



Law Council
OF AUSTRALIA

Ceremonial Sitting of the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia – His Honour Judge Arran Gerrard

Speech delivered by Mr Greg McIntyre SC, President of the Law Council of Australia, at the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia, Adelaide.

26 August 2024

May it please the Court.

I echo the acknowledgements made of the Kurna people.

Your Honour's elevation was announced along with that of eight other new judges. These appointments were made with the aim to assist the Court to efficiently resolve its growing migration caseload and were warmly welcomed by the Law Council of Australia.

The appointments were made following an open call for expressions of interest across Australia, recommendations of an eminent advisory panel and a selection made on the basis of a depth of legal knowledge and experience and expertise in the field of migration law.

However, Your Honour's resume also shows a passion, even a calling, in relation to the field of migration law which has not lessened throughout your career.

Early on, Your Honour worked as a legal officer in the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, before moving to the Australian Government Solicitor in 2003, where, as has been noted you stayed for over two decades. This length of service shows a commendable level of loyalty and love of your work.

It is how Your Honour has chosen to continue your own professional development, as well as support the development of others, that truly shows the depth of your dedication to understanding our laws and legal system.

Your Honour's chosen PhD topic was 'Considering character-based migration decisions', as has been remarked, leading to you being known as "Dr 501".

You have written articles and presented at seminars and conferences on a range of administrative and migration law themed topics. This shows your fondness for analysing and assessing what works, what the future holds, and collaboratively considering and developing opportunities for change.

You have also acted as a mentor and source of shared knowledge for your AGS colleagues throughout your 20 plus year with the AGS agency. You have demonstrated a deep and personal commitment to the development of the next generation of lawyers.

Your skills as a writer and ability to distil complex information into clear and engaging text will hold you in good stead in your new role.

While your intellectual curiosity and knowledge are known to be outstanding, paired with great humanity.

For every judge in all of our courts, it is important that they never lose sight of the fact that they are considering issues faced by real people, facing real challenges and stresses and that any decision made will have a very real, and significant impact.

Speaking with those who know you reveals that your compassion and insight will serve those who come before you well.

There is warm support for your elevation, appreciation for your commitment to service, and excitement about the contribution you will continue to make to the justice system in this country.

Your Honour it is a great pleasure to be among those welcoming your appointment and I extend to you the congratulations of the Australian legal profession.

May it please the court.

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