**The Honourable Justice Price AO**

**Chief Judge of the District Court of NSW**

**Silk Bows Ceremony Thursday 17 November 2022**

1. **Dauid Sibtain SC**, since your admission to the Bar in 1996, you have made your reputation in appellate, commercial, administrative and defamation law, as well as equity. You are also a member of the Bar Association’s Wellbeing Committee and convenor of ‘Safe Place’, an online forum for Barristers.
2. **David Rayment SC**, since your admission to the Bar in 2004, you have made your reputation in appellate and commercial law, as well as equity, inquests and inquiries, and alternative dispute resolution. You are a member of the NSW Bar Council and have also participated in the Bar Association mentoring program.
3. **Justin Hewett SC**, since your admission to the Bar in 2004, you have made your reputation in commercial, corporations, property, competition, and consumer law, as well as equity. You are also recognised as a contributor to Bar News and have assisted with various Bar Association CPD Sessions.
4. **Bill Neild SC**, since your admission to the Bar in 2004, you have made your reputation in a wide array of matters in criminal law. After twelve years at the private Bar, you were appointed as a Public Defender in 2016. You are also a member of a Professional Conduct Committee and have volunteered in the Duty Barrister Scheme, undertaking pro bono work.
5. **Bradley Jones SC**, since your admission to the Bar in 2005, you have made your reputation in commercial, administrative, and taxation law, as well as equity. You are a member of the Australian Bar Association Tax Committee, and co-author of the legal text *Equity and Trusts* published by LexisNexis Butterworths.
6. **Julian Cooke SC**, since your admission to the Bar in 2006, you have made your reputation in appellate, commercial, intellectual property, administrative, and media law, as well as equity. You are a mentor in the NSW Bar Indigenous Barristers’ Trust Mentoring Indigenous Students Program and a member of the Intellectual Property Society of Australia and New Zealand.
7. **Kellie Stares SC,** since your admission to the Bar in 2007, you have made your reputation in criminal, appellate, and family law, as well as inquests and inquiries. You are a member of the Association’s Criminal Law Committee and Legal Aid Committee and have presented at the Bar Association conferences on technology use in criminal trials.

8 **Charles Colquhoun SC,** since your admission to the Bar in 2007, you have made your reputation in appellate, commercial, negligence, and international law, as well as equity. You are a member of the Bar Association’s ADR Committee and have also participated in the Bar’s mentoring program and Legal Assistance Referral Scheme.

9 **Justine Beaumont SC,** since your admission to the Bar in 2008, you have made your reputation in appellate and commercial law, as well as equity. You are a member of the Intellectual Property Association of Australia and New Zealand and the NSW Bar Association Professional Conduct Committee and provide assistance with the Bar Practice Course.

1. **Elizabeth Bishop SC,** since your admission to the Bar in 2009, you have made your reputation in commercial and taxation law, as well as equity. You have given a number of presentations on Taxation Law at various seminars and are a member of the Australian Law Council Taxation Committee as well as NCAT.
2. **Scott Robertson SC,** since your admission to the Bar in 2009, you have made your reputation in commercial, administrative, and international law, as well as civil appeals and equity. You have also built a practice in anti-corruption commission law, having recently acted as lead counsel before ICAC. You are also a member of the Bar Association’s Inquests and Inquiries Committee.
3. **Jonathan Kay Hoyle SC,** since your admission to the Bar in 2009, you have made your reputation in appellate, public and administrative, commercial and international law. You have built an extensive career in international arbitration, practicing in complex matters involving the United Nations and the International Chamber of Commerce.
4. **Patrick Knowles SC,** since your admission to the Bar in 2009, you have made your reputation in public and administrative law, as well as commercial, negligence, equity, and sports law. You have also been an active member of Bar committees since admission, most recently serving on the Council of the NSW Bar Association.
5. **Troy Edwards SC,** since your admission to the Bar in 2009, you have made your reputation in appellate and criminal law, and coronial inquests. You have drawn on your experience as a solicitor advocate in both Australia and overseas, having practiced in the UK and Malawi. You are also a member of the Legal Aid Commission’s Serious Crime Panel.
6. **James Hutton SC,** since your admission to the Bar in 2010, you have made your reputation in insolvency, commercial, environmental planning and property, administrative and public law, as well as equity. You are a member of a Professional Conduct Committee as well as the Bar Association’s Climate Change Committee.
7. On behalf of myself and the Judges of the District Court, I congratulate you all upon your appointment as Senior Counsel. When each of you took your bows, announcing your rank and precedence in the order of Senior Counsel, the short recitation by me that followed, demonstrates how well deserved your appointments are.
8. The tradition of the appointment of silk dates back, as you well know, over 400 years. Although the name and method of appointment may have changed, the leadership role you play in upholding the rule of law has in no way diminished.
9. The District Court of New South Wales also has a rich history. Since the advent of COVID-19, at these ceremonies I have drawn upon that history by referring to similarities in the Court’s experience over a century ago when the pneumonic or “Spanish” influenza reached Australian shores.
10. Whilst COVID-19 continues to create problems for the community at large and the justice system, I propose to depart from the “Spanish” flu and COVID-19 and provide a short anecdote about a former Judge of the Court.
11. Judge Herbert Curlewis was a Judge of the District Court between 1928 and 1939. Being a man of strong personality, Judge Curlewis was a master of the Court in which he was presiding, as anyone who transgressed found out very speedily. Objecting strongly to irrelevancies, he endeavoured to dispose of trials efficiently. A remark he often made to witnesses was:

“I don’t want your biography. Tell the jury what happened.”[[1]](#footnote-1)

1. Junior counsel often felt the disapproval of the Judge. When a young counsel had drearily and at length cross-examined a witness on many irrelevant matters, the Judge broke in saying:

“Would you mind telling me the name of your favourite flower?”[[2]](#footnote-2)

1. The Judge was a purist about the English language and was known to take counsel to task for literary lapses. One instance arose in an accident case, when counsel asked the plaintiff:

“How long did you lay in the mud?”

1. The Judge:

“Since when did man become oviparous?”

1. Counsel:

“I beg your Honour’s pardon?”

1. The Judge repeated the question. Counsel looked blank. The Judge then said:

“Oh, get on with the case.”[[3]](#footnote-3)

1. I am confident that in today’s District Court, counsel will not be subject to such particular interrogation.
2. I also extend a very warm welcome to the Clerks of the Floor and any family members who are here this morning. On behalf of all Judges of the District Court, I wish Senior Counsel every success in your leadership roles at the Bar.
3. Please 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* (Law Foundation of New South Wales, 1976) 188. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Ibid 189. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)