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IN THE DISTRICT COURT
OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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

MONDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2019

**SWEARING IN OF HER HONOUR JUDGE BECKETT AS A JUDGE OF THE
DISTRICT COURT OF NEW SOUTH WALES**

Mr M Speakman SC MP on behalf of the New South Wales Bar Association
Ms J Warner, Law Society of New South Wales, on behalf of solicitors

(Commissions read)

(Oaths of office taken)

PRICE J: Judge Beckett on behalf of all the judges of the District Court of New South Wales I very warmly welcome you and wish you all the very best in your judicial career.

JUDGE BECKETT: Thank you Chief Judge.

PRICE J: Mr Attorney.

ATTORNEY GENERAL: May it please the Court. I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather today, the Gadigal of the Eora Nation and I pay my respects to their elders, past, present and emerging.

Your Honour Judge Beckett on behalf of our State and the Bar it's my great pleasure to congratulate you on your appointment as a judge of the District Court of New South Wales. To your Honour's family members and friends, welcome, and congratulations in particular to your mother, Dr Juliet Sheen; your father Professor Jeremy Beckett and stepmother, Professor Sheila Shaver; your husband, Michael Bates; your daughters, Antonia and Olivia; your brother Simeon Beckett and sister-in-law, Sam and I also

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acknowledge your step-children, Martin and Ella, who aren't with us today as they're studying in Berlin.

Your Honour grew up in Birchgrove and Balmain and attended the local Birchgrove public school. You completed your HSC at Fort Street high school. The passionate and academic pursuits of your parents, Jeremy and Juliet, profoundly influenced your Honour's journey and that of your brother, Simeon, a highly regarded civil barrister with a focus on human rights.

Your mother dedicated much of her career to research, reform and policy development regarding human rights particularly in relation to discrimination and freedom of religion and belief.

Your father, Jeremy, taught anthropology at home and abroad as a professor at the University of Sydney, the City University of New York, the Australian National University, New York University and the University of Texas. He authored a long list of academic papers and was an expert witness during the Mabo native title case. He developed life-long connections with the Aboriginal people that he met through these ventures, many of whom would come to visit and stay with the family in Sydney, a sequence of events that marked the beginning of your lifelong connections to the Aboriginal people and culture.

In 2011 your Honour married Michael Bates who is, in his own words, a civilian, a very accomplished landscaper. You enjoy being part of the Mt Irvine community. Michael is actively involved in the Rural Fire Service and you're often found chestnut picking and tending to the gardens with Gypsy the Jack Russell in tow.

Your children share your high achieving intellect. Olivia is studying a degree in philosophy, politics and economics at ANU and Antonia will soon be

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sitting her HSC and going on to study at Melbourne University. Your two stepchildren are studying in Berlin and are impressively undertaking their studies in German. Ella is studying history and Martin will soon begin a degree in economics.

Your Honour's legal career began with Bachelors' degrees in Art and Law from the University of New South Wales. In 1990 you were admitted to practise in the Supreme Court. Your first legal role was in 1991 in a general practice, Price Brent Solicitors, as it was then known, which dealt predominantly with commercial litigation.

In 1994 a move to Dubbo took you headfirst into regional criminal law. You joined the Western Aboriginal Legal Service, affectionately referred to as "WALS" where you ran matters in Dubbo, Narromine, Bourke, Lightning Ridge, Broken Hill, Wellington, Wilcannia, Nyngan, Cobar, Coonabarabran, Warren and Wentworth. As you moved around Western New South Wales you strengthened connections with the Aboriginal communities and culture that had started with your father's connections.

Working for WALS was a baptism of fire. Caseloads were high and it wasn't uncommon to take instructions from your clients wherever a spot was available, be it on the courthouse veranda or in your local motel room. This led to strong long-term bonds among the WALS solicitors particularly now as you join one of your WALS alumni here on the District Court bench.

In 1996 you became an associate with Arden Associate Attorneys where you practised in criminal law until 1998 when you joined Legal Aid New South Wales.

In 1999 you followed in your parents' footsteps with a foray in lecturing in criminal law at the University of Western Sydney. A secondment to the

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Attorney General's Department offered the opportunity to be involved in reviews of the Bail Act and reforms to criminal case conferencing.

In 2007 you were called to the bar. As a barrister with Forbes Chambers from 2007 to 2016 you were a most well-regarded counsel. You appeared in the District Court, the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeal, the Court of Criminal Appeal, the High Court, the Coroner's Court, the Local Court and the Health Care Complaints Commission and even provided legal advice for broadcast television shows for some light relief.

In 2016 following a short secondment with the Crown Prosecutor you became a Public Defender. In 2018 you were elevated to Deputy Senior Public Defender and it's from that position that your Honour is now elevated to the bench.

As Public Defender you'll be sorely missed. Your colleagues speak of you as meticulous and thorough but balanced with compassion, humour and humility. Your love for a good table and detailed analysis hasn't gone unnoticed by anyone who's worked with or in opposition to your Honour. Mid-trial your chambers might be mistaken for a set from *The Wire* with maps and plans, sometimes pinned with strings, covering the walls. Whiteboards will be brought in to draw diagrams.

What seems like hundreds of folders will be lined up on the table and speaking of tables there will be no doubt tables and charts galore summarising and cross-referencing complex evidence in an easy-to-digest format.

The list of cases in which you've been involved is long and impressive representing the defence, prosecution and on all manner of appeals. This includes the long-running trial that resulted from the terrorism investigations of Operation Pendennis. Your Honour was counsel for one of the defendant in

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the two year trial as well as in subsequent appeals against conviction and sentence.

In R v Reeves you represented the defendant known as “The Butcher of Bega” in the trial and subsequent to the Court of Criminal Appeal and the High Court. You appeared for the Crown in the trial of Edward Moses Obeid for misconduct in public office as well as the various applications and subsequent hearings that followed in the Court of Criminal Appeal and the High Court. You appeared for the Crown in R v Spadina, a trial which ran for five months and involved one of the largest conspiracies to import pseudoephedrine to Australia.

As counsel assisting the Coroner and for interested parties you were involved in many coronial inquests, some involving deaths in custody and police shootings. Sometimes this meant sacrificing your own time to work all night so the grieving families could get some resolution sooner rather than later.

Beyond running cases you’ve been involved in working parties and prepared submissions on the early appropriate guilty plea reforms; sentencing reforms and in relation to victim impact statements, pre-trial disclosure and surveillance devices.

You’ve built capabilities right across the profession through conferences, seminars and workshops for the Public Defenders, Legal Aid, the College of Law, the Bar Association, the Aboriginal Legal Service and various university law schools.

You’ve spearheaded the Bar Book Project. The Bar Book, due for release in November, will be a valuable resource for practitioners and judges in sentencing procedures, not just in New South Wales but nationally. It will

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help practitioners to prepare and present evidence to establish the application of the Bugmy principles for offenders who have backgrounds of disadvantage. It will house research relating to experience of social disadvantage and deprivation including experiences of disadvantage specific to First Nations peoples and how those experiences may relate to their contact with the justice system.

The indigenous students you've mentored speak highly of your selfless support for them, professionally and personally, even when they're at their most vulnerable. You've helped these students, such as your dear friend, Teela Reid, whom you call your adopted child, in countless ways with professional and moral support to guide their careers. They attest that no matter what you've naturally welcomed them to your family and their families have become one with yours.

Your hard work has earned you the right to take part every so often in one of your favourite pastimes, enjoying a Kilkenny under the tree and seeing your favourite bands at the Woodford Folk Festival or perhaps attending to your garden patch. Michael being an expert landscaper, the gardens of your North Sydney home and the weekender at Mt Irvine are very much his domain but I'm told that you thought this left them appearing a little masculine and so you were given your very own garden patch as a wedding gift in 2011, a legally allotted patch that you could call your own.

You approached this patch with all the might and gusto you'd apply to a complex legal brief, crafting and nurturing the flowers, tending to them in the middle of the night under the light of your phone torch and while you are a most law-abiding citizen you've been known to breach the boundaries of that garden patch. Random hibiscus frequently appear outside the boundaries of

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your garden patch, sprinkled here and there around the garden and if they happen to be removed they're magically replaced without a word.

Your appointment to this Court is due to your hard work. The District Court, the law and the people of New South Wales will continue to benefit from your commitment and your steadfast conviction to delivering justice.

I offer my heartfelt congratulations on your appointment and I wish you the very best for your career on the bench. May it please the Court.

PRICE J: Thank you Mr Attorney. Ms Warner.

WARNER: May it please the Court. I'd first like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet today, the Gadigal people of the Eora nation and I pay my respects to their elders, past, present and emerging and I'd also like to acknowledge any indigenous Australians here today.

I come before the Court on behalf of the solicitors of New South Wales to offer congratulations and to wish your Honour well in your appointment to the District Court of New South Wales but mindful of the important role family has played in your Honour's life I'd also like to acknowledge the many family members and relatives joining us today.

We have mum and dad and your step-mum. We have your husband, Michael, and we have your beautiful daughters, Olivia and Antonia and girls I have to say you must be so proud of your mother, she must be an inspiration to you and it's wonderful that you're here to recognise her achievement.

The one notable absence, of course, is your Jack Russell, Gypsy. Gypsy apparently occupies a somewhat ambivalent position in the household which I'm not surprised and I would think that Jack Russells would occupy an ambivalent position anywhere but apparently your Gypsy is adored at one moment and then in a flash not so adored, so, but Gypsy isn't a therapy dog so

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she's not in Court today.

A little bit about your history. Since being admitted as a solicitor in December 1990 your Honour has distinguished yourself by your formidable work ethic and commitment to access to justice and as a mentor to others. Before being called to the bar you had a long and varied career as a solicitor in private practice with the Legal Aid Commission of New South Wales and the Aboriginal Legal Services and I'd like to reflect on how these diverse experiences have informed the brilliant Public Defender who is being appointed to the bench today.

You went to school at Fort Street high school in the late 70s and early 80s and no nobody's allowed to do the maths but Fort Street was established in 1849 and this is the oldest government high school in Australia and it has fostered civic minded leaders for 170 years. Your alma mater is actually older than the Court to which you've been appointed today as this Court was established in 1858.

Your Honour studied Arts/Law at the University of New South Wales and with respect to anybody else who went to other universities we, as alumni, know UNSW is the best university. You didn't exactly follow in your father's footsteps, Dr Jeremy Beckett, the gifted anthropologist who was an expert in the historic Mabo case but there is something of the anthropologist in your approach to the law.

Multiple colleagues have attested to your deep and patient listening, the restless and inquisitive mind and the a willingness to roll up your sleeves and get out into the field. Your time at university also included a stint at the prestigious New York law school so I gather that even at an early age your Honour loved to travel.

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A recent colleague noted how your Honour likes to go on holidays and then think of a winning legal point and then name the point after the travel destination. So my spies have referred me to the Amsterdam point, for example, and when we have a cup of tea afterwards I'm going to ask you about that. So in your case your Honour, the defence rarely rests.

Your Honour began work as a solicitor in the commercial litigation department at Price Brent but like more than a few barristers your Honour's experience in litigation would serve you well later in the courtroom so after three years there a small advertisement in the paper caught your eye and you left the wide blue sea of the Bondi for the Macquarie River and at the risk of introducing coincidence evidence into the courtroom I'd like to note that in 1993 the Pet Shop Boys released their hit single, "Go West" and not long afterwards you know did exactly that, I gather, in an orange Holden Tarago to work as a solicitor with the Western Aboriginal Legal Service and this was a very formative time for you.

Your lifelong commitment to indigenous justice has been driven by genuine relationships and lived experiences. Your Honour threw herself into your work with trademark energy and enthusiasm and my spies tell me that in Gilgandra, while undertaking defence work, a group of local boys dubbed you "Tinkerbell" because you were always flitting around and always working magic.

So perhaps unsurprising considering your Honour's many, many achievements, colleagues describe you always in motion. Your Honour has a passion for walking, travelling, gardening, just for doing. So after two years as an associate at Arden Associates your Honour spent nearly eight years at the Legal Aid Commission of New South Wales and I must say every person that I

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have met who worked at the Legal Aid Commission of New South Wales I think they're terrific. Anyway.

This period was only interrupted when your Honour was called upon to lend your expertise in criminal law to the Department of the Attorney General between 2004 and 2005. So I think many citizens, unable to afford legal representation, found themselves during that period of time defended by a solicitor who could go toe to toe with any of the silks of Sydney. As one of your colleagues pointedly put it, "When the chips are down you want Sophia on your side".

So that particular colleague recounted a story of how your Honour was once struck down by a violent illness ahead of a crucial court appearance and I can see you looking at who the source of the information was. So with a mountain of paper work on one side and a wastepaper bin on the other your Honour prepared for a submission and virtually crawled into the courtroom. Your colleague likened your Honour to the black knight of the Monty Python's holy grail. "It's just a flesh wound". So after making the submission the judge noted your incapacitated state and then quite unhelpfully said his response wasn't going to make you feel any better. I think it's a funny story but I'm sure it wasn't so funny at the time but it does reveal a legal practitioner that takes her work and her clients and the entire legal system very seriously and it's exactly the kind of commitment and intensity that working in legal aid for nearly a decade can instil in a person.

In 2007 you were called to the bar and your commitment to serving the people of this state and improving access to justice has only continued. Your Honour has a well-earned reputation as an expert in criminal law. You have handled many hard cases but you have not become hardened by them. Your

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commitment to mentoring women in law and fostering inclusion in the legal system is as legendary as apparently the parties you throw. I am told by one person in the know that you are the cool mum which is pretty good.

So confronting a side of life that is at times harrowing, violent and cruel your Honour has responded by becoming both more generous and more open to others and that openness is evidenced in your Honour's participation in a mentoring program for indigenous law students sponsored by the Indigenous Barristers' Trust through The Mum Shirl Fund. For one mentee your Honour is her white mum and without exaggeration she credits your Honour for changing her life and she isn't alone.

I would like to conclude today by returning briefly to the founding of the District Court. The District Court was established after the discovery of gold in Western New South Wales which led to a rapidly growing and dispersed population. With the Supreme Court of New South Wales not regularly visiting regional areas the District Court was an attempt to increase access to justice across the colony of New South Wales.

This movement outwards to ensure that access to justice doesn't stop at the city limits or anywhere for that matter resonates with your story. Your Honour's life story shows how suitably qualified you are for this judicial appointment and how your Honour will bring a wealth of knowledge, experience and good sense to the District Court of New South Wales. The solicitors of New South Wales have every confidence you will make an exceptional judicial officer and so on behalf of the 33,000 solicitors in New South Wales congratulations your Honour. As the Court pleases.

PRICE J: Thank you Ms Warner. Judge Beckett.

JUDGE BECKETT: Chief Judge, fellow judges, distinguished guests, former

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colleagues, family and friends. Thank you firstly to the Attorney and the Ms Warner for your kind words. I too acknowledge and pay my respects to the traditional owners, the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, the land upon which we meet.

I am honoured, humbled and frankly delighted to have been appointed to this bench. I would like to express my thanks to those who have contacted me since the news to extend their congratulations and to the warm welcome I have received from the members of this bench. It has been truly overwhelming.

For many years I have worked with, instructed, juniored and/or appeared before many of the members of this Court. Some of the relationships now are almost 30 years old. I have appeared before the Chief Judge on several occasions including my first ever exercise in advocacy appearing on a plea of guilty in respect to what I recall was an importation of Wagyu beef concealed in the luggage of an inbound Japanese tourist. Circa 1991, St James Court. Another life.

But I would like to start by expressing my gratitude to my parents, both immigrants to Australia. My father as you've heard, at the time a red-headed white skinned English anthropologist who had grown up in London during the war, been evacuated during the Blitz and a survivor of childhood polio. He met my mother in New Zealand where she was a student studying English literature with aspirations of doing her PhD.

As newcomers in 1966 we settled in a terrace in Birchgrove. Balmain was not then the high end suburb of today. Backyard toilets and laundry coppers were still reasonably common and Wentworth Park greyhound walkers toured the streets and in the early afternoons the ferries brought in the

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workers from Cockatoo Island and the pubs filled.

With no other relatives or connections to speak of our little family found its home in the Sydney University Anthropology Department and my mother formed allegiances with the sisterhood of Balmain mothers just as the wave of 70s feminism hit that peninsula.

At night the tap, tapping of the manual typewriter sent us to sleep and on weekends our father worked on his book and my mother on her PhD and my brother Simeon and I spent our days at the Dawn Fraser swimming pool with some of the people I'm happy to say are here today.

Whilst my parents divorced and my father later married again to US sociologist, Sheila Shaver our family's collective base around that peninsula remained. We may not have fit in to any established Sydney society but our lives were culturally rich: Belvoir Theatre, Sydney University double features and other events. As teenagers my brother and I joined our father in his teaching stints in New York as you've heard and so commenced a lifelong love of New York City. I have shared the love of that city with several people in this courtroom today, some on the bench. I don't know of many other Aussie kids carted around Manhattan jazz clubs well past their bedtimes and I will forever remember one late night at the Blue Note in the West Village listening to Alberta Hunter, well into her 80s, singing "Miss Otis Regrets She's Unable to Lunch Today", a fine theme for any criminal lawyer. I won't sing it but it's a beauty.

So my father as you heard was not perhaps a conventional anthropologist for his time and rather than Papua New Guinean hill tribes he headed to north-western New South Wales to where most of the indigenous population had been removed from their land and segregated into reserves

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under the Aboriginal Protection Act 1909 and later to the Torres Strait.

Importantly he gathered information concerning the continuity of traditional land tenure on Murray Island and the cultural descent of rights and responsibilities for country, knowledge and stories, in particular around north-western New South Wales. And some of the people he met came to visit us as you've heard and where the lounge room might have been taken up for days with the entire cast of the Islander dance troupe. They were happy and fun times. On other occasions visitors from the west brought dark stories to our dinner table, stories of conflict and despair from those communities. A frontier war by another name, still raging.

Fast forward to the first four years in legal practice as a commercial litigator in the early 90s. Despite making firm friends in the commercial world, some of whom are here today, I wondered if there was more to this law caper for me personally than debt recovery and the commercial division. Small surprise really when you consider by that time what you've heard about my family, with my brother, then fresh out of law school, filing land claims in the central desert, my mother having co-written the book on religious discrimination for the U.N., my father having already given evidence at that stage in the Mabo hearings.

By chance I briefed Stephen Norrish QC, now Judge Norrish in the first criminal case of my career leaving aside the aforementioned Wagyu beef moment. I found him to be a demanding task master, meticulous in his preparation and a brilliant and tenacious advocate. Later we were to fight a number of cases to victory and thanks to him I was set on a new trajectory.

He directed me west bidding me speak to a woman he couldn't quite remember. Her name: could it be Dina Yo Ha or Yee Ha, he wasn't quite sure.

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So swapping heels for RMs and Bondi Beach as we've heard for the Macquarie River, I headed west to WALs in not a Holden Tarago, it was in fact, a Toyota Corolla which was affectionately referred to by solicitor John Laxon as Terrence Trent Toyota.

So four wheel drives and field officers, busy court lists as you've heard, big stone courts and little timber ones from Lightning Ridge to the distances you've heard about the size of Spain. Early morning starts and getting changed for Court behind a woman's tree on outback roads and living in each other's pockets and talking law. And in that role I came to understand what it really meant to be a lawyer and I also began to see my country through a different lens.

There are many important people to me from those times, several of them are sitting in the body of the Court but I must make special mention of Judge Yehia SC and Marianne Hausia who took me under her wing. Our camps on the riverbank have been amongst the happiest of my life.

So from there back to family life in Sydney. Tim Capelin, a little baby girl, Olivia and Inner City Local Court's Legal Aid. You can see the solicitors walking the same road today. The parade of criminal lawyers worrying on their way up Castlereagh Street in the morning and basking in their glories or lamenting their losses on the way down in the afternoon. Many wonderful colleagues from those days are here. Some sadly are no longer with us. And then another baby girl, Antonia, came along. No advocate with small children can survive without an army of supporters. Particular thanks to Pam and Barry Capelin and the peninsula mums. Help raise someone's children and you have them for life.

Despite two small children Lloyd Babb SC employed me part-time at the

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CLRD when the job called for a full-time policy officer. Lloyd was then and still is, in my view, a leader in the progression of women's careers in criminal justice and criminal practise in this state, thank you.

Two years later my two children enrolled in school, I was off to the bar with the encouragement of the true believers, Michael Bates and Geoff Wilcsek. Tim Game SC, Gaby Bashir SC welcomed me into the fold at Forbes Chambers. John Stratton SC ensured that there was an appellate brief waiting for me on my desk from day 1 and not long after a junior brief in the series of Graham Reeves' trials as you've heard.

Diligently each Friday, my tutor, now Judge Buscombe, met and counselled me through a week ahead teaching me not just the law but to how to make a meaningful contribution to the profession despite the daily demands of a busy case load. With my own readers in years to come, some of whom are here, I sought to emulate the example he set.

After bumping into Judge Yehia SC in the aisle of Coles supermarket I was briefed to junior her in the lengthy terrorism trial at Parramatta and I was on my way, learning not just from my senior counsel as our awesome defence team went head to head with the Crown but also from watching a disciplined Crown team, namely Sarah McNaughton SC and now Justice Abraham QC match us with diligence and tenacity and Justice Whealy deliver judgments in the hundreds with energy and precision. It was the trial of a lifetime.

Forbes Chambers was a whirlwind of work and opportunity learning from the best. Forbes was to me the master's course in criminal practise. I cannot name them all but I must thank particularly Justice Hamill SC, Tim Game SC and Hament Dhanji SC who helped and guided me through some difficult matters. I know I caused them untold pain at times but thankfully they are the

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forgiving types.

In my time at Forbes I covered cases about witchcraft, Cypriot spells, Paspaley shopping sprees, camel farms and enjoyed boat rides with coroners into remote river estuaries. I thank Deputy State Coroner Paul McMahon for having me as his counsel assisting on so many interesting cases. I enjoyed particularly my time appearing for hospitals and championing the hard, important and tireless work of the emergency and mental health units.

I thank the Commonwealth DPP for having the faith to brief me in the long-running conspiracy matter as you heard and equally Lloyd Babb SC and Daniel Noll in the Circular Quay Obeid trial and appeals which had its own set of challenges.

From Forbes I must give special thanks to Michelle Crozier, Christine Darne and particularly my clerk Ryan Coleiro. Anyone running a trial, particularly a long one knows that effective advocacy is about team work. I acknowledge the excellent instructing solicitors I have been briefed in from both ends of the bar table and there are many but I mention particularly Jessica Chan, Patrick Carter, Amy Drever, Rob Hoyles, Emma Yazbek and Diane Elston.

Special mention to the Legal Aid Indictable Unit in particular who made sure there was always a brief if there was a spare moment, especially Janet Witmer and Karen Psaltis. The coordination of the common grounds of the terrorism appeal, amongst multiple appellants, for the two weeks of hearings was a herculean task. I thank the engaged and diligent AFP and New South Wales police officers and investigators in my counsel assisting and Commonwealth work.

To the Public Defenders and a deliberate choice to go back to defence

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crime. Bumping heads with Monica Millward in the rolling list before Judge McClintock, only to become friends from mutual bloody-mindedness and respect. High Court special leave with Belinda Rigg SC and with Gaby Bashir SC and the best Supreme Court practice I could ever dream of.

At the PDs I met talent, kindness and opportunity. Special thanks to Ruth Hazelwood, Renee Spinks and the administrative team, to Justice Ierace SC, Belinda Rigg SC and my fellow deputies, congratulations Richard Wilson, SC. I will miss the West Wing where huge talent, Tom Quilter and I happily obsessed.

At the Public Defenders I had the encouragement and support to work on special projects and together with the unstoppable Rebecca McMahon, Jill Hunter and others formed the Bar Book Project as you've heard and talented law graduate Lauren Stefanou who took it to the next level. Thanks to all the dedicated committee members, contributors and supporters and importantly Prita Supomo and Jen Wheeler for their ongoing enthusiasm and understanding of the project's significant to this state and beyond.

I will keep my thanks short for those in my personal circle not because these people are not important but rather because they are the most important and in my first hour on the bench it is desirable to maintain my judicial countenance. My family is now not four but many. My brilliant brother remains a big part of my life. My sister-in-law Sam Mostyn, my talented niece Lottie, my three parents, my girls, Olivia and Antonia, both Tim's and my proudest achievement. Young women starting to make their own way in the world, smart and independent.

My husband, Michael, and our expanded family, a success and joy with Ella, who is actually still here with us before she returns to Berlin to her studies

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to meet Martin who is, as you've heard, just commencing his studies in Berlin. The talented and irrepressible Teela Reid who is obscured behind a screen is welcomed into our family and embraced and loved by all and finally Michael, my husband, who leaves beauty in his wake. I thank him for his patience, his energy and his constant support, for keeping it real and for making me stop every now and then and smell the roses.

I very much look forward to this next stage of my career. I will give it everything I can. Thank you Chief Judge.

PRICE J: Thank you Judge, I invite you all to join us for morning tea.