

# Farewell Ceremonial Sitting for the Honourable Chief Justice Trevor Riley

The farewell sitting occurred on Friday 22 April 2016 at the Supreme Court Darwin and presiding Judges during the ceremony included the Hon Chief Justice T Riley, the Hon Justice S Southwood, the Hon Justice J Kelly, the Hon Justice J Blokland, the Hon Justice P Barr, the Hon Justice G Hiley, the Hon Justice B R Martin AO, the Hon Justice J Mansfield AM, the Hon Justice J Reeves and the Hon Acting Justice D Mildren AM RFD QC.

Also in attendance, the Hon Chief Justice Robert French AC QC, the Hon Austin Asche AC QC, the Hon Brian F Martin AO MBE QC and the Hon Sally Thomas AC.

Following are the speeches delivered by the Hon Justice S Southwood, the Hon John Elferink MLA, Mr Benjamin O’Loughlin – William Forster Chambers, Mr Tass Liveris – William Forster Chambers and the Hon Chief Justice Trevor Riley during the sitting.

**The Hon Justice S Southwood** Your Honour, the Administrator, Mr John Hardy and Mrs Hardy; Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia, Chief Justice French and Mrs French; the Attorney-General, Mr John Elferink; the leader of the Opposition, Mr Michael Gunner; the Australian Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Senator Nigel Scullion; the Lord Mayor, Ms Katrina Fong Lim; Judges, partners, Magistrates, distinguished guests; family and friends of Trevor and Jan Riley; and members of the legal profession, on behalf of the Supreme Court, may I extend a very warm welcome to all of you to the ceremonial sittings to farewell Riley CJ.

I am joined on the Bench by all of the Judges who constitute the Supreme Court: their Honours Kelly J, Blokland J, Barr J, Hiley J, Martin J, Mansfield J, Reeves J and Mildren AJ. I extend a special welcome to those who have also joined us on the Bench this afternoon: his Honour, Chief Justice French; the Honourable Austin Asche, formerly a Chief Justice of this Court; the Honourable Brian Frank Martin, formerly a Chief Justice of this Court; and the Honourable Sally Thomas, formerly a Judge of this Court.

Riley CJ is retiring on 4 July 2016. His Honour has made an exceptional contribution to the Court and to the community. He has administered justice with diligence, humility and courtesy. To steal a line or two from Montaigne, he has made us all appreciate that, on the highest Bench in the Territory, ‘we still all sit on our own bottoms’.

Today is an opportunity for the profession and the public to recognise and celebrate Riley CJ’s very distinguished career as a Judge and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

**The Hon John Elferink MLA** Chief Justice of Australia, the Honourable Robert French AC; former Chief Justices of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory, the Honourable Austin Asche, AC QC and the Honourable Brian Frank Martin AO MBE QC; former Justice of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory, the Honourable Sally Thomas AC; ladies and gentlemen, I have the rare and great pleasure in paying tribute to Chief Justice Trevor Riley on this, his essentially last sitting of his Court as the Chief Justice.



I had my solicitor prepare a list of successes and achievements that the Chief Justice had put his name to over his long and distinguished career and, as true to form, I read that list of achievements and decided it was better for other people who work in his profession in this Court much more intimately to list them, because I wanted, in my contribution to this Court today, to gauge the man that he was by virtue of the relationship that he and I had built over the last nearly four years as Attorney-General and Chief Justice. In doing so, I want to share a few of the points of contact that the Chief Justice had with myself as the Attorney-General and the government of the Northern Territory. I have to say, at the outset, that those points of contact were not always comfortable.

The first point of contact was that, on becoming the Attorney-General of the Northern Territory, I was very much aware of the circumstances of juveniles in the dungeons which are the cells of the base of the Local Court. The former Chief Magistrate, Hilary Hannam, who has since gone to the Bench in New South Wales, had complained bitterly about those circumstances and, having visited those cells, I could not but more agree.

In my desperation as an Attorney-General wishing to impress myself upon the need to bring about better outcomes, I went and saw the Chief Justice and suggested briefly, albeit briefly, that this Court building could be used for those purposes. The Chief Justice's portrait hangs outside of this chamber and it has a certain expression. It is an expression I am familiar with when I made that suggestion.

The fact was is that I wanted to do something and I stormed out of this building and I actually went and sought advice from my solicitor about who owned the building if push came to shove. My solicitor, a much wiser man than I will ever be, I suspect, not only gave me my legal advice but also offered me some good political advice in relation how to deal with the Supreme Court. And the reason I raise all of this is that the Chief Justice did all that was necessary to defend his Court in the way that he saw fit. However, he also understood what I was trying to do.

So, as a consequence of that, other arrangements were finally arrived at through a long and difficult road, but the Chief Justice accepted into his Court, the presence of the Federal Family Court; so that the Family Court building could be vacated to create a new Juvenile Court here in the Northern Territory. It was long and difficult road that finally settled and I am pleased to report to this Court and to the Chief Justice, as he is probably aware, that Children's Court



# Farewell Ceremonial Sitting for the Honourable Chief Justice Trevor Riley

is now available and is dispensing justice in a much more humane fashion than the dungeons in the lower courts could ever achieve, and I thank you for your courtesy and understanding of what was being attempted.

Your Honours, I also draw attention to another matter which was also raised with the Chief Justice shortly after I became the Attorney-General, and I also place on the record my appreciation to Sue Cox in relation to this matter. And that was the matter of a fellow who had been in prison for twenty-four years; a gentleman by the name of Lazarus Nabobbob. Lazarus had committed a grievous crime; there is no doubt about it. He was sentenced to six years and then held over under the more arcane provisions of legislation at the time; at, essentially, the Administrator's pleasure.

Governments came; governments went. Elections came; elections went. And Lazarus Nabobbob had ultimately gotten to the point where he had served twenty-four years of his six-year sentence. The decision to release was beyond the reach of this Court and lay in the hands of the Administrator who, naturally, would have taken advice from his Cabinet. To the Chief Justice's enormous credit, and as well as Sue Cox, but the Chief Justice, particularly, he raised that issue with me. Because, in truth, if you think about what is actually occurring, that when a Cabinet finally decides not to release a person because it will not look good, at some point along that journey, that prisoner is no longer being punished; they are taking on the flavour of a political prisoner. His Honour had the courage to raise it with me and insist that something should be done. Whilst I am no champion of Mr Nabobbob, per se, the reach of the justice has finally reached Mr Nabobbob and he has been released; and appropriately so.

Your Honour, you have also been a strident advocate in relation to the rights of your Court and one of the points of conflict, of course, is the matter of mandatory sentencing. Perhaps you and I will never see eye-to-eye on such a thing, but I do make this observation, sir; that you have been courageous and steadfast in your position. And so, as I relate each and every one of these particular points of contact between myself and the Chief Justice, what I am

looking for is a thread, a golden thread, which weaves its way all the way through these points of contact; and that thread is probably the highest compliment I could pay to your Honour and that is the thread of integrity.

At no point have I noticed or seen the ego of Trevor Riley present. What I have seen is a sense of justice; a sense of right; a sense of purpose; a sense of courage. And that makes your position and time on the Bench one that is highly valued by the people of the Northern Territory.

There was a gentleman, a fellow by the name of Szechuan(?), who described leadership in three words: humility, clarity and courage. Humility does not require in leadership to flagellate yourself, but it removes ego from positions of leadership; so that you focus on what is important. Clarity, to be able to make yourself understood without any form of ambiguity; and courage, that even when you are in a minority of one, you stand up and you say what you believe. All of those things are present, with particular reference to humility, your Honour; this has never been about Trevor Riley, but it has certainly been about your Honour. May it please the Court.

## Mr Benjamin O'Loughlin – William Forster Chambers

I would like to acknowledge that we are on the land of the Larrakeyah and I rise to speak on behalf of the barristers of the Northern Territory. This is a significant occasion and we rightly put on hold the usual business of the Court to acknowledge, reflect and comment on your Honour's time on the Bench as a Judge and as Chief Justice.

Much has been written about the attributes of a successful Judge and they could be stated simply as this: Technical competence or knowledge of the law; practical judgement; courtesy; and industry. Your Honour's knowledge of the law is well-known and counsel would be foolish to assume otherwise. An unnamed barrister had a rare opportunity to trump your Honour's technical expertise once, during an urgent injunction application just a couple of months ago. That barrister had three hours' notice to research and prepare the injunction and to obtain orders in respect of a most unusual area of law.





The barrister was quite proud of himself for finding in those few hours of research an obscure NT Act, the title of which gave no indication of its relevance, but it contained provisions that were directly on point. The Court was effectively given only forty-five minutes' notice, but your Honour kindly made yourself available to hear the matter. Counsel thought that he, for once, would be able to inform your Honour as to what the law was. That moment of glory never came for counsel because your Honour walked into Court; holding that very Act. Not knowing whether to feel disappointed or impressed, I settled on both.

Your Honour's practical judgement and impartiality are well-recognised by counsel; although, on some issues, such as the West Coast Eagles, those excellent qualities are nowhere to be found. Your Honour seriously believed that the Eagles could win last year's grand final.

In regard to courtesy, this is your Honour's day and I could just say that your Honour is always courteous. I have no doubt that you were always courteous to jurors and witnesses; but it is known, on occasion, your patience was tested by counsel. We know or ought know that your Honour arrived at the Bench, well-prepared and keen to get to the issue in dispute. If counsel were similarly prepared, he or she could expect direct questioning on his or her case; but this was done with respect and courtesy. On occasions, counsel received very direct and penetrating questions from your Honour. But, on this day, I will say, that it was always well-deserved.

If one considers preparation as the equivalent of industry or its product, then all should know that your Honour has this attribute in spades. Your Honour's *Little Red Book of Advocacy* emphasises preparation above all else and it is clear that this is not just your Honour's mantra, but

it is your method. And speaking of the *Little Red Book of Advocacy*, it is but one example of your Honour giving back to the profession. You have spent countless hours of your time training and helping the young and the not-so-young advocates. You were a guest lecturer at the NT University and even travelled as far as Bangladesh to teach advocacy.

As a leading Silk and President of the Bar Association, you still managed to sit on the NTFL Tribunal on a Tuesday night; and then, on a Thursday night, you would be a volunteer with the Darwin Community Legal Service. Even as a busy Chief Justice, you have been giving your time to so many other causes. You are currently the Vice-Chair of the St John Ambulance Australia and you have been an effective volunteer with this organisation for decades. To this day, your Honour is giving your time to the National Judicial College of Australia and working with the Northern Territory Bar Association, you continue to offer advocacy training to advocates and judicial officers in Timor Leste. It is looking likely that you will be providing further advocacy training, even after your retirement, in Timor Leste.

The NTBA has its third bi-annual conference coming up in July and it is going to be held in Timor Leste. Our very first conference started off on a small-scale on Daydream Island with a mere twenty-three delegates. Without your presence and support, it probably would not have developed into the success that it now is.

Outside of Court, your Honour has always been approachable and willing to talk to, and listen to, young and old from the profession. You take a real interest in helping the younger members of the Bar develop and when you speak to the individual, you clearly give your undivided attention. I, for one, know this because of your habit of punctuating your advice with friendly punches to the arm.



# Farewell Ceremonial Sitting for the Honourable Chief Justice Trevor Riley

Kelly and Southwood J spoke recently to the profession and confirmed what we all suspected; that your approachability and guidance is also much appreciated by your fellow Judges and that it has helped develop a healthy collegiality amongst your brothers and sisters on the Bench. I do not know how we know it but the profession can sense this atmosphere of respect and comradery.

Mildren J, at one of his many farewell ceremonies, spoke of what made him glad to remain a Judge until retirement. It was because there is laughter in the corridors of the sixth floor. Your Honour does not necessarily get all credit for this happy situation; but if your contribution increased the odds of our Judges walking into Court in a cheerful frame of mind, we thank you many times over.

When necessary, your Honour has been a vocal advocate on the administration of justice. In a composed, diplomatic but, nonetheless, direct manner, your Honour has spoken out on issues such as the adequacy of port facilities; mandatory sentencing; curbing the excess supply of alcohol; and the injustice of the law that forbids the Court of Aboriginal customary law. You managed to do this without damaging healthy working relations with other arms of government.

William Forster Chambers' longest serving member is their Rounds Clerk, Graham. Your Honour was probably head of Chambers over twenty years ago when Graham was offered the job. He is here today because your Honour caused a special invitation to be sent to him personally, and Graham was very proud to receive it. Newer members of Chambers,

who only know you as the Chief Justice, were mightily impressed by this thoughtful gesture.

Some say that behind every great man is a surprised woman. Jan has been your supporter and adviser from well-before your judicial appointments. When I think of the advice Jan was always willing to share with me as a new member of William Forster Chambers, covering aspects from accounting, marketing and even self-promotion, it is clear that she has been invaluable to your Honour.

When counsel does as well as your Honour has done, at the Bar and then is appointed to the Bench, there is a chance that he may take himself too seriously. This possibility was tested on the occasion of one of your Honour's significant birthdays when three friends spotted a garden gnome for sale that had a slight resemblance to your Honour. The friends, two of whom I believe are here today; one to my right and one to my front, thought they could improve on the resemblance with a touch of red paint applied to the hair and the nose. While your Honour and Jan were away, the three friends snuck into your recently-landscaped front yard and, in a discrete location, concreted the gnome to the ground. A lesser man would have taken offence but, word has it, your Honour allowed the gnome to stay for a number of years and, for all we know, he is still there today.

Your Honour has all the attributes of a good Judge and you have a few more that make you a good man. We do have a Supreme Court to be proud of and your Honour leaves it in good health. May it please the Court.





**Mr Tass Liveris – William Forster Chambers** May it please the Court, I acknowledge the Larrakeyah peoples as the traditional owners of the land on which this Court sits and I pay my respects to elders, past and present, and to emerging community leaders.

It is a great honour for me to address the Court today on behalf of the legal profession of the Northern Territory, to pay tribute to your Honour, Riley CJ's, immense contribution to this Court and the administration of justice, and to the legacy your Honour will leave. Your Honour is widely respected and known for your deep commitment to the law and your family. However, the law is a demanding profession and today I also pay tribute to Jan as a close friend of the legal profession and the remarkable life in the law that she has shared with your Honour for more than forty years.

Your Honour has had a long and great relationship with the Law Society. The Law Society is proud that your Honour's name appears in the Counsel Role of Honour, your Honour having served as a member of counsel and as vice-president. Your Honour has a strong sense of community and is interested in people. Your Honour's reputation as a Judge is as industrious, wise, incisive and courteous.

Your Honour has a quirky, bordering on the obsessive, love of party pies. At William Forster Chambers, your Honour's antics around the party pies at Wednesday lunches are part of folklore. Luckily, with your grandchildren's birthday parties to attend in retirement, your Honour not need be troubled about where your next party pie will come from. Whether the other party-goers now have cause for concern about that is a matter I won't speculate about.

Your Honour has generously supported the legal profession and has regularly delivered CPD seminars for the Law Society. Your Honour is the patron of the Territory chapter of the Hellenic Australian Lawyer's Association. Sadly, your Honour is retiring just as Riley-opulus was starting to become catchy.

Your Honour is a keen supporter of the development of the local profession. At the grass-roots, your Honour is an occasional lecturer at Charles Darwin University and is the patron of the Northern Territory Young Lawyers. As patron, your Honour has engaged valuably with the newest generation of legal practitioners. Your Honour is a long-term Judge and supporter of the Golden Gavel and hosts Lunch and Learn seminars.

Your Honour discusses with the young lawyers the importance of things like preparation; work-life balance; physical and mental health; and that everyone should be

out there, running. Your Honour is a keen runner and is regularly seen jogging along Bicentennial Park and across Darwin city. And every year, during Mental Health Week, your Honour leads the very popular Chief Justice's Walk for Wellness.

The *Little Red Book of Advocacy* is a collection of articles that were written by your Honour over a period of years for the Law Society's magazine, *Balance*. It is the Law Society's first book publication and it has a very special place in the Law Society's history. Over the years, the *Little Red Book of Advocacy* has obtained a bit of a cult status amongst the profession. It is presented to newly admitted lawyers to this Court and it sits as importantly as the rules do, on our bookshelves and in our briefcases. The Law Society was extremely proud to launch the *Second Edition* at the opening of the legal year this year which, like the *First Edition*, is dedicated simply, 'For Jan.' The Law Society is grateful to your Honour for the *Little Red Book of Advocacy* and for the ongoing influence it will have in the profession.

Your Honour has been an egalitarian Chief Justice, fit for the times. Your Honour has led with well-measured, assured and confident commence, save and except for when your Honour has led the Chief Justice's XI out onto the cricket pitch in Law Week. I concede that is dangerous territory for me to stray into, since the trophy presently sits upon the sixth floor. But, people may draw their own inferences from the fact that your Honour was unable to take your place in the team last year; and, not only did it beat the President's XI, but it broke a losing streak.

Your Honour has enhanced the Court's engagement with the community-at-large and has, thereby, fostered greater public understanding and confidence in the judiciary. In 2012, the inaugural Language and the Law Conference was a candid recognition of the critical place that language has in our system of justice and in our diverse, multi-cultural society.

The Supreme Court's *Interpreter Protocols* were developed out of that first conference and they showed the Northern Territory as the national leader in this area. Like the Law Society's *Indigenous Protocols for Lawyers*, these Protocols are ground-breaking. They will have a lasting impact, not just in the Northern Territory, but all over the country, as courts in other jurisdictions start to adopt similar Protocols because they are so important to achieving just outcomes, and because they work.

Your Honour has been proactive and outspoken about issues such as access to justice, alcohol abuse, domestic violence and mandatory minimum sentencing. Your Honour has described Indigenous disadvantage in the

# Farewell Ceremonial Sitting for the Honourable Chief Justice Trevor Riley

justice system as a tragedy and has made calls against imprisonment as a solution to reduce crime. In 2015, your Honour described the federal government's cuts to legal assistance sector funding as blow to the heart of the justice system and a false economy, and called for real, sustainable and long-term solutions.

These types of statements had an influential place in the national campaign that persuaded the federal government to reverse many of those funding cuts; a campaign that was also supported by the learned Attorney-General, and this outcome, as well as additional top-up funding from the Territory Government, saved, at least, for the moment, front-line services in many practice areas and in the regions, and it meant that they did not have to close down.

Your Honour has led a strong Court that has served the people well. In always striving to improve the reach and efficiency of our legal system, your Honour has challenged the Court and the legal profession to keep getting better and to keep going further, for the benefit of the entire community. When this sort of ethos is championed by the Chief Justice, as it is by your Honour, it flows down and it influences all of us who play any part in the administration of justice. As your Honour departs the Court, I thank your Honour for this, on behalf of the legal profession, and wish you a fulfilling retirement, filled with joy and happiness. May it please the Court.

**The Hon Chief Justice Trevor Riley** *Please note: At the farewell ceremony, due to time constraints, his Honour omitted the italicised passage from the original draft.*

Thank you, his Honour, the Administrator and Mrs Hardy; Judges of the Court; former Chief Justices and former Judges of the Court; Magistrates; all distinguished guests, special guests and friends of the Court and of myself, I am grateful for the many people who have flown in to join this Ceremonial event. I am particularly delighted and honoured to welcome Chief Justice French of the High Court of Australia and Valerie. For those of you who do not know, Chief Justice French will retire early next year. He has been an outstanding leader of the Australian Judiciary and he honours this Court with his presence here today.

Thank you to the speakers. Thank you, Mr Attorney. I note that you and I will be departing our respective roles at about the same time. Will the system survive without us? I expect so. I note that in appointing my successor, your government followed the new *Judicial Appointments Protocol*. I welcome the announcement that Michael Grant will be the seventh Chief Justice of the Northern Territory. The proposed appointment has met with a claim and the Court will be in good hands.

Thank you to the President of the Northern Territory Bar Association, Ben O'Loughlin, and to the President of the Law Society, Tass Liveris. Mr Liveris has been kinder than his predecessor, Peggy Cheong (if she is here) who famously welcomed me with the observation: "Some may say that your Honour is as wise as you are handsome. But I would suggest that your Honour is much wiser than that." I am not sure it was meant as a compliment.

For me, the most daunting part of a Judge's life is the contemplation of retirement or, more particularly, surviving a ceremony such as this. The Welcoming Ceremony at the beginning of a judicial career is a breeze and a time for anticipation. It is all downhill from there. At a Farewell Ceremony, many things will be said and some of them will true; most of them will be embellished and enhanced beyond recognition. The dreadful thought, however, is that on a day like this, the Judge will come in through the door to the Court as a rooster; or, in my case, as has unkindly been said, a little red rooster, and will depart through the very same door as a feather-duster; suffering, of course, from 'deprivation of relevance' syndrome.

On occasions like this, retiring Judges sometimes take the opportunity to reminisce. You will be relieved to know that the Judges in the profession courageously and selflessly provided me with that opportunity at a farewell dinner just a few days ago. They did so in order to protect you from the experience. I took full advantage of the opportunity and you should be grateful to those who had to go through it.

In an endeavour to reduce the emotional pressure of this occasion, I propose to indulge myself and reverse the usual order of events by saying thank you to a number of people. First, my wife; and I will say no more, and my family.

On an easier level, I thank my fellow Judges who sit with me today. This is a competent and hardworking and collegiate Court and I am sure, the happiest Court in Australia. That is all to do with the quality of the people who serve on the Court and I am forever indebted to them for making the fulfilment of my role so easy.

In an ideal world, I would be able to individually thank the many people who have assisted, supported and encouraged me over the years; that, of course, is not possible today. However, I must mention some.

I would like to thank my personal assistants, all of whom have become friends. I mention, in particular, Janice Rowland who stage-managed this ceremony today and there is a huge number of you here; and I am very grateful for that. I would also like to thank Carole Guinane who guided me from the Bar to the Bench; Margaret Babbington who guided me from Judge to Chief Justice; and Emily Arthur who will guide me out the door.

I thank my Associates, of whom there have been eighteen over the years and many of whom are here today. I have followed their individual careers with interest and pride. The relationship between a Judge and an Associate is a two-way street. The Associate takes the role in order to learn about the law; but, at least in my case, the Judge also learns much from the Associate.

I thank those responsible for the effective administration of the Court, headed by Greg Shanahan and Chris Cox, and the administrative staff supporting them. I thank the staff of the Civil Registry, both past and present. I thank the Sheriff's Officer, led by Daniel McGregor and by Court Institution, Marion Warren. The Court provides a welcoming public face for the Court. I also would like to mention Malika O'Keil who has done much to lift and enhance the positive profile of this Court.

I wish to thank the members of the legal profession, past and present, for their support and encouragement over the years. The Northern Territory is a place of opportunity and this is especially so for the legal profession, which, of course, here is a vital and energetic legal profession. It achieves a lot at a local level, but also at a national level. I have been part of the Northern Territory profession since 1974. I have been shaped by it; encouraged by it; and supported by it. I see the same happening to those who follow behind me. I thank you for your support; both of the Supreme Court and of myself.

The list of those I would like to thank is, obviously, exceedingly long and I must leave it there. This is the part the Attorney has been waiting for. The least satisfying part of being a Judge over the past seventeen or so years has





# Farewell Ceremonial Sitting for the Honourable Chief Justice Trevor Riley

been watching the ever-increasing level of incarceration of the Indigenous members of our community. The situation is not getting better. This depressing fact is not something that can be corrected or addressed by the Courts.

The rates of incarceration in the Northern Territory are high; indeed, alarmingly so, but are necessary because serious crimes are being committed. Proportionate sentences must be imposed. The Courts are at the very end of the process and it is all too late at the time of sentencing. Compelling research has demonstrated that it is not an answer to increase sentences to become ever-more punitive. It is not an answer to have mandatory minimum terms of imprisonment, which give a false impression that a government is being tough on crime when, as we all know, mandatory minimum sentences have no impact on rates of crime; but, and sadly and inevitably, lead to injustice.

Rather, it is social and environmental problems that must be addressed by the whole community and, hopefully, with effect before the criminal justice system is engaged. It is necessary to confront and rectify the extreme disadvantage experienced by this significant group of people. Generally speaking, we can make an immediate start to reduce crime by effectively addressing one of the significant and immediate causes of crime; which is the abuse of alcohol.

*On a wider view I think it is important for those who attain public office to remember that it is the institutions of our society that provide for the welfare of the members of our society. Those institutions underpin and are vital to our successful democracy. On my elevation to the bench in 1999 I observed that tension between the judiciary and the Executive is to be expected, and can be positive, but there must be mutual respect between the branches of government for the powers and functions of each. Those observations, of course, remain relevant today.*

*In the intervening period we have witnessed an increasing and, to my mind, disturbing legislative intrusion into the exercise of what may be described as the traditional judicial role in government. Such legislation reflects an escalation in the placement of powers traditionally exercised by the Courts within the hands of the executive with a consequent limitation of the power of the judiciary. Such legislation may not be unlawful, it may not be beyond power, but it is unwise, and does alter the traditional balance of power between the different arms of government. It serves to diminish the role of the judiciary and undermines the standing of the judiciary.*

My journey in the law has taken me from practicing as a solicitor; practicing at the independent Bar; being appointed a Judge of this Court; and, finally, the significant privilege of being Chief Justice. I was appointed just in time to host with my fellow Judges the Centenary of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory and this was a significant achievement for the Territory and a moment in history well-worth celebrating.

Mine has been a rewarding journey, spread over approximately forty-five years—can you believe that? And I am grateful for the opportunities that came my way. I am grateful for the substantial trust placed in me. I am proud to say that the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory is a successful Court, providing efficient and impartial justice to the people of the Northern Territory. To be part of that process has been a reward in itself. Thank you for your attendance here today, in such great numbers; I am truly grateful. Thank you.

