



Law Council
OF AUSTRALIA

Ceremonial Sitting of the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia – Judge Louise Goodchild and Judge Constantina (Dina) Lioumis

Speech delivered by Mr Luke Murphy, President of the Law Council of Australia, at the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia, Sydney.

16 March 2023

May it please the Court.

I also respectfully acknowledge that we are meeting on the traditional land of the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation and I pay my respects to their Elders both past and present, and Elders from other communities who may be here today.

I acknowledge the Assistant Minister for Defence, Assistant Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Assistant Minister for the Republic and the Federal Member for Kingsford Smith, The Hon Matt Thistlewaite MP; Chief Justice, The Hon. Justice William Alstergren AO; President of the Australian Bar Association, Mr Peter Dunning KC; President of the Law Society of NSW, Ms Cassandra Banks; all judicial officers; dignitaries and colleagues; and most of all Your Honours; and Your Honours' family, friends and colleagues.

It is an honour to represent the Law Council of Australia at this morning's ceremony and to appear on behalf of the national legal profession to welcome Your Honours appointments and to extend the professions congratulations and best wishes.

In accepting your appointments to this Court your honours have selflessly and courageously accepted the burden of Judicial life. A Judicial appointment it has been said is one of the truest examples of

public service - it is a genuine service being work done for the good of the public, the wider community. This statement is no truer than when applied to this court's work. The Family Court of Australia was established as a specialist, multidisciplinary court that would have as its core, consideration of the best interests of children when resolving family disputes.

This is a worthy and weighty role that Your Honours now step into and I know from speaking with those who know you, that is not one you take lightly and is one you both believe in very strongly.

Your Honours' commitment to fairness, your empathy and your dedication to achieving just outcomes and helping others, particularly the most vulnerable in our community, will serve those who come before you exceptionally well and ensure that our community can rightly maintain confidence in our judiciary.

Judge Goodchild, as we have heard, you are an extremely experienced legal specialist and your expertise extends across family law, through to native title and human rights.

Your ability to listen, to get to the heart of complex matters, and to reach a decision is well established and will be an invaluable attribute as you administer justice to those who appear before you.

Even before agreeing to take this appointment, you have demonstrated a long history of giving back to our profession and community, your support of the Women's Legal Service NSW, as a Senior Judicial Member of the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal, and as a longstanding Member of the Women Lawyers Association of NSW – are just a few examples.

Judge Lioumis (Loomis), your honour's appointment is one your professional colleagues consider well deserved and is well supported by them.

Your Honour has always recognised how important it is for people to be able to access justice, particularly those who face challenges in navigating the legal system, such as people for whom English is not their first language. In fact, I understand this may have been a significant influence in the passion you have developed for the law and the administration of justice.

You believe our families and our community are fundamental to everything and must be there to help when people experience difficult times.

I am sure your innate sense of fairness and your commitment to equity motivated Your Honour to contribute to the work of the Law Society's

Professional Conduct Committee and to teach at the University of Technology Sydney.

Your Honour has been described as a professional who is highly collaborative and who thrives on getting the best out of yourself and the systems and process within which you work. I am sure those attributes will be warmly welcomed by your colleagues here at the Court.

Your Honours, on behalf of the legal profession, I congratulate each of you on your elevation and wish you well in your future years of true public service.

May it please the court.

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