



Law Council
OF AUSTRALIA

Joint Ceremonial Sitting of the Federal Circuit Court of Australia – Judge Sandra Taglieri and Judge Marcus Turnbull

Speech delivered via online by Dr Jacoba Brasch QC, Law Council President, at the Federal Circuit Court of Australia, Launceston.

4 June 2021

May it please the Court.

I acknowledge Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash, Commonwealth Attorney-General, Chief Justice/Chief Judge, Deputy Chief Justice, all judicial officers, dignitaries and colleagues; and most of all, Your Honours and Your Honour's families.

Judge Tagleri – I have already spoken about your many skills, qualities and leadership – not to mention your demon mountain bike riding – at your ceremony last fortnight. I repeat all I said then – you are an inspiration, a hard worker, and you now sit on a court where your empathy will serve you well – where many who come before you, and their children, will be disempowered, disenfranchised and vulnerable.

Just as you worked to better the plight of workers in Tasmania, I have no doubt you will make decisions that better the best interests of children, and achieve justice and equity where finances are concerned.

I also trust you will continue mentoring new members of the profession, within the confines allowed by your judicial office.

I congratulate you on your elevation and look forward to watching what will no doubt be your valuable contribution to the administration of justice.

And I pause to thank the Madam Attorney-General, Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash for the timeliness of Judge Tagleri's and Judge Turnbull's elevations, and that of Justice McGuire. They are all exceptional appointments.

I also acknowledge the significant injection of funds for the courts and family law in the recent budget, and thank you Madam Attorney for recognising and acting on that need.

As my final plug on behalf of the profession, I hope when we next meet in Launceston it will (a) be in person, and (b) at the new Launceston court house.

Judge Turnbull – now let's talk about you. I told you in Hobart two weeks ago that I would attend your ceremony – but we could not have imagined then that my subsequent trip to Melbourne would leave me locked out of Tasmania. You know I'd prefer to be with you, but I thank the Chief Justice for allowing me to still join from Court 7, Level 2, Brisbane.

Your Honour, on behalf of the Law Council of Australia, and the 65,000 lawyers around this nation, please accept our heartfelt congratulations on your elevation to the Federal Circuit Court of Australia.

Your accomplishments are many and varied – it was a privilege to watch you receive the Law Society's President's Medal at the start of last year. It was with great admiration and delight to see your elevation to Silk. I recall your very first Family Law Section Executive meeting – I don't think you had quite appreciated the workload when you volunteered, but yours quickly became valuable and considered contributions.

But what I particularly admire about you, is your long-standing commitment to children in need of protection and your constant championing for reforms to that system, its processes and, critically, how we, we as practitioners, practice, in a heart-breaking

jurisdiction where our most valuable, our children, may not have parents willing and able to protect them.

And, just because you are now on the Bench does not mean your regular convening of CPDs on child protection and family law matters ought stop. I look forward to joining with you in such future presentations, just as I have in the past.

Your Honour has enjoyed a state-wide practice in Tasmania and you have been rightly recognised as a pre-eminent and leading Family Lawyer in this state. You have just ended as a senior member of the Legal Aid Commission's panel of independent children's lawyers and have regularly appeared as Counsel on brief from other independent children's lawyers.

In the courtroom you have your own unique style – like turning the lectern right angles to the bar table, to make eye contact with your legal opponent.

Got to say that's a bit weird, but ... it works for you.

With your impressive command of the jurisdiction, the people of Australia will be privileged to be served by you in this role.

But more so, I know you well enough to say that you will consider it a privilege to administer justice for the people and their children who come before you.

Your Honour, both personally, and on behalf of the Law Council of Australia, congratulations.

May the court please.

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