

**IN THE SUPREME COURT
OF NEW SOUTH WALES
BANCO COURT**

**BELL CJ
AND THE JUDGES OF THE
SUPREME COURT**

TUESDAY 8 JULY 2025

**SWEARING IN CEREMONY OF PAUL RENNIE MCGUIRE SC
AS A JUDGE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF NEW SOUTH WALES
AND A JUDGE OF APPEAL**

(Commission read; oaths of office taken)

- 1 **BELL CJ:** Justice McGuire, on my own behalf and on behalf of your new colleagues on the Supreme Court, I congratulate you very much on your appointment. I welcome you to the Court. You bring skills both in the civil law and in your second half of your career in the criminal law, particularly, as one of the leading prosecutors, Federal crime, and I acknowledge the presence of the Federal director, who has come from Melbourne to acknowledge your appointment. Congratulations. I have absolutely no doubt you will make a very fine contribution to the important work of this Court.
- 2 **MCGUIRE J:** Thank you, Chief Justice.
- 3 **BELL CJ:** Mr Attorney.
- 4 **THE HONOURABLE MICHAEL DALEY MP, ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW SOUTH WALES:** Thank you, Chief Justice, for the invitation to address the Court this morning. May it please the Court. Can I begin, of course, by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land, the Gadigal of the Eora Nation and pay my respects to Aboriginal people who are here today. Your Honour, McGuire J, just short of two years ago I appointed your Honour as a judge of the District Court following an illustrious career at the Bar. Can I once again, thank you for taking the next step today in your life of service and on behalf of the people of New South

Wales and of the New South Wales Bar, congratulate you on your appointment today. Today, the District Court's loss is this Court's gain. Your elevation after such a short time is a remarkable one and is a testament to your skill and knowledge and a great many other attributes that you bring.

- 5 I would like to acknowledge your wife, Nicola, who is here today, accompanied by your children, Gabriel, Frank, Beatrice, Jack and their partners. We also acknowledge your son, Beau, who cannot be here today. Your brothers, John and Mark are present alongside Nicola's mother, Sylvia, who has come all the way from England for today's swearing in. Your father-in-law Terry is watching a livestream back in the UK. I especially would like to acknowledge your Honour's late parents, Ruth and Labeeb who would be incredibly proud of your achievements today. We know they are watching.
- 6 Your Honour, you have said that you are humbled to walk in the footsteps of your legal heroes to the Supreme Court Bench. Foremost among these heroes is your uncle, the Judge Fred McGuire AO. Your Honour began his legal career as his associate in the Queensland District Court in the 1980s and his legacy is one you said, you hoped to emulate on the Bench and I think everyone here would agree that you have done just that.
- 7 I had a look at Judge McGuire's comments from his own swearing in at Rockhampton in 1975. Like your Honour, he was an eloquent man. He spoke about the concept of justice being deeply rooted in our nature, our human nature. And living in a confused period of history where both the rule of law and institutions of law are under challenge. These concepts including the importance of our legal institutions and the independence of judicial officers in protecting the rule of law remain as true today as they were 50 years ago. And I have no doubt that Judge McGuire, who passed away in 2000 would be immensely proud of what you have achieved today in such a short time on the Bench.
- 8 Your Honour, you have said that you are still getting used to people calling you Judge and having your former colleagues and opponents appear before you. Now, you are going to have to get used to being the Honourable Justice McGuire of the

Supreme Court all over again.

- 9 One of your peers from the District Court has described you as, “The most judicial of judicial officers.” She thinks you should be used in training videos for new judicial appointments because of your courteous manner and firm control of the courtroom. Her Honour has also praised your ability to remain in her words, “Decidedly normal.” For this example, she cited and I quote, “The tragic disco dance you do in your chambers to turn on the motion sensitive lights.”
- 10 On the serious side, your Honour, you are well-known for your work ethic, intelligence, warmth and well-crafted and sound judgments. Another former barrister and now District Court Judge was your opponent in several terrorism and fraud trials. He said, “Having you on the opposite side was a mixed blessing because unfortunately for him, you were just so good at your job.” He also said, “You have an excellent sense of humour,” and always made him laugh. For some time, you two would tell people you co-authored a book about the end of times. A book entitled, *The Babylon Code, Solving the Bible’s Greatest End Times Mystery* was, in fact, written by two American conspiracy theorists who share the names, Paul McGuire and Troy Anderson.
- 11 You have said that what you love about the courtroom is the art of persuasion. It is one of the reasons you left your legal career in London and returned to New South Wales where you were admitted to the Bar in 1999. Your Honour, you made a name for yourself prosecuting significant white collar crimes including the 2003 Rene Rivkin, insider trading case, as well as the Plutus Payroll case, which is the largest tax fraud prosecution in Australia’s history.
- 12 You have a knack for being able to simply and quickly distil complex material and cut through the noise to get to the essence of the matter. A previous junior counsel you once led said, “You were never one for performative flourishes in your submissions.” She said, “Your willingness to be fair meant you gained the faith and confidence of the jury.” She considered you the best senior counsel she has ever worked with and expressed her disappointment that she had not yet had the chance to appear before you in your capacity of a judge. Well, now there is plenty

more time, is there not?

- 13 I am also told investigators in the joint counter terrorism task force continue to speak highly of you following the tragic murder of police employee, Curtis Cheng. And I acknowledge, Selina Cheng, who attended your first swearing in is also here today. Your family, friends and colleagues praise you as a judge and person and as someone who is considerate, accessible and down to earth. You are someone who cares a lot and has a big heart. This can be seen the lasting impression your Honour has made on people throughout your career and personal life.
- 14 Your role means you see both the drivers and the consequences of crime up close. This has affected you deeply as has the experience of the victims and families that you have worked with. You care very much about social disadvantage and what this means for the people who stand before you.
- 15 Your technical skill, astute judgment and humility that you have displayed over the last two years as a District Court Judge will well serve you in this Court, your Honour. I am thrilled to have had the privilege to appoint you to the Bench, not once but twice. We have both made history in that sense. And to have gleaned such an insight into your character as a judge and a person. Swearing in of judicial officers is one of the highlights of my job and this morning has been absolutely no exception. Should the rapid rise through the ranks of the Court continue, we are all going to have to quickly start recycling even more speaking material.
- 16 So can I conclude by saying once again, on behalf of the Bar and the people of New South Wales, thank you very much for your life of service and continuing that life of service on this esteemed Court. May it please the Court.
- 17 **BELL CJ:** Thank you, Mr Attorney. Ms Ball, president of the Law Society of New South Wales.
- 18 **MS JENNIFER BALL, PRESIDENT OF THE LAW SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES:** May it please the Court. I too acknowledge the Gadigal of the Eora Nation, the traditional owners of the land on which this Court stands and pay my respects to the elders past and present. I acknowledge and extend my respects

to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who are with us today.

- 19 I also acknowledge your Honour's family, friends, colleagues and those fortunate to have been guided by your Honour's legal mind, who are here today. Many of their views make up what follows.
- 20 In thinking about today, the solicitor profession offered insight into your Honour's legal mind, approach to law and person. Instructing solicitors from your Honour's day at the private bar recalled a man they were happy driving nearly two hours each way with between Campbelltown and Sydney for a lengthy hearing. It can be a tricky thing being subject to another person's music, podcast or conversational choices, but not so with your Honour.
- 21 A variety of balanced people with interesting lives and work remembered an excellent bedside manner. Indeed people from the profession recalled not just your recent nearly two years on the bench in the District Court of New South Wales, but also say working under a wonderful mentor at Freehills in the late 1990s.
- 22 On this point, your Honour has recalled you were so good at looking after one very capable solicitor at Freehills, that he left the profession and joined the priesthood. I can assure the Court your Honour's tutelage was not the catalyst, but even this former solicitor recalled that your Honour was a very calm presence in the team, fresh as you then were from working as a lawyer in London for several years, approachable, a good teacher of many aspects of commercial litigation, and, more than that, someone he admired. Someone he respected, looked up to and helped him grow not just as a lawyer, but also as a person.
- 23 Others spoke about a great father who, along with your wife Nicola, raised your children, Gabe, twins Frank and Bea, and your youngest Jack, plus your son Beau.
- 24 Several members of the profession who have worked with your Honour in different decades noted a very committed and devoted husband and family man, and despite your Honour and Nicola now being empty nesters, you have spoken of how deeply grounding your family has been, of how it recalibrates one's life and work.

- 25 Perhaps few things in life could make the importance of this as clear as the many criminal matters your Honour presided over in the District Court of New South Wales, beginning on 23 August 2023. It was said that your Honour has a strong sense of giving back to the community, especially the legal profession. That can be seen in several ways, including the balanced fair and clear way your Honour has decided cases in that Court, cases such as *R v Mofu* earlier this year, relating to a home invasion. I single this out not because it was particularly in the public consciousness, but because it represents a matter your Honour has presided over so ably which nonetheless deeply affected those at its heart and yet was not prominent in the daily media cycle.
- 26 Your Honour brings to this Court then a refined awareness of the life changing nature of the effects of criminal law. This is backed by having prosecuted many serious matters of the private bar, where as we have heard you were admitted in 1999 and appointed as a senior counsel in 2015.
- 27 Your Honour's experience at the bar ranged across commercial and equity matters and included early briefs from the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions and appearing extensively in criminal jurisdictions of the District Court and this Court. Over more than two decades at the bar, your Honour developed strong expertise in Commonwealth criminal law. That included prosecuting white collar crime, insider trading, money laundering, taxation fraud, terrorism and corporations law offences.
- 28 Judges you appeared before recalled seeing an absolutely superb advocate, one who was exceptionally well prepared and capable. Your Honour's legal submissions were said to have been outstanding, along with your impressive mastery of the detail of evidence. Indeed, one judge described your Honour's addresses to the jury as models of art.
- 29 In evidence heavy tax cases it was said your Honour was an advocate who had the courage and the skill to cut down lines of argument and evidence to run a brilliant prosecution and crucially make a case manageable for the jury. The calm, helpful way your Honour did this and your fantastic performances are well regarded

by members of our judiciary, and I know that many of your brother and sister judges on this bench were impressed with your work in the District Court and very appreciative of what this moment means for this Court.

- 30 The lineage of this was said to date back to your time as a solicitor, where your Honour undertook impressive cases, including the *Commissioner of Taxation v Lamesa*, a matter before the Full Federal Court in 1997, as well as a dispute involving the tender and redevelopment of the Woolloomooloo Finger Wharf.
- 31 Former colleagues, some of whom have gone on to be silks, also remember working on complicated tax matters with your Honour when you were solicitors many years ago. You all worked until about 3am to finalise a summary and a spreadsheet for the partner handling the matter, but when you all returned to work several hours later something had changed, making most of the work you had completed the night before entirely redundant, a story many of us have experienced.
- 32 However, I was told that your Honour was, and remains, a person of great composure. In your Honour's sanguine way you took it in your stride and very quickly the team refocussed, one matter of many the world of commercial law must deal with. To do so, solicitors recalled your Honour had a great sense of humour, but more than anything you were a great encourager and an excellent listener. This was supported by a forensic ability to dissect legal issues and develop a strong plan to assist clients with their legal matters.
- 33 This is all in the past, though, and whilst it brings us to today, perhaps it is fair to ask then what is your Honour's view of this appointment. In a moment we will hear that, but may I also offer the Court this. Your Honour recalled at the bar always being prepared and doing the best job you could, and the more often you did that, and the more inclination you had that judges you were appearing in front of thought you were all right, the more you thought perhaps there was some chance in the future that you too could become a judge.
- 34 So far much the same, perhaps as many capable silks, but here is where your Honour departs in some measure. Your Honour said, "But I never pretended

that would actually happen,” and when asked further about this your Honour added, “I am just one of many who might be considered. Numerous others would equally be capable judges.” Your Honour averred that perhaps at the end of the day it is largely a combination of things beyond one’s control and, had you been the Attorney General asked to select the next candidate for the Supreme Court, you would find it very hard.

35 In summary, your Honour said this appointment seems surreal and really that is the heart of it, the ability to see not just what is, but also what could be. It invites us to ask new questions, legally, professionally and personally. It perhaps can also remind us that the law can provide clarity and shared purpose. At its best it attempts to resolve serious conflicts with inquiry and hope. We need people who can live up to this in our courts and engage meaningfully, honestly and deeply.

36 I therefore sincerely thank your Honour for taking this appointment and serving as a Justice of the Supreme Court of New South Wales. On behalf of the Law Society of New South Wales, may I offer your Honour our sincere congratulations on this very deserved appointment. As the Court pleases.

37 **BELL CJ:** Thank you, Ms Ball. Justice McGuire.

38 **MCGUIRE J:** Thank you, Chief Justice, for your very warm welcome. I look forward to serving as a judge of this Court under your leadership.

39 I too acknowledge the Gadigal of the Eora Nation as the traditional custodians of this land and I pay my respects to elders both past and present. I acknowledge and extend my respects to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people here this morning.

40 Fellow judges, retired judges, Mr Attorney, Ms Ball, distinguished guests, members of the profession, family and friends, I am grateful to you all for attending today.

41 Mr Attorney and Ms Ball, thank you for your very generous words. Customarily I am supposed to say something modest and self-effacing in response, but it seems to me you have both been entirely fair and accurate. With one exception, Mr

Attorney, there is nothing tragic about my disco dancing style, but thank you.

- 42 I want to thank and acknowledge my former floor members at 7 Garfield Barwick Chambers, my former clerk the incomparable Mark Grace, former floor members at Tenth Floor Selborne Wentworth Chambers and former Freehills colleagues, thank you all for being here. Thank you also to everyone who has sent me kind words by note, by email, by text message or by telephone. Although I should say to those of you who sent me an old fashioned letter, it has taken some while to get to me through the flooded Downing Centre.
- 43 I also want to acknowledge Mrs Selina Cheng who is here today. Despite being the victims of a senseless terrorist act, Selina and her children have shown nothing but dignity in response. Remarkably her son, Alpha, has responded to the crime by devoting himself to fighting racial intolerance and was justifiably awarded the Churchill Fellowship in recognition for his work. Selina, you and your family are paragons of tolerance, forgiveness and compassion. It has been a pleasure to get to know you. Thank you for coming.
- 44 I also want to thank the two exceptional police officers who investigated that crime, Detective Inspector Mardi Forsyth APM and Detective Senior Constable Darine El Jarrar, and my instructing solicitor in those cases, Yoshitha Alles. Thank you all for taking the time to attend.
- 45 Chief Justice, I am honoured to be sitting here today as a judge of this Court. I have received a very warm welcome from the members of this Court and I look forward to serving with them. The courtrooms and corridors of this Court have housed, and continue to house, some of my legal heroes. Judges whose ability and demeanour I have admired and always tried to emulate. It is humbling and quite surreal to think that I will now walk in their footsteps.
- 46 It is, however, with some sadness that I leave the District Court. I am very proud to have served as a judge of that Court.
- 47 In his recent statement on bail the Chief Justice, quoting from the Honourable Tom Bathurst, said:

“There are few people as much in touch with the realities faced by victims, accused and convicted as are the judges of the criminal courts. They are in the thick of it every single day.”

- 48 That statement applies, with particular force, to the judges of the District Court. The jurisdiction of that court is challenging, important and relentless. Daily, its judges are faced with traumatic evidence, difficult legal issues, distraught victims and accused and offenders who are often the product of circumstance. It is a court where *Bugmy* and *De La Rosa* represent much more than just pages in law books. Their frequent application reflects the sad reality of the lives of many offenders. It is the daily work of the criminal courts, the exposure to human stories, to the harsh reality of people’s lives which makes the work of the District Court so challenging and so rewarding.
- 49 To the hardworking judges of the District Court, it has been an absolute honour to serve with you. I will miss the collegiality of that court. In particular I want to thank the recently retired or partly retired, Judge Hock, and Judge Noman and Judge Anderson for their support, their friendship and their good humour.
- 50 I also wish to acknowledge the guidance and leadership of the Chief Judge. Huggett CJ has taken the helm of the court at a challenging time, recently including have to deal with a flood of almost biblical proportions. Despite the challenges, the Chief Judge has led with grace, enthusiasm and good humour. However, Chief Judge, I feel it necessary to warn you the next biblical disaster listed in the book of Exodus, after floods, was a plague of frogs, the modern equivalent of which may well be marauding Queensland cane toads.
- 51 I also want to acknowledge the work and efficiency of the District Court registry staff. In particular I want to thank the Criminal Listing Director, Rob Fornito, the listing officers Jackie Junkovic and Peter Zuvela, the judicial support officers Betty Kosmas, Ramish Rashidi and the tipstaves Peter Martin, David Morris, Pablo Lara and Angela Georghallis. I also want to thank the hardworking court officers, sheriffs and court reporters. It has been a pleasure to work with you all.
- 52 I next want to thank my former associate, Ruby Smith and my present associate, Casey Lawler, for their hard work and support. Your diligence, intelligence and

senses of humour have made my work so much easier. Thank you.

- 53 As I did in my last swearing-in speech, I want to acknowledge the mentorship and guidance of Neil Williams SC and the Honourable James Stevenson, my former tutors, Mark Williams SC, who took me under his wing at Tenth Floor Selborne Wentworth Chambers and the Honourable Geoffrey Bellew SC, who took me under his wing at 7 Garfield Barwick Chambers. Thank you all for setting such exemplary examples. Geoffrey Bellew, to you in particular, thank you for your mentorship, leadership and friendship. You have led by your example of intellectual rigour, calm temperament, integrity and humility. I value the influence you have had on my career more than words can say.
- 54 Turning now to family. It is a significant regret that neither of my parents, Ruth and Labeeb McGuire lived to see either of my appointments. I am sure they both would have been very proud. My mother, a lover of British history, would have enjoyed the pomp and ceremony of this occasion. As an animal lover, she would also be very pleased to know that no rabbits were harmed in the making of my robes. Mum and Dad were both of humble ancestry. Mum's heritage was dichotomous. One side of her family traced back to convicts, and the other side to a Scottish Presbyterian minister who travelled here with his six children only to find, because his boat was delayed by the Boer War, the ministry he had been offered in Tasmania had been given in the meantime to someone else.
- 55 Dad was born in Bishmizzeen, a dusty, almost biblical village in the north of Lebanon. His parents emigrated to Australia at a time when government policy restricted Lebanese immigrants to work as hawkers. Despite that limitation, my grandfather worked hard to provide opportunities for his family. He initially worked at, and then bought, a wool grading business in Goulburn named McGuire Brothers, and then changed his surname to match that of the business. As I said in my last swearing-in, I am grateful, at least because of the amount of time saved spelling it out, that he did not change the name of the store to match his Lebanese surname which was, Mufarrij. Once again, for the court reporters that is spelt M-U-F-A-R-R-I-J.

- 56 In the years that followed, he opened McGuire Brothers stores in rural New South Wales and central Queensland. I am very conscious that the privileged upbringing my brothers and I enjoyed was built on the determination and sweat of our ancestors. As a reminder of that background, an advertisement for the McGuire Brothers store from the National Advocate, a Bathurst newspaper, dated 10 February 1898 hangs in my chambers. That advertisement describes various items on offer and, a little peculiarly, it also states our motto is “Live and Let Live.” As far as I have been able to determine, that motto is likely a reference to the fact that the McGuire Brother stores, unlike many others at the time, were accessible to people of all races, all religions and all backgrounds.
- 57 From those humble beginnings, my father became a surgeon and ultimately the head of surgery at the Royal Brisbane Hospital and my uncle became a barrister, and ultimately a judge of the District Court of Queensland and the first President of the Queensland Children’s Court. They both became heroes of mine. Each had a quiet confidence and a complete lack of self-entitlement.
- 58 Now to my brothers, John and Mark. Thank you both, and thank you to John’s wife, Jo, for travelling from Brisbane to be here today. Mark, I am sorry that your wife, Suzie, could not attend. I should add, I am pleasantly surprised that when hearing the earlier speakers refer to my calm judicial temperament, that my brothers did not both leap to their feet and object. I also want to thank my cousins, niece and nephew, for making the effort to be here today.
- 59 Some of our very good friends are also here today. Unfortunately some were unable to attend. I have been humbled and surprised at how genuinely excited each of you have been on hearing the news of this appointment. Thank you for your friendships and thank you for coming today. My oldest school friend, Brian Chu has flown from Brisbane to be here today, and our very good friend Jo Kidston, who is due to fly overseas within a matter of hours, have made a special effort to be here, thank you both.
- 60 On the topic of special efforts, Nicola’s mother, Sylvia Sadler has flown from England to be here. Unfortunately her father, Terry, could not attend but he and

Nicola's brother, Mark, are watching the livestream. Sylvia, thank you for making such a monumental effort to be here. I think it is fair to say that my children have been much more excited about seeing you than they were at the prospect of seeing me dressed as Santa. Sylvia and Terry have been extraordinary, loving and supportive parents in-law. I think it is fair to say that I chose my wife, and her parents, very wisely. Thank you both.

61 To our children, Gabe, Frank, Bea and Jack who are present today and Beau who sadly could not be present, I want to thank you for your love and for giving me and Nicola the special privilege of watching you each develop into such fine adults. I am immensely proud of each of you.

62 During my last swearing in speech, I apologised to my children for being the cause of IBS, which in our house stood for irritable barrister syndrome. Since my appointment to the District Court, they have each moved out of home, I suspect because I have inflicted the slightly rarer form of the condition, irritable bench syndrome. Your mother and I are very proud to see you spread your wings, leave the nest and express your independence. Although I should say, your moving out of home has genuinely been the cause of mixed emotions. On one hand, it has caused some sadness, yet on the other hand we are really quite overjoyed at having the house to ourselves. You are however welcome back at any time, particularly now that you have learned to clean up after yourselves. I also want to acknowledge Gabe's partner, Tom and Bea's partner, Finn. Thank you for coming. Frank, I'm sorry your partner, Anxia who is overseas at the moment could not attend.

63 Next I want to very briefly to tell you a few anecdotes about my less than successful appearances in this Court.

64 I had been at the bar for less than a week, when a senior barrister approached me with panic in his eyes and urgency in his voice. He was jammed and asked me to appear for him to receive a judgment in the Supreme Court at 2 o'clock. It was then 10 minutes to 2 o'clock. So, a little naively I went off to make my first appearance in the Supreme Court. At the end of delivering the judgment, the judge

called on me to make submissions on costs. I had no idea. I had no knowledge of the brief, no knowledge of past settlement offers and no instructing solicitor. Sensing my predicament, his Honour said, "Mr McGuire, if you choose to wear the robe, you must be in a position to assist the Court." Those words have resonated with me for the last 26 years. They turned out to be the best piece of practice development advice I could have ever hoped for. From that moment, I never again stepped into a courtroom unprepared, at least not knowingly so.

- 65 Which leads to my second story. The day after my elevation to senior counsel, I was to appear in the Court of Criminal Appeal. I was confident and well prepared. My opponent's submissions, I thought, were incoherent, disjointed and made no reference to any authorities with one notable exception; The Magna Carta. My written submissions, on the other hand, were coherent, persuasive and adorned with reference to authority, including some which had been decided more recently than 1215. I was confident that my first win as senior counsel was assured.
- 66 However, as I robed that morning my instructing solicitor rang and apologetically informed me that he had discovered that, as a result of some photocopying error, I have been briefed with only every other page of my opponent's submissions. I had not noticed the error because my opponent had not been bothered to use paragraph or page numbers. The missing pages, handed to me just as the judges came onto the bench, contained all of the coherence, persuasiveness and reference to authority which was previously absent. Unsurprisingly, I managed that day to grasp defeat from the jaws of victory.
- 67 I made my first appearance as a judge in this very courtroom on 30 April 2024 on the happy occasion of the ceremony to mark the appointment of her Honour Justice Sarah Huggett as the Chief Judge of the District Court. As the least senior member of the bench I was in last position; the last seat in the back row on your left, or at least I should have been in that seat. It seems that one of my more senior colleagues became confused by the obvious complexity of the seating arrangements and sat down leaving a spare chair to his left. Consequently, I remained chair-less and standing for a good part of the ceremony. Eventually a new chair was produced and I sat hoping that my embarrassment went unnoticed.

That hope was dashed when Justice Beech-Jones made a bee-line for me at the morning tea and said how disappointed he was that a chair had been found because he was hoping to see me standing in the naughty corner for the whole of the ceremony.

68 The moral, I think, of those stories is this: if you choose to wear the robe, at least in my court, although I expect you to do your best, I know from personal experience that we all have good days and we all have bad days. Perhaps my judicial motto, like the McGuire Brothers, should be “Live and Let Live”. Bear in mind however, everyone’s patience has its limits.

69 Lastly and most significantly, I want to thank my beautiful and amazing wife, Nicola. In my last swearing in speech, I made mention of Nicola’s intelligence and work history. A law degree with first class honours, a Master of Laws in human rights, a pedigree of working for some of the best law firms in the world including Linklaters and Allens, and an active interest in social justice and pro bono work are amongst some of her many achievements. What I have not told you Nicola is this. Since that speech a not insignificant number of people have approached me and said that the Attorney General had made a terrible mistake in that he appointed the wrong McGuire. Mr Attorney, please cover your ears. I agree. Nicola is tireless, intelligent, driven and passionate. Recently, she has turned her environmental interests into back breaking work as a bush regenerator. Nicola, I am humbled that you have allowed my career to progress at the expense of your own and I am more grateful than words can ever say.

70 Nicola who is as modest as she is accomplished told me that all was to be said about her at the last swearing in was that she is a housewife who spends her days moving vases from room to room. I have now bravely ignored that advice, not once, but twice. The truth is my wife is an extraordinary force of nature. Nicola without your support, encouragement and love, none of this would have been possible. It is not so much that I do not know where I would be without you it is more accurate to say, God only knows who I would be without you.

71 I am a very lucky man.

72 Chief Justice Bell and Mr Attorney, thank you for the trust that you have placed in me today. I will do my best to ensure that that trust was not misplaced. Thank you.

73 **BELL CJ:** Thank you Justice McGuire. The Court will now adjourn.