstrates the extraordinary depth of your Honour's practice, and the way that it developed over time.

Indeed, it is a testament to the State Solicitor's Office, and it highlights the depth of practice and training that their young lawyers and developing lawyers receive there. Your Honour will sorely be missed by the State Solicitor's Office. Many current and former lawyers from the office are here to bid your Honour farewell, and to wish your Honour the best. Many of them are now members of the Bar Association, and their success is no doubt due, in some part, to your Honour's mentorship and guidance in many respects.

Apart from having a formidable legal ability, your Honour has been described as one of the kindest, most

compassionate, sincere, and honourable people around. Your Honour believes in the good of everyone, has a calm nature, and always gives freely of your time to anyone seeking guidance or advice. These are qualities that will hold you in good stead as you take up your position on this Court. In addition to that, as we have heard, your Honour is dedicated to family, and I am told that your Honour adores your two children, Ashleigh and Daniel, and wife Bec.

Your Honour also has a love of books, and we have heard of the huge collection that had to be carted from your office to the new judges' chambers. Your Honour is also apparently obsessed with the cricket. On occasions such as these, members of the profession come together with the bench in a forum open also to the members of the public to celebrate the appointment of talented and dedicated individuals like your Honour, and the contribution that you will make to this Court.

We are reminded of the pivotal role that the Court plays in maintaining the rule of law in this State, and as part of the Australian judicial system, which administers the laws of the Commonwealth of Australia. A person of your Honour's integrity, calm nature, balance, and intellect is well placed to continue this important work. The WA Bar congratulates your Honour on this appointment and looks forward to assisting you in its execution. May it please the Court.

QUINLAN CJ: Thank you, Ms Taylor. Your Honour.

BYDDER J: Thank you, Chief Justice, Mr Attorney, Mr Mack and Ms Taylor, for your very kind words of welcome to the Court. They add to the very warm welcome and unstinting support I have received since my appointment to the Court from my fellow judicial officers, associates and court staff. I am very grateful to you all. I am also deeply grateful to everyone who has taken the time to join in this afternoon's ceremony. Current and former members of our State and Federal courts and tribunals, of the State Solicitor's and Solicitor-General's Offices, the wider profession, the public service, distinguished guests, colleagues, friends and family, both in this courtroom and online.

I would also like to express my thanks to everyone involved in organising and assisting with this ceremony, led by Anne Hatten and Graham Kelly. A lot of work is done to make events like this happen, and I am very grateful to all involved. Mr Attorney, thank you again for your kind

words, and for the confidence which you and the Government have placed in me as a judge of this Court. I will do my utmost to uphold the judicial oath I took last December.

It has been my privilege to serve the people of this State in various capacities for more than 29 years, and it is an honour to serve them now in a judicial capacity. Mr Mack and Ms Taylor, thank you again for your generous words. May I also thank you for your collegial support that you both extended to me as Solicitor-General, in your roles as Presidents respectively of the Law Society of Western Australia and the Western Australian Bar Association.

I would also like to join the Chief Justice, Mr Attorney, Mr Mack and Ms Taylor in their acknowledgment of the Traditional Custodians of the land on which the Court sits this afternoon, the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation, and pay my respects to their elders past, present and emerging. This acknowledgment is not a matter of form. It is an acknowledgment of a fact, and it is a matter of justice. Facts are stubborn things. As a founder of the American Republic once said, "And facts need to be acknowledged if justice is to be done and seen to be done."

At my swearing-in last December, His Excellency the Governor reminded those present of a verse from the Book of Micah, "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." I have reflected often on that verse. It has become clear to me that I have spent a lifetime being shown what it is to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly, and I have been reminded of how fortunate I have been.

I was born into a loving family, with parents who had clear rules and expectations for me and my brothers, and applied them fairly, consistently and always with love. Not a bad training ground for learning how to administer justice with mercy. My four brothers have not only loved and supported me all my life, they have also been sure to puncture any inflated view I had of myself, as only siblings can. They help me to walk humbly. Well, most of the time.

I was fortunate enough to study at Murdoch University, as a number of speakers have said, taking degrees in law and history. The Honourable Ralph Simmons led the law school then, and I learned there that justice is richer and more complex than I had ever imagined. Murdoch and its staff and students challenged and refined my ideas, and

prepared me for the future. Among its dedicated staff was Mr Attorney, who, as he has said, was one of the markers of my honours thesis. Mr Attorney, I have not forgotten that I need to get a copy of that thesis to you.

Murdoch University also unexpectedly blessed me in two other ways. I was raised with a strong Christian faith, for which I am very grateful, but like many teenagers, I fell away from the church for a time. By early 1996, I had decided it was time to go back, and at that time, the Anglican chaplain at Murdoch was the Reverend Dr Ric Barrett-Lennard. Through Ric, I was introduced to St Basil's Murdoch Winthrop. That parish became a home for me, and the people there like family.

I learned much from them, and from so many others in the Anglican Church, about what it really means to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly. I was fortunate in another sense, although it didn't seem like it at the time. I narrowly missed out on going to law school direct from high school. Instead, I had to study another degree for a year before gaining admission to the law school. What began as a disappointment proved a blessing. It meant I was in the right year to apply to be a professional assistant at the Crown Solicitor's Office.

At that time, professional assistants worked with either the Solicitor-General, the Crown Solicitor, or the Crown counsel for two years, while completing the last year of their degree part-time. I was appointed as professional assistant to the Crown counsel who, at that time, was Robert Cock KC. I learned so much from Robert, and I am very grateful for the foundation he laid for my career in the law. The lessons I learned from him have stayed with me throughout my career.

On my first day at the office, I also met Val Williamson, who was Robert's secretary. Val guided and supported me as a shy and uncertain new professional assistant, and was the first in an unbroken line of wonderful support staff who helped me throughout my time at the State Solicitor's Office, and as Solicitor-General. Some of them are here today, including Lana Mesticelli and Pina Naro, and I am very grateful to them all for their friendship and support. To the foundation laid by Robert and Val was added the guidance and example of so many others over the years.

I learned what it was to be a lawyer and, indeed, a Crown lawyer, from so many exceptional people, including in

my early years, George Tannin SC, who I juniored in my first appeals and exemplified effective appellate advocacy. Carolyn Thatcher SC, who led me in my first long trial, and showed me how the State can act firmly and effectively, but always fairly. And John Young and John Lyon, whose depth of legal knowledge and wise and effective legal advice were awe-inspiring. I also learned a great deal from the Crown and State solicitors under whom I served. Peter Panegyres AM, Tim Sharp, John Young, Paul D Evans, His Honour Judge Egan, Angela Komninos and Dr Graham Hill. I am grateful to them all for what they taught me and the opportunities they gave me.

It is difficult to condense 27 years at the State Solicitor's Office into what should be a short speech. Throughout those years I was inspired and supported by so many friends and colleagues in support, legal and management roles. There are far too many to name here, but I am grateful to them all for their support, kindness, and friendship over the years. The office gave me so many gifts and opportunities. It allowed me to see and share in the work of the public service, and to see how important that work is for the people of our State.

The office also gave me the confidence to take considered risks, accepting that sometimes I would fall short or get it wrong. I knew I could count on the office's support, and I would receive the guidance I needed to learn and improve. It was a wonderful way to practice law. As a judge, I have already benefited from the advice and guidance of my colleagues, for which I am very grateful. Of course, if I should fall short or get it wrong as a judge, guidance may also come from the Court of Appeal. I hope not to trouble my colleagues there too much.

In 2023, as has been said, I was appointed as Solicitor-General. It was an unexpected role, but one I enjoyed very much. My immediate predecessors were the Chief Justice and President Thomson. They were very generous in their support and advice to me, and I am very grateful to them. It was a particular delight to work with the Heads of Jurisdiction of our State's courts and the State Administrative Tribunal, as well as with the Presidents of the Law Society, the Bar Association, Criminal Lawyers WA, and Women Lawyers WA. Each of them was a pleasure to work with, and gave me greater insight into their work and concerns. We all share in the administration of justice, and it is in very capable hands. I served as Solicitor-General under two Attorneys, the

Honourable John Quigley, and Mr Attorney.

They each brought their own gifts and style to the office, but they were as one in their commitment to the rule of law, and to faithfully discharging the important functions of that office. It was a privilege to serve as Solicitor-General during their tenures. I am also grateful to Wendy Pryer, who as Chief of Staff to the Attorney, throughout my time as Solicitor-General, was a great support to me. I would not have been able to enjoy the career I have had without the love and support of my friends and family. Many are here today in person and online. Among my friends here today is Kita. We have been close friends since we were teenagers. You have been the most extraordinary friend and support to me for nearly 40 years. I cannot thank you enough for your unfailing support and friendship.

Another friend here today is Kath. We have also been close friends since we were teenagers. A mark of your support for me, Kath, is that you flew in last night from Queensland for this ceremony, and will fly home again on Friday. Thank you so much for your friendship and support. Also here today is Kathy, who became my friend when our daughters first went to school. Our friendship was renewed when Kathy returned to work at the State Solicitor's Office. Kathy, you have also been a great friend to me, and I am very grateful that we were able to renew our friendship, and for your ongoing love and support.

There are many other dear friends here today, in court and online. I am more grateful than I can say to all of you for your love and for your friendship. So many of the good things that the speakers today attributed to me find their origin in the love, example, and support of my family. To my brothers and their partners, Bill and Ronnie, John and Vikki, Richard and Shelley, Mark and Kari, thank you for your love and support. I am so grateful to be part of such a happy, loving, and supportive family.

At the heart of our family is, of course, Mum and Dad. As boys, we knew that you loved us every day. We knew stability and security. Through the sacrifices you made, we wanted for nothing, and you gave us so many opportunities that you did not have. We could not have had better examples than the ones you gave us of how to live good, loving, and kind lives. Your example, love, and kindness did not stop with your sons. It has extended to our partners, to your grandchildren, and to our friends.

All that is best in me finds its source in you.

Mum and Dad, thank you for all that you have done. I can never repay the debt I owe to you. I have also been blessed with two wonderful children, my daughter Ashleigh and my son Daniel. I am so proud of you both, and of what you have achieved, but much more than that, I am so proud of the people you have become. In your goodness, love, and kindness, you take so much after your Nanny and Pop. I love you both very much. Early in my speech, I mentioned a founder of the American Republic. I was referring to John Adams. Among his many achievements, he was the first Vice President and the second President of the United States, but his achievements were not the most important things about him.

The most important thing about John Adams was that he was Abigail Smith's husband. Abigail was extraordinary. She was known and admired for her own achievements, as well as for her great courage, sharp intellect, independence of mind and action, wise counsel, care for others, and the love that she shared with her husband. Abigail made John Adams. Bec, in you, I have found my Abigail. I thank God for you every day. I am so grateful for the love and the life that we share, and I look forward to what the future holds for us walking side by side. You made me, Bec. Thank you. Now it remains for me to thank you all again for your presence and support today and over so many years. Strengthened by that support, I will do my utmost to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly as a judge of this honourable court. May it please the Court.

QUINLAN CJ: Thank you, Justice Bydder. That concludes this evening's ceremonial sitting. The Court will now adjourn.

AT 4.54 PM THE MATTER WAS ADJOURNED ACCORDINGLY

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