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THE DISTRICT COURT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

1 of 1900

WELCOME CEREMONY FOR HER HONOUR JUDGE BRENDA MCGIVERN

WAGER CJDC

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

AT PERTH ON WEDNESDAY, 14 OCTOBER 2026 AT 9.30 AM

DR A.D. BUTI Attorney General of Western Australia

MS J.Y. McLEAN Law Society of Western Australia

MR T.J. HAMMOND SC WA Bar Association

MS B.E. SOJAN Criminal Lawyers' Association of Western Australia

WAGER CJDC: We are sitting today to welcome her Honour, Judge Brenda McGivern, to this court. Her Honour received her commission from His Excellency the Governor on 5 October 2026. This court sits on the land of the Whadjuk people of the Greater Noongar Nation. I pay my respects to their elders past and present. I also acknowledge and pay my respects to all Aboriginal people who are present today and to the elders on all of the lands over which the District Court sits around Western Australia. And we presently sit in courtrooms at 12 circuit locations.

We sit as a full bench today to welcome our newest sister judge. I welcome the Honourable Chief Justice Peter Quinlan to the bench and I thank the Chief Justice for joining us today and for continuing to provide support to the judges of this court and leadership for the whole of the Judiciary of Western Australia. I warmly welcome her Honour's family, particularly her Honour's husband, Mr Lawrence Nadfalusi, her Honour's mother, Mrs Diana McGivern. Her Honour's father, Mr Charles McGivern cannot be with us today so he's not with the family in the jury box this morning. However, he may well be attending still in the future by viewing these proceedings. I welcome her Honour's sister, Mrs Karen Holland, and her niece and nephew, Ms Louise Holland and Mr Mark Holland.

I acknowledge and welcome all other personal friends and relatives of her Honour who are joining us in court today, and so many members of the legal profession who fall into that category. I acknowledge and welcome the Honourable Justice Darren Jackson from the Federal Court of Western Australia. I also welcome a number of Supreme Court judges who are attending this morning. Welcome to the Honourable, Justice McGrath, Justice Hill, Justice Strk, Justice Solomon, Justice Whitby, Justice Howard, Justice Gething and Justice Palmer.

I note that her Honour has had a close and highly productive working relationship with registrars of the Supreme Court and court registrars of this court, which is hardly surprising. I welcome Supreme Court Principal Registrar Griffin, Registrar Jennings, Davies, Millman and Allison from the Supreme Court. And I'm pleased to welcome and acknowledge our acting Principal Registrar Kubacz, Registrar Harman, Registrar Nairn and Registrar Avey, who are here today.

I welcome the honourable, Justice Glancy, President of the State Administrative Tribunal, and senior members, Mr Stephen Willey and Ms Patricia Le Miere from the State

Administrative Tribunal. Her Honour, Magistrate Tanya Watt, Ms Sarah Linton, Acting State Coroner for Western Australia, Ms Jean Shaw SC, Solicitor-General for the State of Western Australia. Mr Eugene Ashe, official secretary to his Excellency the Governor, Ms Julie Taylor SC, President of the WA Bar Association, Mr Rob Owen SC, Director of Public Prosecutions for the State of Western Australia, Ms Julia Wedlock, President of the Women and Lawyers Association of Western Australia and representatives of the court's executive.

And I also welcome back his Honour, Kevin Sleight, former Chief Judge of this court. I am particularly pleased to welcome our speakers at the bar table, the Honourable Tony Buti MLA, Attorney-General for the State of Western Australia, Ms Judy McLean, President of the Law Society of Western Australia, Mr Tim Hammond SC, speaking on behalf of the WA Bar Association, and Ms Brooke Sojan, President of Criminal Lawyers' Association WA.

Her Honour's appointment is both a gain and loss for this court. Her Honour has been the principal registrar of the District Court for over four years. She has changed procedures and practices, but more importantly, her Honour has positively changed the focus of the registrars and those who appear before them very successfully. Her Honour has applied her intellectual rigor, her pragmatism and her determination to all aspects of her role. You will be very difficult to replace, Judge McGivern.

It is, of course, though, the court's gain to now have her Honour on the bench as a judge. I'm confident, Judge McGiven, you will be an outstanding judge. The community will benefit from your appointment for many years to come.

Yes, Mr Attorney.

BUTI, DR: May it please the court. Thank you, Chief Judge Wager. I would also like to commence by recognising the distinguished guests that you already welcomed by your Honour here this morning. And I pay my respects to the traditional owners, the Whadjuk people of the Noongar Nation, their elders past, present and emerging. It is my great honour to be here to appear here today on behalf of the State of Western Australia as well as the people of Western Australia and the government to welcome Judge Brenda McGivern to the District Court. And I also acknowledge all her family members here today and I know that you must be incredibly proud of her Honour. And I hope you enjoy this special occasion.

Before I continue with the script that I have in front of me, I'd just like to say that I'm also incredibly pleased with this appointment because her Honour and I shared a time together in the faculty at UWA Law School and I think we had offices next to each other for a period of time.

Judge McGivern, you bring to the District Court a distinguished record of legal practice, academic leadership, tribunal decision-making and court administration developed over more than 30 years of service to the law and the community. Your Honour's appointment to this newly funded judicial position has strengthened the capacity of the District Court and supports the allocation of judicial resources across the District Court, the Children's Court of Western Australia and the State Administrative Tribunal.

Since being admitted to practice in Western Australia in 1997, your Honour has built an impressive and varied career across private practice, higher education and public service, with particular expertise in health law, civil liability, insurance law and professional indemnity matters. Your Honour earned a PhD in law in 2005 and has held senior leadership positions in higher education, including as Deputy Executive Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Business, Law and Education at the University of Western Australia. Your Honour is also a nationally accredited mediator and a Vincent Fairfax Fellow, having graduated with a fellowship in ethical leadership in 2021.

Immediately prior to joining the District Court, your Honour served as an ordinary member of the State Administrative Tribunal, principally within its civil, commercial and human rights streams. Since July 2022, your Honour has served as Principal Registrar of the District Court of Western Australia, making a significant contribution to the administration of this court and earning the respect of judicial officers, court staff and the wider legal profession.

In that role, your Honour, you have exercised the judicial and quasi-judicial functions of the registrar of the court, including case management across civil, criminal and appeal matters, interlocutory applications, listing conferences, mediations, pre-trial conferences, examination in aid of execution, bail variations, sentence mention lists, and civil judgment enforcement proceedings.

During your Honour's time as Principal Registrar, your Honour has made a particularly significant contribution to the court's civil jurisdiction. Your Honour has helped

strengthen civil case management and mediation practices, including revised civil listing practices, amendments to the District Court rules, updated practice directions and circulars, and accessible usual order precedents.

Under your Honour's leadership, the court established the abuse claims list, which has provided a focused and effective way for the management of sensitive civil claims and from the State of Western Australia, thank you very much for that. These are practical reforms, but they are also important judicial reforms directed to the fair, efficient and humane resolution of disputes. Your Honour has also provided leadership and guidance to the courts, registrars and staff during a period of significant transition, which has included the retirement of experienced longstanding members of the team, while continuing to support the efficient progression of the courts' work. Your Honour undoubtedly leaves the court's administration team well-placed for the future with stronger systems, clearer practices and strong working relationships upon which others can continue to build.

Your Honour's contribution has also extended beyond the court's day-to-day administration through service on key internal court committees, including management counsel, the civil and criminal practices committees and the technology committee, as well as work with the Law Society's court committee and the Australasian Institute of Judicial Administration where your Honour served on its board and counsel and chairs its research committee. Judge McGivern, you are highly regarded for your intellect, ethics, professionalism and commitment to public service and also for being a very nice person. Your experience as a practitioner, academic, tribunal member and principal registrar will serve the Western Australian community well. To your Honour's family and friends, thank you for your support that has enabled this remarkable career. Today is as much a celebration for you as it is for the court. On behalf of the government of Western Australia and the people of Western Australia, I congratulate you on your appointment and wish you all the very best as you begin this new chapter in your service to the people of Western Australia. I look forward to your Honour's continued contribution to the administration of justice and to the collegiality that binds this court.

May it please the court.

WAGER CJDC: Thank you, Mr Attorney.

Yes, Ms McLean.

McLEAN, MS: May it please the court. I would firstly like to acknowledge the Whadjuk Noongar people of this land and pay my respects to the elders, past and present. Today marks the appointment of her Honour Judge Brenda McGivern to the District Court of Western Australia, an appointment that has been warmly welcomed across the court, the profession and the broader legal community. I'm always grateful when the Honourable Attorney General Dr Buti has already done the hard work of setting out the impressive list of qualifications, appointments and achievements that have brought someone to judicial office. It allows the rest of us appearing at ceremonial settings to focus on some of the things instead of those things that cannot be easily captured in a curriculum vitae, such as character, kindness, leadership and the way a person is remembered by those fortunate enough to have worked alongside them. In preparing these remarks, I spoke with judges, registrars, academic colleagues and former co-workers who have worked closely with her Honour over many years. What struck me was not the diversity of experience, but the consistency of observations. Regardless of when or where they had worked with her Honour, they spoke of the same qualities.

Intelligence, fairness, kindness, humility, professionalism and a genuine commitment to others. One judicial colleague described her Honour as a lawyer of exceptional intellect, meticulous attention to detail and deep knowledge of the law. Yet it was not these qualifications alone that drew admiration. They spoke of someone who remained unfailingly courteous, fair and considerate in every interaction. They noted the role of principal registrar as both demanding and relentless, particularly amid increasing numbers of self-represented litigants and growing administrative pressures. Throughout these challenges, her Honour was a constant source of calm judgment, professionalism and grace. Perhaps the greatest tribute came in the colleague's final observation. That her Honour is highly regarded and genuinely liked by all the judges of this court. Her Honour's registrars speak with similar warmth about her Honour's leadership. Her Honour assumed the role of principal registrar at a time of significant change for the court. As one registrar recalled, she brought stability and direction during a challenging COVID era, building a strong registrar team and restoring confidence at a time when both were greatly needed.

Her Honour's influence extended well beyond leadership. She undertook the substantial task of reviewing and redrafting the court's practice directions and notes to practitioners, modernising key processes and helping shape

the future direction of the court's registry. Her contribution was not merely administrative; it was institutional, developing a clear direction for the future. These are not necessarily the achievements that attract public recognition. They are, however, the kinds of contributions that strengthen institutions and improve the administration of justice for everyone who relies upon them. The same qualities were recognised at the UWA law school where her Honour served with distinction as deputy dean of the law school and later as deputy dean of the faculty of Business, Arts, Law and Education. Those appointments reflected the confidence her Honour's colleagues placed in her leadership, judgment and professionalism. That connection endures. The law school remains proud to count her Honour as adjunct associate professor of law, reflecting her ongoing contribution to legal education and to the profession.

It was during this time at the UWA law school that her Honour discovered a passion for yoga. One of those - one that has since benefited many beyond the university, including judges in this court. I have learned that yoga is a wellbeing program for this court and I am told that when the court's regular instructor was unavailable, her Honour readily stepped in and, on occasion, turned the event into a fundraiser for charity. As colleagues from the law school observed, it's just one example of her Honour's generously sharing her talents and service to others. So, whether maintaining balance in a yoga studio or maintaining order in the court, her Honour appears to bring the same qualities to both. Indeed, guiding a room full of judges through yoga poses may well be more challenging than presiding over a courtroom. Either way, it seems her Honour has long demonstrated the patience, balance and calm authority that judicial office demands. More seriously, the story reflects a quality that emerged repeatedly in the comments I received from - about her Honour. When there was a need, her Honour stepped in. The American poet, Maya Angelou, once observed that "People will forget what you said and people will forget what you do, but they will never forget how you made them feel."

As I prepared these remarks, I was reminded of that observation time and again. People spoke of her Honour's intelligence and professionalism, certainly, but what they remembered most was how your Honour treated others. A former colleague expressed this most beautifully when congratulating her Honour on her appointment. She noted:

> Working with Brenda was a real privilege. She was always kind and supportive, thoughtful and has a

> great sense of humour. I admire her intelligence, her fairness and most of all, the genuine care she had for people and our community. I feel very fortunate to have worked with her and I know she will bring those qualities to her role as a judge.

Those words capture the theme that runs through every conversation about her Honour. These personal qualities may not appear on, as I've noted before, curriculum vitae, but they are vital to judicial office. Public confidence in our courts depends not only legal expertise, but on the assurance that all who appear before them will be treated with fairness and respect. The reflections shared today leave every confidence that her Honour will uphold the essential standard on the bench. So on behalf of the profession, I warmly congratulate her Honour on her appointment.

I also congratulate the family, friends and colleagues who have supported her Honour throughout her career and who share the proud occasion. Your Honour, from the Law Society of Western Australia and on behalf of the law profession of Western Australia, we wish you every success, fulfilment and satisfaction in the years ahead as you serve the people of this state.

Thank you. May it please the court.

WAGER CJDC: Thank you, Ms McLean.

Mr Hammond.

HAMMOND, MR: May it please the court. It is indeed a privilege to appear on behalf of the Bar Association to welcome your Honour Judge McGivern as a judge of the District Court of Western Australia. In doing so, I also acknowledge the traditional owners of the land upon which we meet, the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation and pay my respects to elders, past, present and emerging. I also join in acknowledging special guests previously mentioned by the Chief Judge and the Attorney and I especially acknowledge those members of your Honour's family.

Your Honour's father, Charles, and also those who are able to join us in court, including your mother, Diana, sister, Karen, niece, Louise, nephew, Mark, and, of course, your Honour's partner, Lawrence.

As is already evident, the calibre of your Honour's resume makes it abundantly clear why your Honour is eminently

qualified for this appointment. And, as we've already heard, others at the Bar table have, and will, quite properly, draw attention to the depth of your Honour's experience. What might be not so readily known is that, but for a sliding doors moment early in your Honour's life, none of us would actually be here right now. As I am informed, as a student your Honour was actually first accepted into medical school, not law school. It was only as a result of working at a law office your Honour decided upon your alternative pathway of law, much to the chagrin of those running the faculty of medicine, one of whom inquired as to whether you were ever coming to medical school.

It is fortunate for the administration of justice that your Honour held your ground, and now here we are. But it is clearly more than an impressive resume or a sliding door that makes for a qualified judge. For centuries philosophers have reflected on the virtues considered essential in order to be considered a qualified and suitable judge. Aristotle broadly described those virtues as virtues of practical and theoretical wisdom. More recently, these virtues have been described slightly differently. In drawing heavily upon Aristotle's early work, American legal theorist Professor Lawrence Solan postulated that good judging required three key judicial virtues. They are judicial intelligence, judicial integrity and judicial wisdom.

The list was not meant to be exhaustive, for there are others. Take courage, for example. A good judge is also described as a courageous judge. And that is one willing to render the right decision, even at the risk of public scorn. After consulting widely amongst your Honour's colleagues from all walks of life, much of what we've already heard today rings very much true. I was consistently provided with the same description of your Honour's defining traits. Which were really to the effect that you are simply a genuinely excellent human, possessing attributes most identical to the virtues that make for a most qualified and suitable judge.

Firstly, as to judicial intelligence. Whilst in professional practice, first at Downings Legal, as it then was, then at Sparke Helmore, and later at Moray & Agnew, your Honour was known as the ultra-reliable go-to person for any task or analysis otherwise thought of as incredibly hard or too legally complex. Your Honour approached such jobs with fastidious preparation, thorough and accurate research, and a cheery disposition. As a member of the State Administrative Tribunal your Honour was widely

regarded as a decision-maker who could comfortably sit in and describe cases from, and decide cases from, any of the dedicated streams.

Your Honour has been described as being meticulously prepared for hearings involving any subject matter, and as having an extensive working knowledge of not only the case at hand, but the legal principles and application of those principles, be it the civil and commercial stream, or matters in development and resources, or the guardianship and administration stream.

Secondly, to judicial wisdom. Described by Aristotle as phronesis, it is the virtue of a person possessing practical judicial wisdom, who knows which particular ends are worth pursuing and which means are appropriately suited to achieve those ends.

As we've heard, the manner in which your Honour has approached the role of Principal Registrar of this court from the time of your appointment in July 2022 onwards makes it clearly good your Honour possesses this virtue. From an overhaul of the District Court practice directions, which created new efficiencies in the court, to the establishment of the specific court list dealing with a significant number of cases brought by plaintiff survivors of historical child sexual abuse, to the increasing use of mediations at the court as a dedicated means of alternative dispute resolution, your Honour has, time and time again, identified both processes and practices within the court which required reform to better facilitate the administration of justice and created the means for that to occur.

Thirdly, judicial integrity, or described as a moral virtue, so a virtue of a person who possesses a special fidelity to the rule of law and its coherence and consistency of application. When deciding contested matters as Principal Registrar, your Honour's application of the law and rules of the court to interlocutory disputes was widely regarded as one which was fair, considered, and clearly reasoned. In the common law I'm informed that your Honour's depth of knowledge, particularly in relation to principles identifying the scope and nature of a duty of care is almost a matter of notoriety.

Woe betide an advocate appearing before your Honour who might otherwise think Graham Barclay Oysters are famous for what they proudly proclaim on their website, which is for being one of the largest producers of Sydney rock oysters in Australia. In addition to possessing extensive

experience and judicial virtues, your Honour's appointment is good evidence that there is no one clear pathway to judicial life. You were raised with a fierce work ethic. You've combined part-time legal practice with numerous academic appointments. You have a PhD in Law. And, with your Honour's appointment, the District Court is very close to parity in terms of gender.

I conclude these remarks with the observation that judicial virtue has much in common with human excellence in general. It is beyond any and all doubt that your Honour will most admirably and effectively serve the administration of justice in this honourable court, both as an excellent judge and an excellent human. May it please the court.

WAGER CJDC: Thank you, Mr Hammond.

Ms Sojan.

SOJAN, MS: May it please the court. May I join in recognising the many distinguished guests, and your Honour's family, that are here today to welcome Judge McGivern. I also pay my respects to the traditional owners of the land on which we meet, and I pay my respects to their elders past, present and emerging. It is my great honour and a privilege today to welcome Judge McGivern to the District Court on behalf of the criminal lawyers of Western Australia.

Your Honour has had an incredible and diverse career, achieving many milestone moments in a short period of time. Including, as I understand, at the very early stages of your career, lecturing at university not long after you were admitted to practice, when you were also much younger than many of your students. So far your stand-out career has already been mentioned by those before me. And, as always, as being the last speaker at these events, I don't want to repeat what others have said. Save to say that, with the breadth of your experience and prestige within the community, this has always been the next logical step in your career.

This has certainly been echoed to me by your colleagues and friends, which have told me that they always considered it inevitable that your Honour would become a judge. As I have not had the pleasure of working with your Honour in the past, I have spoken to those who have. This has given me the opportunity to hear just how highly regarded and respected in this profession you are, and the enthusiasm the profession has about your appointment to the District Court. In speaking to the legal community there

was an overwhelming sentiment that you are a warm, welcoming and patient person. That you are an excellent academic, an outstanding role model and mentor, and, effectively, brilliant in every role that you have taken on.

I also hear that you are tremendous in ensuring that matters settle wherever possible. I have no doubt that all of these qualities and skills will serve you as a judge on the District Court. And I am sure you will also excel in this new role. I am also told that you have been honing your skills for this position for some time, and that your written advice was often akin to a judgment, and that you still hold the record at Moray & Agnew for the longest advice ever drafted. I also understand it was therefore quite distressing for your Honour to learn that one of your clients had a six-page limit on the advice that they were to receive.

I am told that your Honour, in addition to written advocacy, thrives on public speaking, and not only this, but, perhaps unsurprisingly, is excellent at it. Which, obviously, makes this task even more daunting today. Your Honour, I have no doubt that as you embrace the significant role that criminal law plays in the District Court and you swap corralling lawyers in mediations for corralling them away from participating in the theatrics of a jury trial, that your keen attention to detail, your ability to listen to everyone's perspective, your incredible patience, and excellent voice of reason that has been described to me, will continue to be a key and contributing factor as your time as a judge.

In your spare time I also understand that your Honour is a lover of travel and cats. And I've also been told that your Honour is an excellent chef, that knows how to host a very good dinner party. Now, that's also not the first time I have been told this about one of the recent appointments of the Bench. So I am beginning to see a pattern of an additional prerequisite to the Bench. Your Honour, the consistent view of all the members of the profession is that your appointment to the District Court is well-deserved. And I have no doubt that you'll be a significant asset to the Bench.

The criminal lawyers of the profession look forward to appearing before you. And I have no doubt that you will leap headfirst into your new life of crime, and maybe become slightly more used to seeing six-page documents. On behalf of the Criminal Lawyers' Association of Western Australia, it is my honour to offer these welcoming

remarks, and I wish you the very best during your judicial career.

May it please the court.

WAGER CJDC: Thank you Ms Sojan.

Your Honour.

MCGIVERN DCJ: Thank you. Chief Judge, Chief Justice, Attorney General, members of the judiciary, honoured and dear guests, thank you for this incredibly warm welcome to the court. I recognise and acknowledge that by coming together for a ceremonial sitting here, we meet on land that have for millennia been the site of important community practices and events. I pay my respects to the elders and custodians of this land, Whadjuk Boodja, part of the Noongar Nation and to all First Nations people here today.

I thank the speakers for their very and indeed too generous words. I've had the great privilege of working with some of you and it is a genuine honour to be welcomed by you. Thank you. A particular note of thanks to Ms Sojan, you could have been forgiven for a speech that went on something along the lines of, "From what the others have said it can be hoped you'll pick things up quickly and we'll let you know how you go." So your remarks were particularly kind. Mr Hammond and the others, your research skills are both to be admired and interrogated at a later time.

With me, my associate Gianluca Bonfiglio and my usher, Tansy Flynn are also welcomed into the court today. I thank them for bravely accepting the role of supporting a new judge.

It is commonly remarked that members of the judiciary come from privilege. I've been reflecting on that as I've prepared for today and must acknowledge its truth in my case. First, I have had the great advantage of being born into a wonderful family. My parents, Charles and Diana, and their extended family, some of whom are online today, created the very best foundation for my sister Karen and I.

They had their share of challenges over the years, political and financial uncertainty, immigration twice, serious injury and rehabilitation, but always managed to make us feel safe and loved and able to find joy. They worked hard, starting fresh more than once. And my mother, a trailblazer, kept setting stretch targets for me as she

completed four degrees over the years, each while continuing to work full time. And somehow still, always managing to set the benchmark for love and kindness.

Growing up, our family unit was the shield against any storm. And I'm so grateful to have you here today, my much-loved mum and sister, niece Louise, with her husband Phil, nephew Mark, with his partner Natasha. I wish my darling dad were here too. He'd love the occasion, and selfishly, I'd love to be able to vindicate my stubborn teenage resistance against his urging to become an accountant. Fortunately, Mark has inherited his passion and has taken up that mantle for the family.

Speaking of study, I had the gift of a rich education and through it, not just learning, but also some of the great enduring friendships of my life. In late primary school, I met an equally stubborn young woman, the firebrand Tracy, and we quickly became inseparable. Immigration to different countries, me to Australia and much later her to New Zealand couldn't sever that bond. She positively scoffed at the idea of joining today's celebrations online and here she is. Thank you.

Then to university where I would meet other lifelong friends. Also here today, Tanya Watt, Craig Martin who has also flown in from New Zealand to be here, and Amanda Beane, now McCracken, whose husband Hamish has also joined the clan. Another intriguing friend at the time was Larry, who, unbeknownst to either of us at the time, would many years later become my beloved husband, Lawrence. I am so grateful for your unerring love and support, and that whatever my day, I get to come home to you.

And so back to the journey from study to work. What an extraordinary honour it has been to grow in this profession. In practice and academia, alongside so many greats, and a greater honour still to call many of them my friends. Thank you so much to those of you who are here today in person and online. I have learnt so much from you, often from your mentorship and example, the generosity of your advice and support, our joint endeavours and collective efforts, the coffees and catch ups. I have also enjoyed the enormous benefit of the support of wonderful colleagues and the trust of those who have taken a chance on me, appointing me into new roles, including in this court and before it, the State Administrative Tribunal. I am grateful for your trust.

And that brings us to today. Attorney General, thank you for the honour of this appointment. And to the Chief Judge

and my judicial siblings, I so appreciate your warm welcome over the last week. I hope you will not live to regret your generous offers of support as I find my feet. Of course, I know that one doesn't get to be here without the great kindness of others, many of whose support of my appointment I may never know about and be able to thank directly. Ours is a remarkable and human-centered profession. I'm proud to be a part of it. I'm deeply grateful to the members of the profession who are here and those whose support has made today possible.

And so to returning to the reflection with which I began. I'm deeply grateful for the advantages I have enjoyed. Of opportunity and acceptance, of great example, those in my personal and professional life who have demonstrated the qualities to which I could and continue to aspire, endeavour in excellence without sacrificing respect and compassion, and whanau, the wonderful Maori concept of kinship that extends beyond blood, of love and support.

These are privileges indeed and far greater value than any material kind. I acknowledge them and I'm mindful that they are privileges that many who will come before this court have not shared. I'm deeply conscious of the responsibility of the oath of office I have taken and will no doubt need to draw on the strength of this foundation to meet its demands. I'm deeply grateful and I thank each of you.

WAGER CJDC: Thank you, Judge McGivern. That now concludes the formal setting to welcome her Honour. Court will now adjourn.

AT 10.07 AM THE MATTER WAS ADJOURNED ACCORDINGLY