

RSB:SND

DRAFT

IN THE DISTRICT COURT  
OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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

WEDNESDAY 12 OCTOBER 2022

**SWEARING-IN CEREMONY OF HER HONOUR JUDGE TURNER  
AS A JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT OF NEW SOUTH WALES**

Dr R Higgins SC, Senior Vice President on behalf of the NSW Bar Association  
Ms J van der Plaats, President on behalf of the Law Society of NSW

---

(Commission read)

(Affirmations of office taken)

PRICE J: The affirmations will be placed in the Court archives.

Judge Turner, it is a very great pleasure to welcome you to the District Court. You bring to the Court a wealth of experience in criminal law and integrity as a highly respected Crown Prosecutor. On behalf of all the judges of the Court, I congratulate you and wish you all the very best in your judicial career.

HER HONOUR: Thank you, Chief Judge.

PRICE: Dr Ruth Higgins SC on behalf of the NSW Bar.

HIGGINS: I begin by acknowledging the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet and custodians of Gadigal history, culture, song lines and stories that stretch back to ancient times. I pay my respects to their elders, past, present and I extend my respect to First Nations Peoples here today.

Chief Judge, it is my great pleasure to welcome the appointment of her Honour Judge Georgia Turner as a Judge of the District Court. It is an honour

RSB:SND

to be here to celebrate the achievements of a now former member of our Bar who brings to her new role decades of experience in complex criminal law matters.

I appear this morning on behalf of the NSW Bar Association President, Gabrielle Bashir SC. Ms Bashir has asked me to convey her apologies for not being able to attend and extends her congratulations to your Honour on your appointment as a Judge of the District Court of New South Wales.

Today's ceremony, of course, marks the swearing in of a second of three recent appointments to this Court, all accomplished barristers who will now serve in this important Court after long and distinguished careers.

Judge Turner, it is my great pleasure to welcome your appointment to this role. I also extend my best wishes to your family, Judge John Pickering, her husband, also a judge of this Court and your daughter, Scarlett.

A truly glorious aspect of a swearing in ceremony is the opportunity it provides for a person's family to see them through a different lens, to witness them being celebrated by the professional group they are leaving, warmly received by the new group of colleagues they are joining and entrusted to perform a task that is socially significant, privileged and yet onerous. It is an occasion of proper pride.

Your Honour is a career prosecutor and will bring a wealth of experience to your new role gathered from numerous trials of the most demanding kind involving murder, sexual violence and offending by organised crime groups. Your Honour has a deep understanding of the practice and procedure of this Court, the complexities of the Rules of Evidence and the intricacies of just sentencing.

Writing in the Australian Law Journal in 1958, R Kitson QC spoke of the

RSB:SND

fundamental duties of a Crown Prosecutor which included the need in a firm and abiding mind to do right all manner of people, to seek justice with care, understanding and good countenance. The prosecutor's duty of fairness and a barrister's paramount duty to the administration of justice are principles in which your Honour is now long practiced. Your now former colleagues uniformly speak of you as being formidable, excellent and fair. Your Honour has long sought justice with care and will be called upon to continue to do so in your new role within this Court.

Where did this all begin? Your Honour was raised in Coffs Harbour on the New South Wales North Coast. Your father was a legal practitioner as was your grandfather, your mother was a forensic scientist who later dedicated herself to working in the family legal practice and raising you and your four siblings. As a teenager, you left the Big Banana behind, your parents sent you to boarding school for years 11 and 12 at Abbotsleigh on Sydney's leafy Northshore. After some initial misgivings, the companionship of your sister in the boarding house helped you to embrace the adventures and opportunities that new stage presented.

It was around this time that your Honour read a beguiling spy novel and fixed your mind upon a future career in spy craft. Alas, as you did not have a booth at your schools career day. When you caught the train to and from Coffs for each holiday, there were no agents in trench coats waiting at Turramurra Station and so your Honour continued the family tradition of studying law.

While studying at the University of Technology in Sydney, you secured a Summer clerkship in the Liverpool Office of the Office of Public Prosecutions in 1997 and immediately knew that you had now, in truth, found your professional

RSB:SND

calling. Your Honour moved to a Lawyer Level 1 role in Parramatta in 1998 and soon became Lawyer Level 2 at the head office in Parramatta in 1999. Then in 2002, your Honour became a Crown Prosecutor in London. You had been given the opportunity by the former DPP, Nick Cowdery, as part of an exchange and spent a few months in the youth courts running robbery and sexual assault trials in front of three(?) magistrates. Perhaps you could have pursued a career at the Old Bailey, the site of many of the most infamous cases in British criminal history. Perhaps you could finally have encountered an MI5 agent by the side of a foggy Thames but instead, you left a British Winter and returned to a Sydney Summer and the Legal Aid Commission where you worked as a Grade 3 Lawyer from 2003 to 2004. As a Glaswegian still bewitched by Sydney after 20 years, I can only respectfully endorse your Honour's choices.

Your Honour became a trial advocate in 2006. It was during this time that you worked in the arrest and committal of Gordon Wood over the alleged murder of his girlfriend, Caroline Byrne, and continued to work on that matter all the way through to the 2011 appeal in the Court of Criminal Appeal. There you appeared led by your now colleague, Judge Girdham SC, and now Justice Wendy Abraham and that ultimately saw his acquittal. That case remains one of the most significant criminal cases in Sydney's history and is a leading authority on circumstantial evidence, identification evidence, expert evidence and the bounds of closing addresses.

Your Honour then spent a short period of time in Norfolk Island, a small island paradise better known for its pine trees and the home of the world renowned writer, Colleen McCulloch, than for crime. There you worked as Acting Crown Prosecutor but at a time that coincided with Glenn McNeill being

RSB:SND

charged with the death of Janelle Patton, the first murder on the island since 1893.

Back in Sydney, your Honour spent the next eight years working as a trial advocate, you were called to the Bar in 2005 and was made Crown Prosecutor. Ever since your Honour had started off at the Liverpool Office all those years before, you had dreamed of that role. Soon you were junioring the former Senior Crown Mark Tedeschi AM KC in the trial of GP, Brian Kenneth Crickitt, who had been charged with the murder of his wife, Christine. You took witnesses and did of the closing. Over the ensuing years, you continued to prosecute a number of notable and high profile cases. As of April last year, you had risen to the rank of Deputy Senior Crown Prosecutor.

Your Honour has worked on multiple sexual assault complainant trials, you have conducted those trials with humanity and focussed on eliciting in a sensitive manner the often traumatic evidence of each of the individuals involved as compassionately and candidly as possible. Your work on these cases has meant that the Courts of New South Wales have seen the best of our profession and your work has been directed in various ways at improving outcomes in these difficult and complex trials. While an assistant solicitor legal between 2014 and 2015 at the ODPP, your Honour was Chair of the Sexual Assault Review Committee which coordinated and made recommendations for law reform and addressing issues impacting sexual assault trials.

For years, if you were not in a court of law, you were present at basketball courts either as a player or spectator. Your Honour inspired the immediate past director to play on a regular basis leading to sightings of Babb SC at the Cook + Phillip doing layups. You are not dribbling as much as you like these days but I understand you have Andrew Bogut's signed jersey

RSB:SND

hanging in your chambers to keep the dream of hooks every present. Given that Bogut is seven foot tall I trust that that takes up an impression amount of space on the judicial wall.

Your love of sport is well-known and extends to cricket and running, although some have queried your commitment to running. Your Honour used to be a member of a small group of runners who did the Balmain Bay Run but all anecdotal evidence suggests your Honour was more attracted to the social engagements than the exercise.

Your Honour loves to travel and so it was that news of your appointment came to you while you were on a holiday in Europe. It is rumoured that the only topic your Honour has pushed more efficiently and forensically than the prosecution of crime is the effect of utilisation of frequent flyer points.

Alongside, intermittently shooting hoops, travelling the world and turning up to everything in life looking exquisitely dressed, your Honour has long kept to the sports inspired adage of, Just Do It. A postal note with the phrase was for years affixed to your desk. That brevity and focus will serve your Honour well on the Bench.

Your Honour's ability to communicate with a jury was celebrated and can now be adapted to the different role of judge. The judicial role will invite new demands. Lloyd Bingham once spoke of judges as professional experts charged with a task of interpretation, auditors of legality. Your Honour, the Bar is delighted with your appointment, it thanks you for your service to the Bar and wishes you all the best for your judicial career. We have absolute confidence that you will make an excellent judge; that you will continue to seek justice with care; that you be a meticulous auditor of legality and it will make an important contribution to the work of this Court over many years.

RSB:SND

PRICE J: Thank you, Dr Higgins. Ms Joanne van der Plaat, President of the Law Society of New South Wales.

VAN DER PLAAT: I too acknowledge the Gadigal of the Eora Nation, the traditional owners of the land on which this Court stands and I pay my respects to their elders, past and present. I also extend my respects to all Aboriginal people with us today.

Your Honour, I come before the Court on behalf of the Solicitors of New South Wales to offer congratulations and wish you well in your appointment to the District Court of New South Wales.

Your Honour, as we have heard, grew up in Coffs Harbour, the middle child of five siblings. Your father and your grandfather were both lawyers. Your mother, a scientist, would end up working with your father in the office. You studied law at the University of Technology in Sydney. As you studied, you found that one area of the law fitted you perfectly. After graduation, you would do a brief stint in a commercial law firm but you knew that criminal practice was your calling. So in 1997, you took a Summer clerkship at the New South Wales Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions working in its Liverpool office. That clerkship would be a first step in your career as you made your path through the ODPP. Criminal Law may be said to be uniform but criminals are not. Every single matter that is managed by the ODPP is different from the last. Each case requires long hours of work and consultation. Your Honour decided very early that you wanted to be a Crown Prosecutor, you sought to achieve that by getting as much experience in as possible, putting in countless hours in the Liverpool and Parramatta offices. You took short matter lists and instructed in trials. You no doubt spent hours at the photocopier compiling trial files. You love trial work and thrived on

RSB:SND

appearing in Court.

During the course of your career, you would take secondments to Legal Aid and this gave you valuable experience and perspective of criminal prosecutions. As we have heard, you would take an unusual secondment to Norfolk Island and later worked for six months in the Crown Prosecution Service in London handling matters in the Youth Branch. And in keeping with all young lawyers hoping to be appointed a Crown Prosecutor, you would work as a senior legal adviser to the then Director, Nick Cowdery AM KC. In this role, you would advise the Director on numerous matters from around the State that pour into the Director's Chambers hourly. This would sharpen your legal skills and expand your understanding of submissions which, as we know, are a critical aspect of a Crown Prosecutor's work.

Your Honour, you have melded your life milestones with your career milestones. You would meet your husband, Judge John Pickering SC, on a Valentine's Singles Night. His Honour also worked at the ODPP at that time although you had not yet met. After you married and welcomed your daughter, Scarlett, you worked part time for a few years and were appointed Crown Prosecutor in 2015. Your prosecution for precision and accuracy proceeded you in the Crown Chambers. You regularly handled huge matters that required meticulous attention to detail.

While your hard-earned reputation for trial work is revered, colleagues also praised your solid reputation as a great mentor and admire your ability to calm a panicking lawyer in the throws of a difficult trial or a life crisis. You could always cut through a matter to get to the issue.

In a particularly poignant tribute, one colleague said, "While it is hard to describe the ideal colleague two words come close and those two words are



RSB:SND

Georgia Turner. Your Honour's colleagues and peers describe you as a fine example of collegiality, leadership, determination and good humour. You are famous for your mighty work ethic, anyone stepping into your matters has been struck by your attention to detail, your impressive intellect and your commitment to Crown values.

Your peers at the ODPP universally describe you as honest, firm and fair. You have set a gold standard for what it means to be a Crown Prosecutor. These are invaluable traits but the one thing which has long defined you is the fact that you are the quintessential team player. Your lolly jar was always full; your door was always open; your commitment to life balance was realised through your long time membership of the Crown Social Committee. You have always gone over and above to ensure the happiness of others and the wellbeing of your colleagues whilst never seeking glory to yourself.

Your colleagues will remember you for your work, your laugh and the smell of musk lollies that would permeate through Chambers. They will remember your devotion to Diet Coke and that you could not go a day without a dose of the sugar free nectar. They will remember the Australian basketballer as we have heard, Andrew Bogut, whose singlets and the fan pictures of you and he together adored your Chambers. They will also remember your fangirl adoration of Celine Dion. Although their hearts will go on, your colleagues in Chambers will be sad to see you go because you were an anchor both professionally and personally to many Crowns. Your departure, they say, will leave a huge hole in Crown Chambers, you remain respected and admired and loved by your colleagues but they concede that the Chamber's loss is the District Court's gain.

Your friends and colleagues hope that you will now have more time to

RSB:SND

spend with his Honour and Scarlett and more time to walk Milo, possibly the largest Pomeranian in the Southern Hemisphere. Judge Pickering has claimed that Milo must have Alsations in his immediate family.

Your Honour brings a wealth of knowledge, personal integrity, insight and undoubtedly your full lolly jar to the District Court. The people of our State are privileged to be served by you in this role and solicitors have every confidence that you will make an exceptional judicial officer.

On behalf of the Solicitors of New South Wales, our warmest congratulations, your Honour.

PRICE CJ: Thank you, Ms van der Plaaf. Judge Turner.

HER HONOUR: Thank you, Chief. Chief Judge, fellow judges, distinguished guests, former colleagues, family and friends.

Thank you firstly to Dr Ruth Higgins and Ms Joanne van der Plaaf for your very kind words – and, might I say, fine sleuthing work.

Thank you to everyone who has attended today, it is so lovely to look out and see everybody's faces.

I would also like to say thank you to those who have so thoughtfully contacted me to extend their congratulations, and for the very warm welcome I have received from the Chief Judge, members of the Bench and the court staff. The support and kindness extended to me has been truly humbling.

Since becoming aware of my appointment, I have spent a lot of time reflecting on my career - particularly the many amazing people and brilliant lawyers I have been lucky enough to work with. Each of those persons has contributed to and impacted upon the lawyer and the person that I am today.

And so, I am very pleased that I have this opportunity to acknowledge those who inspired, mentored, supported and guided me, and those whose

RSB:SND

sheer legal genius I have hoped might have even slightly rubbed off on me.

I am so thrilled to say that I am sitting amongst many of those people today, which makes this day even more special for me. I will name some, but there are so many more who have been a significant part of my career to date.

It has been just under 25 years since I started out fresh faced and excited at the Liverpool Office of the DPP as a summer clerk. I was still at university in the last year of my studies, and trying to complete my thesis.

The reason for my excitement was a complicated back story which I will mercifully summarise briefly for you. It started back when I was a teenager and, having read some trashy spy novel, decided that when I grew up, I would be a spy. This did not exactly pan out for a number of reasons, some of which have been highlighted: not the least of which was that there were no spy training courses that I was aware of, lets face it, ASIO is never hiring, and according to most people who I discussed this with, I would make a terrible spy because I was incapable of lying, or even deflecting, when asked a direct question, nor could I ever be inconspicuous with my incurable habit of making small talk in elevators.

So, hoping perhaps that the spy employment climate might shift, I set about doing a law degree thinking that surely this would stand me in good stead should ASIO ever employ anyone again. The only subject at university which really captured me was criminal law - but unfortunately, they also make you endure such subjects as equity and corporations law of which I skated through. I took up a clerkship at a commercial firm, but I felt lost and that I had not really found my place in the world. I was not sure that I even wanted to continue with law.

This all changed when I arrived at the Liverpool DPP Office. Surrounded

RSB:SND

by talk at the lunch table of all manner of criminal allegations and how you might go about proving them beyond reasonable doubt, I immediately felt at home. Instructing Crown prosecutors in criminal trials before a jury of 12, I knew I had finally found my niche. From thereon, all I wanted was to be a Crown Prosecutor, and I set about working towards that and being the very best that I could.

After my summer clerkship at Liverpool, I returned to university to finish my final 6 months of practical legal training, and then I started as a Level 1 solicitor at Parramatta.

I was shortly admitted thereafter as a solicitor. My dad, who, as you have heard was a solicitor himself, moved my admission, which was before the then Chief Justice Spiegelman. As you also heard, my dad's father was also a lawyer and dad followed in his own father's footsteps.

I clearly remember dad that day getting ready for this important moment. He was given his strict script of what he could say in writing. When it came to my turn, he stood and he said, "I move the admission of Georgia Turner." So far so good, this was on script. He then went rogue and bravely added in, "the third generation of lawyer in the Turner family." To his credit, Justice Spigelman did not even raise an eyebrow at such insolence. Dad was so proud that day he looked as if he might burst - a little like he looks today.

I then began to appear in court at Parramatta in earnest. By this time, I was so familiar with the courtroom, that I felt comfortable immediately to be myself. That being the case, judges found it difficult to get me to sit down and be quiet. My comfort in the courtroom has never waned, so this has been a recurring theme throughout my career.

Parramatta became my training grounds, and I learnt so much in a short

RSB:SND

time. Here I met and worked with so many amazing people, but I want to name Siobhan Herbert, Kara Shead and Tanya Smith - Siobhan and Tanya are sitting here with me today - all now are judges of this Court. Tanya and I sat adjacent to each other, and, to the absolute annoyance of everyone around us, our days were filled with yelling back and forth to each other through the shared wall. Kara and I used to drive out to Parramatta together, laughing the entire way. Siobhan gave me advice on what not to wear on my first date with my husband, John. This was more than 20 years ago. All three amazing and brilliant women have ever since been my friends and mentors, and have supported, guided and believed in me throughout my career.

I consider myself very lucky that the Deputy Senior Crown Prosecutors whilst I was at Parramatta were all exceptional lawyers and wonderful mentors. Jim Bennett, sitting right next to me, was one of those Deputy Senior Crown Prosecutors, as was David Frearson, both of whom I respected and admired enormously. David was very generous with his time in mentoring me, and I lapped up every word in the hope I may soak up some of his charisma and brilliance.

After a few years, I won a promotion in the city and went to work in the Director's Chambers as a professional assistant. The Director was Nick Cowdery. I liked working with Nick immediately. He was an excellent lawyer, and very personable and fun. I clearly recall when he told me, tongue firmly in his cheek, that at times in court he often had the almost irresistible urge to do a headstand in the middle of proceedings. Under Nick, I was fortunate enough to have a number of wonderful opportunities that shaped my career. As has been referred, I was able to undertake an exchange to the Crown prosecution Service in London and secondments to both Norfolk Island and Legal Aid.

RSB:SND

These opportunities that Nick Cowdery provided significantly shaped my career and I am grateful to him for his initiatives, his confidence and faith in me, and his insight into how important these opportunities can be.

During this time, I met my husband John Pickering, who was at that time a Trial Advocate at the DPP. As I am always at pains to say, it was not at work that we met! Now, everyone knows how we met, because he told everyone in his swearing-in speech which was published. So, I am not going to repeat that, but suffice to say, and I emphasise, we did not meet on work premises!

In 2006, I became a trial advocate, the commencement of my time conducting jury trials. I was so excited. I went back out to Parramatta, my old stomping grounds. Here I was very lucky to be under the tutelage of the then Crown Prosecutors Siobhan Herbert, and Craig Patrick. Both Craig and Siobhan generously mentored and supported me, ready for my phone calls at any time, and saw me through my first years as a jury advocate, and from their different styles and techniques, I learnt invaluable skills.

I remember my very first jury trial, as many of us probably would. To me mine was memorable for two reasons. Firstly, within the first five minutes of appearing in this trial, I got this sinking feeling that the trial judge was very unhappy with me. That I had that inkling may have been because he was yelling at me for a rather lengthy period of time. To this very day I am still confused about why, but I distinctly remember what may seem like a very obvious thought running through my head, "Gee this isn't going well."

The second thing I remember about my first jury trial was when I stood and spoke to the jury for the first time, and how I felt - I felt like I belonged there. It was then that I realised that I had really found my calling, and what I truly loved doing.

RSB:SND

In 2008, Scarlett came into our world, and I took some time off before returning determined as ever to reach my career dream of becoming a Crown Prosecutor. It only took me a couple of weeks to realise that I was not the same as I had been before Scarlett, and that she needed me at home. I want to acknowledge the wonderful support and understanding that I received from the Office at this time, and particularly, from my manager and now Magistrate Claire Giroto. Such was the faith she showed in me, I was permitted to work part time, even though that meant I could not conduct jury trials, and I was set to work doing all manner of things other than jury trials. This arrangement was life changing for me, as I was able to continue to do some of the work that I loved and be able to be with our daughter in her formative years. I will always treasure that precious time that I had with Scarlett.

In 2015, when Scarlett was 7 years old, I finally felt comfortable to pursue my dream. By this time, Lloyd Babb was the Director. Under Lloyd, I was appointed a Crown Prosecutor and then a Deputy Senior Crown Prosecutor. Lloyd was a wonderful support to me in my career, and I am very grateful to him for his faith and confidence in me. He was also an exceptional player and teammate on the ODPP basketball team called "Justice League", and we had many fun times on the basketball court with other Crown Prosecutors and solicitors.

Sally Dowling SC is the third Director I have worked under at the Office. I am disappointed that I have not been able to work with Sally longer, however, I know that she is and will continue to be an inspirational Director. I thank Sally for her encouragement and support of me in the time that she has been there.

During my career, I have been very lucky to work with the most exceptional barristers whom I have keenly watched and learnt so much from. I

RSB:SND

have been so fortunate to junior Mark Tedeschi, Wendy Abraham – now a Federal Court judge - and Jennie Girdham, who is sitting here with me today. Each has their own distinctive style, charisma and manner of brilliance, and I thank them for their inspiration and guidance. The wonderful opportunities to work closely with each of them has shaped me into the lawyer and person I am today. I thank Jennie particularly for her enduring support of me in my career and in my life.

Once I was a Crown Prosecutor, I set about being the best that I could be. I have been fortunate to have been briefed in complex and challenging matters and given wonderful opportunities to develop my skills as a lawyer and an advocate. I have appeared against very talented opponents and very clever judges, all of whom I have learnt from. I have worked with exceptional police officers and witness assistance officers from our Office.

To my Crown Prosecutor colleagues, many of whom I look out and see today, I thank you for your support of me in Chambers every day. The work of a Crown Prosecutor can be challenging and difficult, and, at times, feels a heavy and somewhat lonely responsibility. However, thanks to the constant understanding and support of my colleagues, I have never felt alone.

Crown Chambers for me has been sanctuary where I can return after a long hard day in Court. I have made many great friends in chambers, but I would particularly like to acknowledge the support of my wonderful friends Tarik Abdulhak, and when she was in Crown Chambers with me, Tanya Smith.

I have been so fortunate over my years as a trial lawyer to have been instructed by many wonderful solicitors, dedicated and committed and eager to learn. Whilst the list of solicitors who have supported me is enormous, I would like to make mention particularly of a few who instructed me in my most



RSB:SND

complex trials. To Tahlia Kable, my solicitor in my first murder trial, who travelled down from Newcastle to be here for the whole trial, thank you for your commitment and support, your wonderful humour and resilience. To Marnie Watts and Tim Guazzo, who instructed me in my last murder trial - the rather large one involving 7 accused persons - thank you for your extraordinary hard work and dedication, and your amazing support. You made me look good - at least, I hope so - and you also made me laugh a lot. I could not have done it without you both. To Elodie Somerville, who was to be my solicitor in an upcoming 7 accused murder trial I will now not be conducting, thank you for your hard work, conscientiousness and wonderfully positive and fun attitude. All these extraordinary young people and many more in the Office have brilliant futures ahead which I will watch unfold with enormous pleasure.

To the DPP as a whole, thank you for all the years of support and, indeed, for the employment! I have considered it a tremendous honour and privilege to be a Crown Prosecutor, it has been a role that has given me enormous personal and professional pride and satisfaction. I will miss it. I will also miss the familiar surroundings in the Office. I am certain, however, that the ODPP mail room will not miss receiving my online shopping parcels each week.

I want to express my gratitude to my parents, who are here today. Mum and Dad, thank you for the opportunities you have provided me to enable me to pursue this career which I have loved so much, and for my lovely childhood in Coffs Harbour. My favourite memories are of going to the beach of an early morning for a swim with my dad, playing cricket and tennis with my brothers and all the boys in the neighbourhood, playing "hit the back fence" where I could smash the tennis ball as hard as I could manage, and driving myself

RSB:SND

around the neighbourhood on the ride on mower.

To my siblings, three of whom are here today, Martin, Julia and Rachael. You are my best friends. Thank you for all the years of love and support you have given me; I am so happy I can celebrate this with you today.

Thank you to my brother Martin for travelling from Canberra to be here today as it would not be the same without you here. Thank you too to your partners for their love and friendship over the years, you are my family, and I am so happy that you are here today with me.

There is one important family member missing today and that is my dearest grandmother, Mumma, who passed away some years ago. Mumma was eccentric, loving and funny, and a wonderful musician. She used to say that her 7 grandchildren were the jewels she wore in a crown on her head every day. Mumma wrote music about everything, and we each had songs written about us. My song was titled, "Lady Prosecutor of the Court". I know she would be immensely proud had she been here today, and undoubtedly, she would have written another great musical hit about this next chapter of my life.

To my friends who are here today and for those who are listening to the livestream, thank you for being here, and for your friendship over the years. Some of you have known me for a very long time. Nicole Moore was one of the first persons I met when I started university and we lived together for some years. I am thrilled that she is here today. I met Anna Smith at Parramatta DPP before she soared to great heights in her career in Queensland, however, she has remained my great friend, and I feel her in spirit with me here today.

I thank John's family for being here today, and for their love and support of me over the last 20 years. It has been wonderful to have you as my

RSB:SND

extended family.

To my husband John, it is kind of surreal to see you up here dressed in the same outfit as me! You have been my rock for many years, a patient, solid and enduring love and support. This enduring love and support has included you attending numerous Celine Dion concerts and accompanying me in following (perhaps otherwise known as stalking) Andrew Bogut most of the way around the USA NBA Circuit. You have been there in my moments of self-doubt, lifting me up, and always believing in me. You have always looked after and cared for our family and, despite having serious reservations about a new dog that I insisted upon, have even come to grudgingly like our enormous Pomeranian, Milo. I regret to inform you however that you are now not the only member of the household permitted to use the judge emoji.

That leaves the most important person in my life, Scarlett. I am so thrilled that you are here today, and I do apologise if it is a little ho-hum, it being the second swearing-in that you have been to. Thank you for your patience and understanding for all those nights and weekends when I have had to work. I am so proud of you and the wonderful person that you are. You are strong and spirited and funny. You make me laugh out loud.

Unsurprisingly you are particularly persuasive when arguing a point. You are a delightful travel companion, and I am so thrilled that you are finally taking an interest in shopping. I know that we have many more fun trips ahead of us. Quite simply Scarlett, you are my light and my joy, and I think you are the bee's knees. I regret to inform you however, that all future correspondence with your parents will inevitably contain a judge emoji, both male and female.

And so, it is the end of an era and a new chapter for me, one that I am very excited for. I am immensely honoured by my appointment to this Court,

RSB:SND

and I am humbled by the confidence and faith placed in me. I promise to treat all who come before me in court with respect and dignity, to be fair, and to listen. I will work hard every day to ensure that I live up to the responsibility and privilege of this position.

Thank you, Chief Judge.