

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

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

**Tuesday 5 April 2016**

**SWEARING IN CEREMONY OF  
THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE NATALIE ADAMS  
AS A JUDGE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF NEW SOUTH WALES  
AND AS A JUDGE OF APPEAL**

- 1 **ADAMS J:** Chief Justice I have the honour to announce that I have been appointed a judge of this Court. I present to you my commission.

(Commission read)

(Oaths of office taken)

- 2 **BATHURST CJ:** Justice Adams, on behalf of all members of the Court, I welcome you to the Court and hope you have a lovely, enjoyable career.

- 3 **THE HONOURABLE GABRIELLE UPTON MP, ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW SOUTH WALES:** Your Honour, on behalf of the New South Wales Government and the New South Wales Bar, it is my great pleasure to congratulate you on your appointment to the Bench of the Supreme Court of New South Wales.

- 4 I also extend my congratulations to your family who are here today to share what must be an extraordinarily proud moment for them and for you - to your husband, Greg, to your son, Jack, your parents, Bill and Jackie

Adams, your sisters, Alison and Carolyn, and your parents-in-law, Ruby and Clyde West.

- 5 Your Honour has had a stellar legal career and it is with pleasure that I appear today to take part in your swearing-in as a judge of this Court. It is with great honour that I share with the Court some of your achievements that have brought you to this moment.
  
- 6 Your Honour was born in Narrandera, to Bill, a pharmacist, and to Jackie, a teacher and manager of the pharmacy. You attended St Joseph's Convent Primary School at Narrandera, St Francis de Sales Regional College at Leeton for Years 7 to 10, and came to Sydney for Years 11 and 12, attending Kincoppal Rose Bay, a school in my local electorate. You then enrolled at the University of Sydney where you undertook a combined Economics and Law degree, graduating with Honours in Law, and you were admitted as a solicitor in June 1989. During your junior years as a solicitor, you completed a Master of Laws at the University of New South Wales, specialising in criminal law.
  
- 7 Your Honour's first role was with the then Freehill Hollingdale & Page, and this was when our paths crossed, as it was my first role too. Unlike my stint in banking and finance, you practised in commercial litigation, including assisting in the representation of a medical practitioner in the Chelmsford Royal Commission, a Commission set up to investigate mental health services in New South Wales. Like me, you then took another path and in your case, with the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, where you initially conducted a District Court trial practice. You went on to spend six years with the DPP and you were subsequently promoted to a solicitor in the Court of Criminal Appeal Unit. You also conducted a Supreme Court practice that involved instructing in high profile murder trials. Your Honour was then invited to take up the position of professional assistant in the Director's chambers, writing legal advice for the Director of Public Prosecutions until mid-1996 when your Honour decided to jump the fence and work with the then Legal Aid Commission of New South Wales.

You were the duty solicitor at the Hurstville office and then worked in the indictable section at the Parramatta office.

- 8 After your experience in criminal defence, your Honour moved to the Crown Solicitor's Office in 1997, as a senior solicitor in the criminal law team, where you conducted extensive coronial work, including as a solicitor assisting the Coroner in the famous inquest into the death of John Newman MP. During your time with the Crown Solicitor, you represented the Attorney General in several guideline judgments, appeared in numerous prosecutions for a range of government departments and professional boards, and prosecuted a variety of contempt of court matters. After this extensive experience as a criminal lawyer, you received your calling to the Bar.
  
- 9 As a new junior barrister you took up residence in Maurice Byers Chambers in 2001, where you remained for a year before being appointed as a Crown Prosecutor in 2002 and read with Neil Williams SC, and the now his Honour Judge Paul Lakatos SC. As a young barrister, you practised prominently administrative law, conducting prosecutions for various government departments and receiving regular briefs from the Crown Solicitor's Office. During this time, you also undertook extensive work as a junior for the Crown Advocate. Your Honour also went on to appear in a broad range of trials and in appellate work in the Court of Criminal Appeal, providing you with an in-depth knowledge of criminal trial proceedings, both in the first instance and on appeal, which no doubt will also serve you well as a new judge of this Court.
  
- 10 In 2011, you were appointed Crown Advocate and in 2012, your Honour took silk. As Crown Advocate, your appearances included briefs to appear in the High Court of Australia. Your Honour's appearance in *Lee*, a matter involving the use of Crime Commission evidence in 2014, is a case of particular note in that regard. During your time as a Crown Advocate, you have on at least six occasions been appointed as a deputy to act for the

Solicitor General, including very recently, for the two weeks until your last day, in fact.

- 11 Your passion for the law is demonstrated by your many extracurricular activities, such as your position as a patron of the University of Wollongong's Master of Prosecution course, which I believe, is the only post-graduate course in prosecution law in Australia. You have also been a guest lecturer in that course since 2010, and have lectured in evidence at the University of Technology Sydney. As well as your lecturing appointments, you have frequently been invited to present papers at national and international conferences on the law, like the 2015 Public Defenders Conference, about, in your Honour's own words, "the somewhat niche area of criminal appeals from the Local Court to the Supreme Court". Aside from lecturing and presenting, you are also extremely committed to mentoring, both within the legal profession and in the wider community. For example, since 2005, you have been involved in the Women's Mentoring Programs at Sydney University, and for many years, you were a volunteer mentor with the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program, a program that helps young people who face serious adversity develop supportive relationships. Indeed, the Sydney Morning Herald's Good Weekend magazine featured you and your little sister in its Two of Us column some years ago.
- 12 Given your devotion to the law, both in practice and broadly, your time given to volunteer in various programs and the fact you have been a great support to junior practitioners, particularly by way of mentoring, it is no surprise that your Honour's colleagues in the profession speak highly of you. Indeed, it has been said that the informal mentoring you have provided to many young women, has directly led them to remaining in the law. It is because of your passion to mentor young practitioners that many regard you as a leader at the Bar. Indeed, a Deputy Senior Public Defender described your Honour as:

“The most competent of lawyers, able to construct an argument based on wide-ranging research and a deep understanding of the fundamental principles, a confident and persuasive advocate. She is a true leader at the Bar and the very embodiment of a Senior Counsel.”

- 13 It has also been shared with me that the Crown Solicitor’s Office and your Honour’s colleagues at the Bar will greatly miss the on-tap knowledge of the Crown Advocate which has been poured out for young solicitors and for seasoned barristers alike, on basic questions of evidence, on tricky legal questions, and for all manner of matters in between. There may be more than a little truth in an aside from a colleague who said:

“We were fast approaching the position where every case involving the State, heard anywhere in New South Wales, had received the assistance and wisdom of the Crown Advocate at some time or another in its preparation.”

- 14 Just as your Honour’s commitment to the law is well-known, your commitment to pursuits outside the law is also well-known. I understand that one of these is in the culinary sphere. You are a brilliant cook, a lover of fine food and a seasoned entertainer. One of your Honour’s colleagues shared with me the story of your MasterChef-like quest to make a more authentic moussaka, and I will relay this tale now for the Court. In an effort to make your moussaka more authentic, your Honour accompanied Chrissa Loukas SC, Public Defender, who is here with us today, to her mother Aphrodite’s house to observe that process. Unbeknown to your Honour, Ms Loukas had told her mother that the reason she did not cook, was because she was a barrister - the two activities being obviously mutually exclusive. Unfortunately for Senior Counsel, your Honour demonstrated impressive cooking skills and Aphrodite was impressed with your Honour and less than impressed with those lacking in her daughter. The authenticity of your Honour’s moussaka notwithstanding, I understand your dreams of being quite the gourmand were dashed with the arrival of you son, Jack, with the rather simple palate, some 11 years ago, and I am advised your aspiration to feed your new arrival tasty morsels was not

shared by that young fellow and that your challenge of extending Master Jack's palate beyond the humble sausage continues.

- 15 Your Honour's interest in creative pursuits extends also to the world of the silver and small screens. Your Honour can be relied upon to know everything there is to know about films, new and old, and similarly your Honour is an expert and an early adopter when it comes to television series. At a time when many of your Honour's friends were wondering what an HBO was - it stands for Home Box Office of course - your Honour was deeply in the clutches of *The Wire*, *The West Wing*, *Game of Thrones*, *Girls*, and *Mad Men*. To some who think that those who occupy the Supreme Court Bench are out of touch, they will be pleasantly surprised of course, upon your Honour's arrival and popular cultural references thrown in the direction of your Honour, of course will be met with a knowing look.
- 16 Of all of your Honour's interests outside the law, I understand that the time you spend with your family and your friends is of the utmost importance to you. Your genuine connection with friends and with family is described by those who know you as your greatest passion. Whether it be as a baker for Jack's school cake stalls or as a barracker for the Bunnies, the South Sydney Rabbitohs, or as the quick-witted friend who is, as everybody says, delightful company to have. Your Honour shows a generosity of spirit, that is the hallmark of your character.
- 17 Your Honour, the genuine warmth with which you are regarded by your colleagues, friends and families, confirms the appropriateness of your Honour's appointment to the Supreme Court of New South Wales. Your Honour will be a true asset to this Court. I sincerely and warmly congratulate you on your appointment. May it please the Court.
- 18 **MR G ULMAN PRESIDENT LAW SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES:**  
Your Honour, it gives me great pleasure to appear this morning and to convey to you the congratulations and well wishes of the solicitors of New South Wales upon your appointment to this Court. As we have

heard, your Honour grew up in the heart of the Riverina at Narrandera, with sisters Alison and Carolyn, and your parents, Jackie and Bill, who are still very involved in the Narrandera's community life. We have heard from the Attorney General about your education leading up to your graduation from university in 1989 and completing your Masters degree at the University of New South Wales in 1994. Following your admission, your Honour spent a year, as we have heard, in the commercial litigation section of Freehill Hollingdale & Page, as that firm then was known before joining the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions in 1990. Your Honour spent four years at the Crown Solicitor's Office where you were involved in a number of high profile matters. Your Honour joined Maurice Byers Chambers in 2001 for a year, before becoming Crown Prosecutor in 2002 and Crown Advocate in 2011. During your time as Crown Prosecutor and Crown Advocate, your Honour worked on a broad range of jury trials and appellate work in this Court, the Court of Criminal Appeal, and the Court of Appeal.

- 19 Your colleagues have paid tribute to your Honour's intellect and point to your remarkable capacity, both to quickly synthesise information and to absorb vast numbers of facts. They have also described your Honour as an excellent advocate who was meticulous in preparation. You left no stone unturned in considering the complexities of the case at hand and you had a knack for finding the relevant documents or the relevant excerpt of a transcript at a moment's notice in court. Colleagues have remarked that whether or not you felt that way at the time, you always appeared completely at ease on your feet and had a ready response for a quirky question that might be thrown your way. In the courtroom, I am told your Honour knew when to hold and when to fold, employing a measured approach honed by being extremely adept at reading signals from the Bench.
- 20 The positivity, energy and infectious enthusiasm your Honour has had for tackling legal issues has been described by one colleague as one of the most memorable aspects of working with you on a case. Another quality

many have commented on is that of your Honour's down to earth approach. One informant in particular remarked that when she first attended the office where she would be working under your supervision, she was struggling under the load of a large bundle of documents and other items. Upon answering the door, your Honour immediately swept the lot out of her arms. It is those simple acts of kindness that leave a lasting impression. It appears that feeding your instructing solicitor can also leave a lasting impression. While working on the *Hawi* trial, your Honour was known to venture out of the office to buy your solicitor lunch. This small act of thoughtfulness does not only explain the power of your popularity amongst hungry solicitors but provides an insight into your genuine and caring nature.

- 21 Another such insight can be gleaned from when you were solicitor back in 1997. As we have heard, your Honour took part in the Young Women's Christian Association's Big Sister Program, which saw mentors spend time with at risk children, once a week for at least a year. Of course, your Honour went above and beyond what was required, taking your role right through to 2003 and mentoring a young indigenous girl throughout her childhood and young teens. In an interview in 1999, your little sister Kalika said that the role you have played in her life, had convinced her that she will grow up to become a lawyer just like you. Informally, your Honour has mentored successive cohorts of young female barristers and solicitors, many of whom have chosen, as we have heard, to remain the law because of your encouragement.
- 22 I am told that your Honour's family is enormously important to you. Your husband, Greg West, is a successful lawyer in his own right, who recently retired from Legal Aid, and your son, Jack has served as an SRC representative at his primary school. Your parents, Jackie and Bill, and your parents-in-law, Clyde and Ruby West, have all been immensely supportive of your career, that support being on show today with their attendance here in court. I am sure that they feel immensely proud of your achievements so far but never more so than today.



- 23 Despite the challenges and demands of a career in the law, your Honour has always been committed to being there for school events and you are very involved, not only with your active circle of friends, but also with your fellow parents at Jack's school. Notwithstanding the pressure of court commitments, your Honour manages to arrange everything so that you can spend school holidays travelling with those closest to you - recently around Australia on a grand road trip.
- 24 I am told that your Honour is particularly famous for two of your personal possessions - your phone and your watch. Your phone because it is always running hot with the urgent attempts of many people who have burning legal questions to put to you, and your watch because it is one of the most dutifully obeyed Apple watches ever to have flown off the Apple shelves. Indeed, I hear that no matter who is present, your Honour will spring up from a conference where you are addressing some tricky legal issues, to do a few laps of a conference because you have received an alert on that high tech timepiece. Apart from what I have been told are a few bewildered looks, your Honour's multi-tasking nature allows for the conversation to continue even as you circumnavigate your companions.
- 25 Perhaps reminiscent of the times when your father used to come up to the city from Narrandera, and take you to the cinema, your Honour is a real film history buff, seemingly aware of the winner of every obscure Oscar category, your Honour's red carpet style Oscar's viewing parties, are the stuff of legend. With a finger very much on the pulse of the law as well as film and television, I am told you can strike up a conversation on anything from orders a lawyer would seek in a summons for judicial review of a Local Court decision to the latest episode of the Real Housewives of Melbourne. In your spare time, your Honour, as we have heard, practises a strident devotion to the South Sydney Rabbitohs and your love of hosting friends at home for a meal - I am told that your Honour is a fantastic cook.

- 26 As a judge, your friends and colleagues predict that your Honour will be approachable in the tradition of judicial courtesy to which you like to refer, and in the spirit of ethic you brought to the Bar. It is those qualities that will I am sure, see your Honour give your absolute best to the task of judicial office and remain impeccably fair. Your Honour will also bring to the Court those attributes which marked you out at the Bar - your high intelligence, great knowledge of a vast range of legal topics and above all, your incisive and analytical mind. Your Honour's expertise, deep understanding and the high regard with which you are held among your colleagues, make your appointment richly deserved.
- 27 Your Honour, on behalf of the solicitors of this State, I have no hesitation in saying that you will be a tremendous asset to the Supreme Court and I wish you the very best for what I am sure will be a long and very distinguished career on the Bench. As the Court pleases.
- 28 **ADAMS J:** Chief Justice, fellow judges, honoured guests, friends and family. I would like to acknowledge and pay respect to the Gadigal people of the Eora nation as the traditional owners of the land on which we are all gathered today.
- 29 Thank you Madam Attorney and Mr Ulman for your extremely generous and overly kind words. There are many embarrassing stories about me you could have tapped into and I applaud your restraint in that regard. I am grateful to the Attorney General and Mr Ulman for mentioning my role as the Crown Advocate. It is a position that few people understand and which is, in my view, the best job for a criminal lawyer in New South Wales. I have spent the past four and a half years sharing chambers with the Solicitor General, Michael Sexton, and I thank him for his camaraderie during that time.
- 30 The first time I was ever in this courtroom was in June 1989, when I was admitted as a solicitor. As a young solicitor, I subsequently went on to move a number of admissions in this Court and in doing so, I had the

opportunity of hearing Chief Justice Spigelman give the same speech to the newly admitted practitioners on multiple occasions. No matter how many times I heard that speech, there was one passage which never failed to give me goose bumps, and it went like this:

“We Australians like to think of this as a young country. Indeed, the second line of our national anthem is that we are young and free but when it comes to basic mechanisms of government, the rule of law and parliamentary democracy, this is an old country. The number of nations that have courts as old as the Supreme Court of New South Wales, can be counted on the fingers of one hand.”

31 I know most of you would have heard this passage before but there are no words that better encapsulate how honoured and humbled I feel, sitting here today as a member of this Court. I also like to think it shows I can follow precedent. I am so very honoured to have been invited to join this Court. I promise to always strive to achieve the high standard for which it is recognised. I have been overwhelmed by the support of friends and colleagues in recent weeks and I thank you all for attending here today. I would also like to thank the members of this Court who have been so welcoming.

32 I would like to share two other memories I have of this magnificent courtroom. From 1991 to 1993, I was a solicitor in the CCA section of the office of the DPP. At that time, the CCA sat exclusively in this Court, so I was here on a regular basis. It was during that time that I first witnessed the high standard of appellate criminal advocacy in this State, including defence counsel such as Tim Game and the late Paul Byrne. In particular, I remember the then Senior Public Defender. His dealings with me as a junior solicitor were always warm and supportive and his court appearances were always of the highest standard. I am speaking of course of Peter Hidden QC. I wish to express how profoundly moved I am to be filling the vacancy left by the retirement of Peter Hidden, a lawyer I have admired for so long.

33 My second recollection of this Court is not so moving. During that same period, I was asked one day to attend this courtroom and receive judgment in the matter of *Astill*. There was a DPP policy at that time that if a conviction appeal was successful, we were to request that the matter be listed for a bail determination as soon as possible. Needless to say, the prospect of getting up in this Court before the CCA as a young solicitor taking judgment and asking for a bail listing, was not one I relished so I secretly hoped the appeal would be dismissed. The Bench came on with Chief Justice Gleeson presiding. The orders were read out and I heard those dreaded words, "The appeal against conviction is upheld". I could not believe it. His Honour went on to say some other words but I was no longer listening. I was steeling myself to have to stand up and ask that the matter be listed for a bail hearing. Chief Justice Gleeson stopped talking. I rose to my feet and to the obvious surprise of his Honour and the other two judges, I asked that the matter be listed for a bail hearing. There was stunned silence. Slowly, a smile appeared over the Chief Justice's face and he leaned down to me and said, "I don't think you understand, Ms Adams - Mr Astill has had a very big win here today." I replied with even less confidence than when I first stood up, if that is indeed possible, that I knew that, which was why I was asking that the matter be listed for a bail hearing. I looked over and saw the then CCA Registrar, Peter Schell, looking aghast and shaking his head furiously at me, so I dejectedly gave up. It was only after I was handed a copy of the judgment by Mr Schell that I realised the words I had not listened to, were to the effect that the Court did not propose to order a new trial and instead, had entered a judgment of acquittal. Yes, I had sought a bail hearing for a man facing no criminal charges. I learned a lesson that day about always listening to everything judges have to say.

34 As has become customary, I now would like to acknowledge some of the people who have supported me over the years and helped me take up this position. In doing so, I will try not to sound like I am giving an Academy Award acceptance speech. The first people I wish to acknowledge are my parents, Bill and Jackie Adams, who are both here today. My parents both

worked full time when I was growing up in Narrandera and from an early age, I spent the school holidays working in Adams Pharmacy with mum and dad, and learning good customer service. I hope those skills do not fail me now. My parents instilled in me the virtue of hard work and the vital importance of a good education. Both of my parents attended Sydney University and encouraged me from an early age to do the same. In addition, my mum instilled in me the importance of being an excellent host and my dad instilled in me a love of film. I am grateful for the opportunity to be able to publicly acknowledge my parents at this time, as well as my sisters, Alison and Carolyn, with whom I am very close.

35 Although there are no barristers in my family history, there is a history of public service. In 1915, British Secretary for War, Field Marshal Lord Kitchener, sent out an urgent plea to Australia for 100 doctors to come to Europe to enlist. A large number of doctors volunteered and one of them was my grandfather, Charles Goldsborough Adams. He was stationed in a number of military hospitals in the Middle East during World War I. When he was stationed in Cairo, he met my grandmother, Bessie Grace Crago, who was an army nurse stationed there. During that time, he bought her an Egyptian coin necklace and I am wearing that necklace today as a reminder that no matter what hurdles lie ahead, they cannot compare with the pressures my grandparents endured in military hospitals during World War I.

36 During my school years, I was taught by nuns in Narrandera, Leeton and Sydney. Nothing quite compares with being educated by nuns in the 1970s for a strict no nonsense approach to study and discipline. The authority of nuns in my life did not finish at school but extended to my early university days. In 1984, I commenced study at the University of Sydney, and as a country student, resided on campus at Sancta Sophia College. It was whilst residing at Sancta that I made some of the most enduring friendships of my life and I am glad to see so many of those women here today. I am also delighted that Sister Mary Shanahan, who was the Principal of Sancta at that time, can be here today. Shan (as she now

permits us to call her) was also the Deputy Principal when my mother was at Sancta, from 1958 to 1961. She was, and remains, an inspiration to us all. I should add that I am now the second woman from my year at Sancta to be appointed as a judge, following the steps of my friend, Justice Jacqueline Gleeson of the Federal Court.

37 As you have heard, I have spent most of my career working as a public servant or statutory appointee. Throughout that time, I have worked with an exceptional group of hardworking lawyers who embody the meaning of the phrase, “public service”. As a solicitor working for both the DPP and Legal Aid, I saw the challenges faced by criminal lawyers at the coalface and the dedication brought to their work by lawyers earning far less remuneration than they would in private practice, or indeed, if they had chosen another area of the law in which to specialise. Similarly, at the Crown Solicitor’s Office, I worked with government lawyers who thought nothing of burning the midnight oil in order to achieve the best results for their clients. The media is not always kind to government criminal lawyers, for reasons not immediately apparent to me. If those in the media could see what I have seen over the years, they perhaps would be more understanding of the hurdles they face, and appreciative of the excellent work they do.

38 As Mr Ulman has noted, I spent nearly 12 years as a solicitor before coming to the Bar. As with many criminal law practitioners, I was given such interesting work as a solicitor that it was a difficult decision to move to the Bar. That transition was made easier for me by the support of many people but in particular, there are four men I now wish to acknowledge. The first of these is Ian Linwood who was the Assistant Crown Solicitor in charge of the criminal law team at that time. The second is Terry Buddin SC, later a judge of this Court, who was the Crown Advocate at the time I was deciding whether or not to go to the Bar. The third is Richard Cogswell SC, now the President of the Mental Health Review Tribunal via the District Court, who replaced Terry Buddin as Crown Advocate, and the fourth is Neil Williams SC who was one of my tutors and who took silk

during my readership with him. All of these four men provided both moral and practical support at that time, and in the years to follow, and I thank them for that.

- 39 Across all aspects of my professional life, I have been fortunate to have encountered some extraordinary women. These women have included other barristers in my Bar course, my colleagues in Maurice Byers Chambers, my colleagues in Crown Prosecutors' Chambers, solicitors at the Crown Solicitor's Office, my junior counsel, Public Defenders and defence counsel. Many of these women have become close friends and fellow "law nerds", whose idea of a relaxing catch-up involves an in-depth discussion of recent High Court authority over a glass of wine. When giving a speech of this nature, one is constantly cautioned not to mention specific names - a rule I seem to have already broken - but in the interests of symmetry and cognisant of the risks, I acknowledge just four of those women now.
- 40 The first is Dr Julia Quilter, formerly of the Crown Solicitor's Office and now an academic. The second is Crown Prosecutor Helen Roberts who was my junior in a six month criminal trial which was the last I conducted as a Crown Prosecutor. The third and fourth are Joanna Davidson and Belinda Baker, who have each regularly appeared as my junior since late 2011. I am grateful for the support I have received from all of these women, both personally and professionally.
- 41 One of the factors that gave me pause when taking up this appointment, was the sad realisation that I will no longer be working with juniors of the calibre I have, who are not only brilliant lawyers but also excellent company. My juniors have helped me look far better than I should have in court, on a regular basis. Now before I break into a bad version of Bette Midler's, "You are the Wind Beneath My Wings", I will stop this wistful reminiscing about my juniors. I should note that unlike my predecessor, Peter Hidden, I do not have a nice singing voice. I should further note that whereas I would like to be able to say that the reason I know Peter Hidden

has a nice singing voice is because of my regular attendances to hear the Bar choir sing, it is actually because I heard him singing karaoke at the Public Defenders Christmas party at the Shark Bar about 15 years ago.

42 Turning finally to the two most important people in my life, my husband Greg, and my son Jack. The story of how Greg and I met is well-known among our friends. We were introduced by two then Legal Aid solicitors who considered themselves matchmakers. Let's just say that gross misrepresentations were made on each side. I was told Greg was a film buff - he is not. Worse still, he was told I was the outdoors type - I am not. In fact, I now would like to take this opportunity to proclaim that the song by The Lemonheads entitled, "I Lied About Being the Outdoor Type", was not written about me. Although I can understand how people make the mistake, given one of the lyrics is, "I can't go away with you on a rock climbing weekend, what if something's on TV and it's never shown again". I would like to thank Greg for always being there for me, for putting up with my overthinking, my loudness, my desire to talk about law on a Saturday night dinner date, my love of popular culture, my low tolerance for the great outdoors, but most importantly, the hours I have spent with him when I was clearly pre-occupied with trying to work out some legal question or another. In the face of all of this, he has remained calm, loving, good natured and supportive. Quite frankly, I am sure I would not be sitting here today without the support he has given me. Greg, this honour is one I share with you.

43 Jack, I thank you for introducing me to the joys of the NRL and being a South Sydney Rabbitohs supporter. I can assure you that nobody is more surprised by that development than I am. Thank you also for sharing my love of film and television, and for your excellent sense of humour, which you clearly got from me.

44 Thank you Chief Justice.

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