



**LEGAL PROFESSION ACT 2008**

**ADMISSIONS CEREMONY - 3 APRIL 2020**

**CORAM: QUINLAN CJ, MARTIN J AND TOTTLE J**

**QUINLAN CJ:**

Can I thank you, Mr Solicitor for appearing today to move the admission of all of those admitted this morning?

Given the very unusual circumstances of today's sitting, both the Court and, I am sure, those who are admitted this morning, are grateful that, as second law officer of the Crown and the most senior practising lawyer in the State, you have taken the time to appear to move all of their admissions. Your appearance here today is symbolic of the relationship of mutual trust and respect that exists between the different arms of government in this State.

And on behalf of the Court I again extend our congratulations to those of you who have been admitted to the legal profession this morning, as officers of this Court.

You should all be justly proud of this achievement, which no doubt comes following years of commitment to hard work and the study of the law.

Regrettably, due to the circumstances required by the COVID19 pandemic, it has not been possible for your family and friends to attend today's sitting, although it is being livestreamed and will be available on the Court's website.

In their absence I express on your behalf, and on behalf of the Court, the debt of gratitude to all those family and loved ones who have supported and encouraged you on the journey that brings you to today. No one makes such journeys on their own, and for this reason your family, friends, teachers and mentors are entitled to share in your achievement today.

As I said at the outset, you are now officers of this Court. As officers of the Court, you have become an integral part of the third arm of government: the independent judiciary. That is one of the reasons why, even in today's difficult circumstances, this ceremony is conducted in public and your solemn promises are made before the Court publically.

Today you also take your rightful place as part of the legal profession. A strong independent legal profession is essential to a strong independent judiciary, without which the rule of law and our democratic system of government could not long survive.

In times of crisis, the maintenance of the rule of law is more important than ever; and is the means by which the common good of the community can be assured, while at the same time ensuring that the rights of individuals, particularly those who are vulnerable, can be protected.

At the heart of what it is to be a member of a profession, to be a professional, is the notion of service. It involves a commitment to use one's particular specialised skills for the benefit of others and not for one's own benefit.

In recent weeks we have seen this kind of conspicuous service on display from those dedicated men and women in the health professions: doctors and nurses, and allied health professionals, who are working tirelessly, often at great risk to themselves, in caring for those affected by the pandemic.

That commitment to service has been an inspiration to us all, and a strong and ever-present reminder to those of us in the other professions, of what it means to be a member of a profession.

I hope all of you draw inspiration from their professionalism and adapt it to your own professional calling. As our brothers and sisters in the health professions continue their vital work, they must be supported by others in the community stepping up to do their part to provide the services that are essential to the good of the community.

And people from all walks of life are continuing to provide that service and support in a myriad number of ways.

So too, the legal profession is called to do its part, and has responded to that call, in many ways. Government lawyers who are working around the clock to ensure that the extraordinary measures required to meet this emergency are both effective and lawful. Solicitors providing advice to clients, particularly vulnerable clients, as they order their businesses and

their lives to meet these new measures. Counsel who continue to advocate for the rights of their clients in often extremely testing circumstances.

In all of these ways, the legal profession is administering the law and administering justice and, together with the courts, ensuring the maintenance of the rule of law.

You are now part of that profession. That is how you should view your work and its importance. Administering justice and administering the law.

The current challenges that we all face are also a strong reminder that, now that you are members of the profession, you should take care to look out for your colleagues. The practice of the law can be difficult and demanding, and at times, stressful. This is the case, now more than ever, and it is incumbent upon those of us who are able to do so, to find ways to support and ease the burden on those within the profession who may be at particular risk. So take care to look after yourself and to look after each other.

Remember, a collegiate profession is a healthy profession.

And finally, enjoy your work as a legal practitioner. It is a fine and noble calling and, practised well, will bring great satisfaction and fulfilment. Always remember to take time to celebrate a job well done and share your experiences with colleagues. It all contributes to the health of the profession.

On behalf of the Court, I congratulate you again and wish you well in your future careers as part of the legal profession in this State.

The Court will now adjourn.