

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

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

**Tuesday 29 April 2104**

**SWEARING IN CEREMONY OF  
THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE PETER HAMILL  
AS A JUDGE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF NEW SOUTH WALES**

- 1 **HAMILL 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 Hamill, on behalf of all members of the Bench, can I welcome you. We are delighted you have been able to join us and we wish you a long and fulfilling career on the Bench.

- 3 **MR P BOULTEN SC PRESIDENT NEW SOUTH WALES BAR ASSOCIATION:** May it please the Court. On behalf of the barristers of New South Wales, I welcome the appointment of the Honourable Justice Peter Hamill. I am particularly proud and honoured to be able to deliver these words of welcome to a very good and trusted friend and colleague. Congratulations on your appointment. Congratulations also to the government for appointing you. The Attorney General's decision to recommend you to Cabinet was a courageous decision - some might say very courageous. Throughout your career you have been a courageous

advocate. You will be a courageous judge, fiercely independent and alive to true justice.

- 4 The Supreme Court has gained a prominent senior counsel, with more than a quarter of a century's experience at the criminal Bar and a lifetime of connection to the real world. You originally hail from the Shire - not from Cronulla - and no matter what elevated position you hold, there will always be a Jannali boy in there somewhere.
- 5 Justice Hamill, your surname is an English rendition of a venerable Irish name, O'hAdhmaill. The O'hAdhmaills were descendants of Niall of the Nine Hostages. He was a ruthless king who ruled Ireland from 379 to 405 AD. The O'hAdhmaills were poets, who occasionally slipped into warlike activities.
- 6 This information is significant. It might account for your Honour's feisty advocacy and deep sympathy for vulnerable people; not to mention your appreciation for James Joyce and your devotion to the almost perennial underdogs, The Boston Red Sox. It does less to explain your Honour's irrational love of Collingwood.
- 7 Your Honour's legal career began in 1981 as a clerk in the Court of Petty Sessions, something which you have in common with a significant number of excellent members of the Bar, both past and present, and a number of judicial officers.
- 8 You worked in the Petty Sessions in many locations, from Redfern to Armidale, at what was then called 302 Castlereagh Street, or to the cognoscente 302, and ultimately at the Glebe Coroner's Court. You showed no aptitude as a depositions clerk, completely butchering the only set of depositions you were ever asked to type. You must have realised that your career in Petty Sessions would be limited.

- 9 Studying part-time, you completed the Barristers' Admissions Board exams in September 1986 and were admitted as a solicitor in December 1987. After a short stint working for a small firm of solicitors at Manly, you had the great honour of serving as associate to the Honourable Justice Mary Gaudron of the High Court. It is pleasing to all of us assembled here, as it is no doubt to you, that Mary Gaudron is here today paying your Honour a great courtesy on this important day.
- 10 Your Honour began practising at the Bar in February 1989. Initially, you found a room in Frederick Jordan Chambers and you read with James Allsop and Michael King. Chief Justice Allsop is disappointed that he could not attend today and he sends his best regards to you. Barely two months into your time at the Bar, you were led in the High Court by Tim Game in the matters of *Hoare v the Queen* and *Austin v the Queen*, two cases that were vestiges of Game's South Australian practice.
- 11 Later that same year, your Honour joined the very select group of extremely talented barristers in becoming a founding member of the reformed Forbes Chambers. You practised there ever since. The decision to join Forbes Chambers, although very obviously a sound one in retrospect, was controversial amongst our colleagues at the time. We were the first group to establish a specialised criminal set of chambers and, more revolutionary still, we set up in a legal no-man's zone in Elizabeth Street, south of King Street.
- 12 You built up a solid practice in criminal law, some civil cases and appellate cases. As noted in the Attorney General's announcement of your appointment, your Honour has appeared in more than 150 criminal appeals.
- 13 Your early years of practice were marked by your appearances in many and varied jury trials. You became one of the Western Aboriginal Legal Service's counsel of choice. Your first trial was in Cobar. You regularly appeared in Dubbo, Bourke and Broken Hill. You would appear in six trials

in a sitting, often instructed by Eric Wilson, who meticulously kept track of each appearance for the WALs office statistics.

- 14 I know that you are particularly proud of your appearances in the trials of the men accused of the riots in Bourke and Brewarrina. The Brewarrina trial was a particularly momentous forensic battle that concerned the events following Lloyd Boney's funeral. These civil disturbances in far western New South Wales highlighted significant stressors in race relations in remote communities. You were a young and keen defence barrister. The late John Terry led the charge in both that trial and in the subsequent trial concerning the riot at the Post Office Hotel in Bourke.
- 15 Another satisfying case for your Honour was recently appearing in this Court, instructed by the Aboriginal Legal Service in *Gaudie v The Local Court of New South Wales*, in which you sought, and obtained for the plaintiff, an order precluding a magistrate from hearing a matter in western New South Wales due to apprehended bias.
- 16 Your practice was never limited to trials. You have always been a good criminal all-rounder, as comfortable in the Local Court as you were in the Court of Criminal Appeal. You also made a number of forays into the High Court, where the comfort factor diminished but your Honour's courage did not.
- 17 Your Honour was led a number of times in the High Court by our good and dear friend, Paul Byrne. The two of you appeared together in *Grey v the Queen*, *Lavender v the Queen* and in *MFA*. In many respects you drew on Paul's forensic style, the good humoured but fearless approach to judges, the rigour and the versatility of your advocacy. You also shared some of his personal style, the love of good wine, expensive cars and travel to exotic locations. Like Paul Byrne too, you are man with savoir faire, at home in any company, a fashionable dresser, an art lover, a concert goer. As one eminent female High Court judge once commented, "You are the thinking woman's crumpet". Yet the same judge shepherded a young

woman towards you, to guide her in the early stages of her legal career, with the words, “I know I can trust her with you”.

- 18 Last year you appeared in the High Court in the *Reeves* case representing the so-called “butcher of Bega”. Your Honour was not entirely successful in that case and when asked by your junior, “Where does one turn to when you lose in the High Court,” you answered sagely, “We will appeal to the wine makers of Bordeaux”.
- 19 Your Honour took silk in 2004 and since then you have served on the Bar Association’s Professional Conduct Committees and on one occasion carried out the Herculean and thankless task of membership of the Silk Selection Committee. You spent a regrettably short term on the Bar Council.
- 20 In recent years your Honour has appeared as counsel for parties involved in a number of very high profile inquests and commissions of inquiry. Notably, you were counsel for the family of Roberto Curti, counsel for Keli Lane at the 2006 inquest into the disappearance of her daughter, and counsel for the New South Wales Police Force at the inquiry into the conviction of Phuong Ngo.
- 21 In the Curti inquest that involved questions of police propriety in the death of a young man who was repeatedly tasered, your Honour succinctly encapsulated the issues to be considered in a quote from Joseph Heller’s *Catch 22* - “‘Help! Police!’ the man cried, and he could have been shouting of danger”.
- 22 Justice Hamill, your instructing solicitors often found their cases with you to be very intense - usually intensely enjoyable. You were always alarmingly direct with witnesses and opponents and judges. No-one was ever left wondering what you were thinking.

- 23 One delicious exchange with a judge was the occasion you appeared for a doctor who pleaded guilty to manslaughter and supplying drugs after two escorts died after overdosing on cocaine in marathon sex and drug sessions in the doctor's exclusive Elizabeth Bay flat. When the judge said that he anticipated that you would argue that the doctor's sharing of cocaine with one of the women would be something of a *folie à deux*, your Honour paused, looked aghast and replied, "I'm sorry, your Honour, but you seem to have lapsed into a foreign language."
- 24 In retrospect your career has been leading you inexorably towards this moment. We should have picked up how imminent your appointment was when you embarked on your new regime of punishing early morning torture sessions with your personal trainer and when you curtailed your legendary Chinese lunches. You are, if nothing else, fit for the job, or at least you were until you mishandled your bicycle and broke your shoulder in an act of derring-do unfit for judicial office.
- 25 Chinese lunches are not the only practice you will have to forego. You are going to have to stop betting on the football with barristers. It will be a bad look for former colleagues to be seen passing you money in dark corners of coffee shops.
- 26 Justice Hamill, you bring to the Bench compassion, integrity, industriousness and vast experience in criminal cases of all types. You have learnt much during your life as a barrister, including the ability to learn from experience. To quote from Ulysses, "A man of genius makes no mistakes. His errors are volitional and are the portals of discovery."
- 27 We are all proud of you, as are Anne and Jack. The New South Wales Bar is convinced that you are thoroughly well equipped for the challenges that lie ahead. Well done. If the Court pleases.
- 28 **Ms ROS EVERETT PRESIDENT LAW SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES:** May it please the Court. In the world according to Horace

Rumpole, the Old Bailey hack created by John Mortimer, “If you are no good at the Bar, they make you a blooming circus judge.” He got that wrong. Nonetheless his eccentric and irreverent performances in the courtroom won him many fans and indeed inspired some impressionable young minds into contemplating a future in criminal law.

- 29 Happily one such impressionable young mind chose such a life. On behalf of the Law Society of New South Wales and the 27,000 solicitors of this State, it is a pleasure and a privilege to welcome your Honour to the Bench.
- 30 Your Honour was born in 1962, the youngest of three siblings to your late parents, Jack and Joyce Hamill. With sisters Barbara and Rosemary, your Honour grew up in Jannali, a suburb of God’s own country, although it seems your Honour determined from an early age that the Sutherland Shire would not be your forever home.
- 31 Your Honour attended Jannali East Primary School and completed your secondary education at Jannali Boys High School. You were a keen sportsman, from representative swimming to captaining the Sutherland Shire basketball team. In your final year your Honour was elected school captain. Your skills as a debater were also noted and a teacher remarked that your style was eminently suitable for a career at the Bar.
- 32 At around this time the pilot teleplay “Rumpole and the Confession of Guilt” was first aired and you became an avid fan of the TV series and books, which further fuelled your Honour’s passion for the law and the desire to become a criminal law barrister.
- 33 As earlier noted, your Honour gained your practice certificate by the Solicitors Admission Board while working as a clerk in the Court of Petty Sessions, as it was then known. You still managed to find time to join the Petty Sessions and Justice Cricket Club, where you proved to be a

premiership winning player and a good all-rounder, although as a batsman you exhibited an eye for the deep mid-wicket.

- 34 Your Honour's long association with Forbes Chambers has enabled you to amass a collection of immense proportions pertaining to the Boston Red Sox basketball team, Collingwood AFL team, Aboriginal artworks and early editions of the much coveted James Joyce books, including multiple copies of Ulysses.
- 35 Despite a reliable source divulging that your Honour attended a 50th birthday celebration dressed as one of the Martello Towers, near Dublin where Joyce set the opening scene of Ulysses, it is difficult to envisage that outfit, although an undeniably unique creation. No doubt much of your Honour's Chambers collection has found its way to Phillip Street.
- 36 I am not sure whether your partner for 20 years, Anne, shares your enthusiasm for AFL, but certainly you have imbued young Jack with the love of the sport and passion for Collingwood football team. Give him a few years and he will be asking dad for driving lessons in the black Mercedes, emblazoned with the red numberplates "Red Sox". Such a vehicle will be another colourful addition to the Supreme Court car park. Words like "tragic", "passionate", "champion of the underdog" have been bandied around by some unkind souls in relation to your Honour's support for the Boston Red Sox, who have endured a rather chequered past. However, I do note that Collingwood is doing rather well this year.
- 37 Solicitors who have briefed your Honour over the years have remarked on your keen intellect and knowledge of the law, your thorough preparation of cases, and your tremendous capacity as both a trial lawyer and an appellate lawyer.
- 38 As has been reported, your Honour has been senior counsel for many very high profile cases, as well as appearing in numerous criminal appeals, coronial inquests and inquiries. The Court should be mindful, however,



that your Honour is prone to displaying an unseemly jubilation in the heat of the moment. On one such occasion your Honour was keen to bring an issue to the attention of your opponent with a dramatic flourish. You launched the papers across the Bar table, managing to fell the poor instructing solicitor when the missile whacked his head.

39 In the words of the esteemed Horace Rumpole, “Even Judges are human. Not many people know that.” You are a fine example of a senior member of the Bar who has been appointed to this honourable Court. As the Court pleases.

40 **HAMILL J:** Thank you, Chief Justice, for your warm welcome this morning and over the last month.

41 I acknowledge the traditional owners of the land in and around Sydney, the Eora people, comprised of the Gadigal, Wanegal and Cammeraygal clans.

42 I extend my thanks to Mr Boulten and to Ms Everett for their generous words. A good deal of what they said was true. I do not want to start my judicial career by correcting an advocate, but the Boston Red Sox play the sport of baseball. I also sincerely thank each and every one of you for being here today and for the flood of goodwill that I have enjoyed over the last couple of weeks. It has been quite overwhelming.

43 I would like to acknowledge two people who are not here, other than in spirit and heredity. Both have, in the parlance of our times, passed. My parents gave my sisters and I a loving and nurturing upbringing. Above all others, they are the reason that I sit here now in this privileged, bizarre and frankly somewhat uncomfortable position. My mother gave me a strong sense of justice and fair play. My father gave me a sense of humour and egalitarianism and an ability to say pretty much anything out loud. That quality served me well as a barrister. I shall try to suppress it as a judge.

- 44 I resolved to keep to a minimum the people, mentors and others that I mention by name in this speech. There are so many that I fear I would miss important people and these omissions may cause rancour or hurt. However, there is one person who has inspired me and guided me, albeit intermittently, over almost 30 years. That person is the former Justice of the High Court, Mary Gaudron. I am honoured beyond words by her presence here today.
- 45 Mary is the cleverest person I know. She is the most caring and compassionate person that I know. She is the cheeriest and cheekiest adult person that I know, and she is amongst the funniest people that I know. She is also a person in relation to whom sharing anecdotes, at least in a place like this, is virtually impossible due to her singular and colourful use of various languages, particularly English, French and Latin. While I rarely understood what she was saying when her Honour lapsed into a foreign tongue, I was generally certain that it was not something that I should repeat in polite society.
- 46 I was fortunate enough in 1988 virtually or effectively to fall into the position as Justice Gaudron's associate and tipstaff. Associates to High Court judges and judges of the Courts of Appeal often tell stories of the judgments that they have written, the Judge only needing to proofread the document and un-split the infinitives. I have no such stories to tell. I spent the entire time that I was with Mary Gaudron just attempting to keep up with her.
- 47 I have met, and come to know, many of Justice Gaudron's former associates, and I speak on behalf of all when I say that we are enormously grateful and privileged to have, even fleetingly, been part of your important, distinguished and courageous life. You are greatly admired and fondly remembered and, while you will be appalled at such mushy language, loved.

- 48 Some time ago when the crazy notion that I might become a judge was first canvassed, I sought to consult Mary about my fears and decision making. At that time she was caring full-time for her husband, a task she still undertakes, and she was not enjoying the best of health herself, in spite of the fact that her smoking has kept her alive for many, many years. In spite of these things, she immediately made arrangements to meet with me. We were to meet at a pub near Woolloomooloo where, as it turned out, she was something of a legend. When I arrived, Mary was already ensconced at a table where she was giving advice and solving the not insubstantial marital problems of the publican and his wife.
- 49 Once she had resolved those issues we spoke for some time about the pros and cons of judicial appointment. At the end of the conversation she looked me in the eye - she looked at me hard - and she said, "Well, at least it's honourable. I think you should do it." She then allowed a meaningful and comedic pause before saying, "Or you could keep having fun". I confess that these last words, as well as my deep love of practice at the Bar, have meant that my decision-making has not been without its complications and prevarications.
- 50 My indecision has manifested itself subconsciously.
- 51 Those who know me even passing well will know that I am a passionate fan of major league baseball and that I follow it daily with a fervour that some might say is diagnosable. And those who know anything about baseball, or I suspect about life, will know that in the American League East the Boston Red Sox represent all that is good and wholesome and right, while the New York Yankees are the manifestation of all things evil. So I am not sure of what Freud would have made of a dream that I had some weeks back. In my dream, and this is a true story, I was being measured for judicial robes by a little old lady, who suddenly leaned across and whispered in my ear, "Go Yankees".

- 52 The second subconscious manifestation of my doubts had physical ramifications. I have never broken a bone in 51 years of life, nor have I come off my bike since I took up cycling, to become what I gather is known as a MAMIL - a middle-aged man in lycra. Within about a week of my name passing through Cabinet, I had a quite spectacular cycling accident that landed me in hospital with something called a broken humeral head with 19 millimetre displacement. As a member of the Common Law Division I suspect I should know what that means.
- 53 My partner, Anne, said that my timing was like the rare white rhino who was taken to Dubbo Zoo. The rhino promptly ran head first into a tree and died. It was said that the rhinoceros would rather be extinct than to live in Dubbo.
- 54 About two weeks ago I announced that I met the DSM criteria and had diagnosed myself as having a mild case of post traumatic stress disorder as a result of the cycling accident. Anne assured me that, given the career choices I had recently made and the announcement of today's date, it seemed far more likely that I was suffering from pre-traumatic stress disorder.
- 55 The truth is that I am excited and enthusiastic to be joining the Court. Once again, I thank you, Chief Justice, for the invitation and the opportunity.
- 56 I return to Justice Gaudron, but only to say that, like so many judges before and after her, her career represents the finest example of the benefits of a fiercely independent judiciary to the maintenance of a fair, just and democratic society. I am proud to be joining a Court with a reputation for such independence. Particularly in a time of criminal trial and sentencing by way of media frenzy, it is critical that judges act upon principle and are guided by the rule of law rather than by some ill-defined perception of what the public or politicians or media personalities determine to be an appropriate outcome.

57 As Acting Chief Justice Mahoney said in the case of *Lattouf*<sup>1</sup> in 1996:

“A sentencing process which is seen by the public merely as draconian and not just will lose the support of those whom it is designed to protect. If a sentencing process does not achieve justice, it should be put aside. As I have elsewhere said, if justice is not individual, it is nothing.

But, in addition, a sentencing process must be capable of discriminating between cases. There is, as I have said, a public interest in punishment. But if the desire to punish results in a person who would otherwise not become a confirmed criminal becoming such, that sentencing process is inconsistent with the public interest.”

And as another member of the Common Law Division said, Justice Hunt, in 1991, in sentencing a man called Muir<sup>2</sup> who had shot a friend:

“The prisoner has no relevant previous convictions. He is, in effect, at a turning point in his life, and in my view the community, if fairly apprised of all of the facts, would accept that the prisoner should be given the chance to work his way through to a better future, rather than that he should be flung onto the human scrapheap of society by an uncaring criminal justice system simply as a warning and an example to others.”

His Honour went on to address the potential unpopularity of his decision, saying:

“I have no doubt that my decision to defer passing sentence in this case will be criticised by those who have set themselves up as professional critics of the Court and who, either in deliberate ignorance of the facts or deliberate disregard of those facts, seem intent to destroy any chance for rehabilitation of offenders by demanding their incarceration in conditions which inevitably crush any hope for the future.”

As Mr Boulten said, a courageous decision by the government.

58 I wish publicly to thank the many solicitors who have entrusted me with their cases over the last quarter century. Many have become important

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<sup>1</sup> *R v Lattouf*, unreported, Court of Criminal Appeal (NSW) 12 December 1996.

friends to me and I will miss their guidance and company, especially over lunch, a meal which I gather is forbidden to members of the judiciary.

- 59 As has been said by Mr Boulten, when I was a baby barrister I was lucky enough to be briefed by the Western Aboriginal Legal Service and for many years enjoyed the privilege of appearing for Aboriginal people who found themselves in trouble. Some of the friends that I made doing that work in Dubbo and Bourke and Broken Hill and Brewarrina remain among the most important people in my life, and I say that the lawyers that act for the various Aboriginal Legal Services around Australia are amongst the finest people that I have met.
- 60 In later years I was briefed by the remarkable solicitors of the New South Wales Crown Solicitors office. This gave me the opportunity to meet an exceptional group of Coroners. Interestingly, while I received many briefs, I was never briefed by the same solicitor twice. This may have had something to do with what Justice Fullerton described on her swearing in as “irritable barrister’s syndrome”.
- 61 I pause now simply to mention Justice Fullerton once again. As I said, I did not propose to mention any of my mentors, including her Honour, by name. However, as Justice Fullerton has pointed out to me more than once, today is really all about her.
- 62 I have been counselled to keep this short, so it is impossible for me even to begin to mention by name the barristers, both junior and senior, to whom I owe so much. From the day I commenced practice at Frederick Jordan Chambers, to the day that I broke my shoulder and could no longer fulfil my final Court commitments, I have had the benefit of wise counsel from an enormous number of highly skilled and generous men and women practising at the Bar.

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<sup>2</sup> *R v Muir*, unreported, Supreme Court (NSW) 3 April 1991.

- 63 It is a great tradition of the Bar that people's doors are always open so that colleagues can freely seek guidance and counsel when things get tough or when the solution to a forensic dilemma seems unattainable. I had heard about this policy before I commenced practice and was amazed, and I remain proud, that it is a tradition honoured in the observance rather than in the breach.
- 64 I have enjoyed excellent relationships with the prosecutors against whom I have appeared. I acknowledge the hard work that they do and the incredibly difficult conditions under which they do it.
- 65 I have spent the last 25 years as a member of Forbes Chambers. I cannot imagine that there exists a more committed and rigorous group of criminal lawyers anywhere. We have celebrated one another's successes, and agonised over one another's failures, every day. We have shared the fruits of each other's labours and the resultant and vast intellectual property.
- 66 I stop just for a moment to remember our dear departed colleague, Paul Byrne. Paul was an advocate who appeared in this place many hundreds of times and who was an example to us all.
- 67 It is with a sadness that causes me physical pain that I leave my friends and colleagues at Forbes.
- 68 As I mean to end it, I also commenced my legal career in the public service. I joined the Courts of Petty Sessions immediately after leaving school. The less said about that time of my life the better.
- 69 I can, however, share the fact that I joined an institution known as the Petty Sessions Justice Cricket Club and played cricket on Saturday mornings quite badly for about 15 years. My earliest memory involved Judge Graeme Henson, now the Chief Magistrate of New South Wales, and I am delighted that he joins us here today. He was the captain of the

side and I found myself spectating from deep cover and deep mid-wicket for many hours while his Honour bowled himself from both ends. His Honour held that there was no valid law of cricket which prohibited this, and if there was such a law, nobody at Moore Park in the early 1980s was going to argue the toss with a man so clearly destined for a distinguished career on the Bench.

- 70 I had many readers before I took silk. I am sure that I learned more from my readers than they ever learned from me. I missed the role when I became senior counsel, but at that time one of my readers was kind enough to share with me two pieces of wisdom about senior counsel. First, she said, it was not that silk are stupid, they are just very, very specialised. Secondly, she said that she would never trust a silk with any piece of paper unless it happened to be a wine list.
- 71 I want to thank a group of enthusiastic, young lawyers who have been my assistants and researchers over the last ten years. From the moment that Nancy Hadad and Omar Juweinat walked into my life, my practice as a barrister was transformed and improved.
- 72 I thank in chronological order: Nancy and Omar; Omar who now has his own practice in the criminal law. Julia Ward, who even returned for a second stint after attaining a Masters in International Law from the Netherlands. Julia now works for DFAT and is well on her way to her chosen career as the Australian Ambassador to France. Julie Johns, who is also in practice in criminal law. Zoe Alderton, who is currently working as Tipstaff to Justice Fullerton, and is destined for a distinguished career in the law. I note in passing that this is the third mention of her Honour.
- 73 I also thank my current team of Connie Ye, Lara Meers and Imogen Hogan, each of whom has made the move with me. I am not sure whether this is the first entirely Gen Y support team for a judge, but practitioners will have to adapt to judgment by hash tag. I have, however, resisted their



urging to take what they describe as a “selfie” with the Chief Justice during this ceremony.

- 74 I close by thanking the most important people in my life. I have to mention my dear friend and confidante, Rae Parker. She and I first met when studying law. She picked me up in a cafe when she noticed that I had no hair. She thought that I must be suffering from some terrible disease, whereas, in fact, I had taken the rather idiotic decision to shave my head for a friend's 21st birthday. Her action that day was typical of her. For many years every time I visited her home she had picked up some new cat or dog that had some sad tale that led Raelene to adopt it. Rae has worked tirelessly at the Legal Aid Commission in Tamworth for 20 years. Whenever I have had cases in Tamworth, I stayed with her and Don and was always greeted with a beautiful room, replete with freshly cut flowers from the garden. I was fed and counselled through many difficult cases. I call her nearly every night, and no matter how big or small my problem of the day she is always there for me.
- 75 To my partner of 20 years, Anne Milne. I regret that I am unable to comply with your request that I “just keep me out of it”. Thank you for the fun and for keeping me relatively sane and on an almost even keel.
- 76 Last, but assuredly not least, my son, Jack Hamill, who is soon to turn 11. I say thank you for remaining quiet for the last half an hour or so. I know how difficult that is for you. I also thank you for making every day a joy and an adventure and for your unrestrained enthusiasm for almost everything. I note that before your birth in 2003, the Boston Red Sox had not won a World Series for 85 years. They have since won three. I do not believe for one moment that this is a coincidence. I also observe that the Collingwood Football Club had not won a flag since 1990. Jack brought them the 2010 premiership. As to Manchester United and the Los Angeles Lakers, we can talk about that later. I trust it is just a stage that you are going through.

77 I thank all of you who have attended here today. It is humbling to see you all. I promise that I will try to meet your expectations and I will do this challenging new job to the best of my skill and ability. Thank you, Chief Justice.

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