

It was always a pleasure to be briefed by your Honour. This was not, I hasten to add, merely because of your insistence on a good bottle of champagne at the conclusion of any case, but rather for the fact that any brief delivered by you was always meticulously prepared, precisely identified the issues and contained a clear summary of the arguments both for and, equally important, against your client's position. Your Honour's expectation of barristers was not unreasonable. You expected that they had read the brief, formed a view and were prepared to debate the contrary proposition. No doubt your Honour will expect the same of those who appear before you in court, and I'm sure you will not be disappointed.

The president of the Law Society spoke immediately after Bathurst QC, and his remarks had a poetic touch:

From time to time we are lucky enough to experience days of miraculous wonder, days where the sun could not possibly shine more brightly or the blossoms on the trees appear more vibrant, days when the air we breathe is pure, unadulterated oxygen. Today is one of those days; a golden day and a red letter day for the profession.

We delight in high achievement and success of our members. We rejoice when the courts secure the best of the best to adjudicate disputes. We have confidence when we have reasons to be confident. Today all of those things have come to pass for the solicitors of this state.

District Court appointments

His Honour Judge Michael King SC was sworn in on 17 June 2008.

His Honour was called to the bar in September 1976, and commenced practice from 9th Floor Frederick Jordan Chambers, reading with Jeffrey Miles, later the chief judge of the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory. His Honour joined Forbes Chambers on its establishment in 1989. His Honour was appointed senior counsel in 2006.

His Honour practised principally in the criminal jurisdiction, both prosecuting and defending, and appeared at numerous commissions of inquiry, as counsel assisting and for witnesses, including the ICAC inquiries into the unauthorised release of confidential information, the Public Employment Office, the Department of Corrective Services, the inquiry in respect of 'Relationships between certain Strathfield councillors and developers' and the Wood Royal Commission. At his Honour's swearing in, the president of the Bar Association noted his Honour's reputation as a thorough and skilful trial advocate and for mastery of the details of his cases.

Her Honour took up theme of the solicitors' branch of the profession in her own speech, referring to the importance of that branch contributing to judicial office:

I think it is important for the continuing strength and depth of the solicitors' branch that solicitors can aspire to judicial office. I see the advantage of appointments from the ranks of those who practised as solicitors as lying in the different perspective they bring to the court. Having practised law perhaps somewhat closer to the coalface than members of the bar, they have an understanding of the commercial context in which transactions are conducted and in which disputes arise. They also have a real understanding of the difficulties of preparing cases for court and which can be encountered in meeting those always so reasonable court deadlines.

Her Honour thanked many who she said had helped or guided her over the years: her parents, David and Elaine Ward, and parents-in-law; her sister and nieces; professional mentors including Sir Nigel Bowen; her colleagues past and present at Mallesons, including their very skilled and supportive secretarial staff; and in particular her husband Bruce and children David and Hilary.

