

NOTICE OF FILING

Details of Filing

Document Lodged: Affidavit - Form 59 - Rule 29.02(1)
Court of Filing: FEDERAL COURT OF AUSTRALIA (FCA)
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File Number: VID589/2024
File Title: UNCLE ROBBIE THORPE v JUDICIAL REGISTRAR ALICIA DITTON
Registry: VICTORIA REGISTRY - FEDERAL COURT OF AUSTRALIA



Sia Lagos

Registrar

Important Information

This Notice has been inserted as the first page of the document which has been accepted for electronic filing. It is now taken to be part of that document for the purposes of the proceeding in the Court and contains important information for all parties to that proceeding. It must be included in the document served on each of those parties.

The date of the filing of the document is determined pursuant to the Court's Rules.



Form 59
Rule 29.02(1)

Affidavit

No VID589 of 2024

Federal Court of Australia

District Registry: Victoria

Division: Human Rights / Other Federal Jurisdiction

Uncle Robbie Thorpe
Applicant

Judicial Registrar Alicia Dutton
Respondent

Affidavit of: Uncle Robbie Thorpe

Address: Camp Sovereignty, "Kings Domain", Melbourne VIC 3004.

Occupation: Truth-Teller Fire-Keeper and Elder.

Date: 15 July 2024

I, Uncle Robbie Thorpe, Truth-Teller Fire-Keeper and Elder, of Camp Sovereignty, "Kings Domain" near "Government House" and Shrine of Remembrance, affirm:

1. I refer to my interlocutory application dated 15 July 2024 and the four directions and one order sought.

DISQUALIFICATION OF THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE MCEVOY

2. His Honour is not Aboriginal.

3. There is no document evidencing His Honour's acceptance that Aboriginal Sovereignty has never been ceded.

4. There is no document evidencing His Honour's acceptance that Aboriginal Law is the only true law of this land in the absence of any process seeking the consent of Aboriginal Peoples to any role of the invisible entities Commonwealth of Australia on this continent.

5. His Honour has publicly sworn allegiance to Charles Windsor monarchy family.

Filed on behalf of Uncle Robbie Thorpe, applicant.

Prepared by Uncle Robbie Thorpe.

Mobile 0422 200 696

Email bunjilsfire@gmail.com

Address for service: Camp Sovereignty, "Kings Domain", Melbourne VIC 3004

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robbie Thorpe'.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emily Lloyd'.

Registrar

Neighbourhood Justice Centre

241 Wellington Street, Collingwood 3060

6. His Honour has never publicly repudiated the pretenders Charles Windsor, his late mother Elizabeth Windsor or his son William Windsor aka William Wales as part of a thieving foreign genocidal crime family who have invaded Us and purported to usurp Our Law and occupy Our Lands and extract use and sell Our Resources.

7. Consequently His Honour is reasonably likely to be perceived by Aboriginal Peoples and International Peoples as biased against Aboriginal Peoples and should be disqualified from any further conduct of this matter because the Court guards against any perception of bias especially in relation to Aboriginal genocide.

8. Moreover, there is evidence of actual bias and bad faith too were His Honour to continue with any conduct of this proceeding:

- (i) He is a committed monarchist/royalist “fanboy” and has travelled to Windsor celebrations in England as well as hosting social events for Windsor weddings and funerals.
- (ii) He is extremely right-wing with right-wing views about Aboriginal Sovereignty (denied) Aboriginal Genocide (denied).
- (iii) He has donated many thousands of dollars worth of free legal work to extremely right-wing warrior and avowed monarchist/royalist Tony Abbott, right-wing politician and Prime Minister.
- (iv) He was appointed by extremely right-wing politicians Christian Porter and Michaelia Cash. Porter appointed him to the Family Court when he had no experience in that jurisdiction.
- (v) He has been deeply involved for many years with the extremely right-wing University of Virginia Law School in extremely right-wing Charlottesville¹.
- (vi) He is a long-time friend of the Honourable Stephen O’Meara— who as recently as last month described Auntie Alma Thorpe’s and Uncle Robbie Thorpe’s writ and statement of claim lodged in the Supreme Court of Victoria concerning Aboriginal Sovereignty and Aboriginal Genocide and seeking to get the non-Aboriginal governments to engage with the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court as “political”, “polemical”, “verbiage” and “tendentious”².
- (vii) One of his closest friends is the Honourable Justice Wheelahan— who presided over the application of Uncle Robbie Thorpe in the Federal Court in May 2024 to stop non-

¹ On Charlottesville, see for example

(a) “The **Unite the Right rally** was a white supremacist^{[4][5][6][7]} rally that took place in Charlottesville, Virginia, from August 11 to 12, 2017.^{[8][9][10]} Marchers included members of the alt-right,^[11] neo-Confederates,^[12] neo-fascists,^[13] white nationalists,^[14] neo-Nazis,^[15] Klansmen,^[16] and far-right militias.^[17]...” https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unite_the_Right_rally

and

(b) “[Analysis](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/aug/13/charlottesville-white-supremacists-far-right-donald-trump-confederate-statue) How Charlottesville became the symbolic prize of the far right” by Helmore and Beckett <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/aug/13/charlottesville-white-supremacists-far-right-donald-trump-confederate-statue>

² See Judge O’Meara judgement 25 June 2024 online at official website of record at <https://www.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdoc/au/cases/vic/VSC/2024/360.html>

Roba Thorpe


Emily Lloyd

Registrar

Neighbourhood Justice Centre

241 Wellington Street, Collingwood 3067

Aboriginal raids on Camp Sovereignty and the extinguishing of Our Sacred Fire near the skeletal remains on 38 Aboriginal Peoples. Uncle Robbie challenged His Honour on His Honour's knowledge of Aboriginal Law and how exactly His Honour and the non-Aboriginal court had jurisdiction over Aboriginal Peoples and Aboriginal Lands³.

9. Now produced and shown to me and marked Annexure "URT 1" is a bundle of relevant documents to be referred to at the hearing of this application for disqualification.

10. If the Court makes Order 1 (disqualification of the Honourable Justice McEvoy) I seek the following orders as set out in the interlocutory application 15.7.24 numbered 2-4:


2. Chief Justice Mortimer have conduct of these proceedings and this court file.

3. A bench of five Aboriginal judicial officers be assembled to hear the originating application and interlocutory applications.

4. If there are not sufficient Aboriginal judicial officers in the Federal Court of Australia to assemble a bench of five Aboriginal judicial officers, then Chief Justice Mortimer to write to and meet with the Attorney-General of the Commonwealth of Australia to request the special appointment of sufficient Aboriginal judicial officers including the appointment of

- (i) Professor Irene Watson, Research Professor of Law, University of South Australia, and
- (ii) law graduate Dr Jaqui Katona, Moondani Balluk Indigenous Unit, Victoria University and
- (iii) lawyer Paul Coe, first Aboriginal person to study law at the University of NSW and helped establish the Aboriginal Legal Service in Redfern and first to litigate Aboriginal sovereignty and genocide back in the last century – *Coe v Commonwealth of Australia* [1979] HCA 68 <http://www.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdoc/au/cases/cth/HCA/1979/68.html>

Affirmed by the deponent
at Collingwood
in Victoria
on 15 July 2024

) 
)
)
)

Before me:

Emily Lloyd
Registrar
Neighbourhood Justice Centre
241 Wellington Street, Collingwood 3068



³ Transcript Friday 17 May 2024 online at <https://crimesceneaustralia.com/wp-content/uploads/Transcript-Wheelahan-J-17.5.24-FCA-VID3882024-Uncle-Robbie-Thorpe-v-Melbourne-Councillors-Treaty-Minister-Premier.pdf>
— See also transcript of mention hearing on Monday 13 May 2024 online at <https://crimesceneaustralia.com/wp-content/uploads/Transcript-Wheelahan-J-13.5.24-FCA-VID3882024-Uncle-Robbie-Thorpe-v-Melbourne-City-Councillors-Treaty-Minister-Premier.pdf>
— For court documents filed in relation to the hearing see <https://crimesceneaustralia.com/city-of-melbourne-councillors-councillor-dr-olivia-ball-councillor-kevin-louey-councillor-roshena-campbell-councillor-jamal-hakim-deputy-lord-mayor-nicholas-reece-councillor-davydd-griffith/>
— See also subsequent documents at <https://crimesceneaustralia.com/july-august-2024-australia-attorney-general-dreyfus-aboriginal-genocide-case/>

Annexure to Affidavit

No VID589 of 2024

Federal Court of Australia

District Registry: Victoria

Division: Human Rights / Other Federal Jurisdiction

Uncle Robbie Thorpe
Applicant

Judicial Registrar Alicia Dutton
Respondent

Annexure "URT 1"

This is the true copy of the xx marked Annexure "URT 1" referred to in paragraph 9 on page 3 of the affidavit of Uncle Robbie Thorpe affirmed Monday 15 July 2024.



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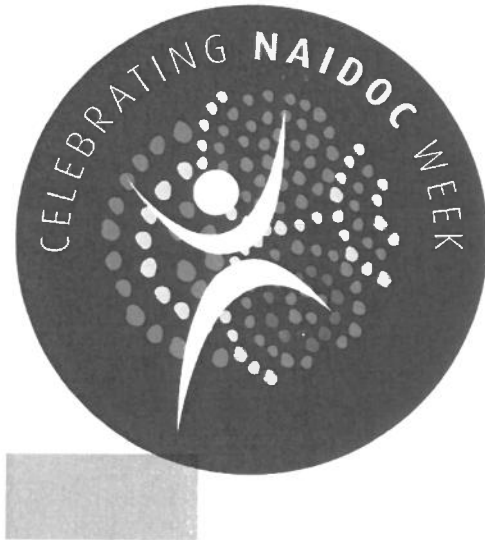


.....
Emily Lloyd
Registrar
Neighbourhood Justice Centre
241 Wellington Street, Collingwood 3066

Filed on behalf of Uncle Robbie Thorpe, applicant.
Prepared by Uncle Robbie Thorpe.
Mobile 0422 200 696
Email bunjilfire@gmail.com
Address for service: Camp Sovereignty, "Kings Domain", Melbourne VIC 3004

NAIDOC Week 2024: Embracing First Nations Culture

NAIDOC | POSTED JUNE 27, 2024



KEEP THE FIRE BURNING! BLAK, LOUD AND PROUD

7-14 JULY 2024



At OzChild, we believe in the power of community and the importance of honouring the diverse cultures that make up our nation. NAIDOC Week is a significant event in our calendar, a time when we come together to celebrate the history, culture, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This year, the theme is "Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud and Proud," a powerful call to embrace and celebrate the vibrancy and resilience of First Nations cultures.

NAIDOC Week 2024, taking place from 7 to 14 July, is an opportunity to highlight the rich cultural heritage of Australia's First Nations Peoples. It's a time to shift our focus from the tragic aspects of history to the remarkable contributions and enduring spirit of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

It is important to remember that First Nations Peoples have a history that stretches back over 65,000 years. Despite the many challenges they have faced, their cultures have not only survived but thrived through adversity. Celebrating this resilience is essential for fostering a sense of pride and continuity within these communities. As we begin to engage with First Nations cultures, we continue to build a more inclusive society, learning about different traditions, languages and customs, all while breaking down barriers and promoting respect and understanding.

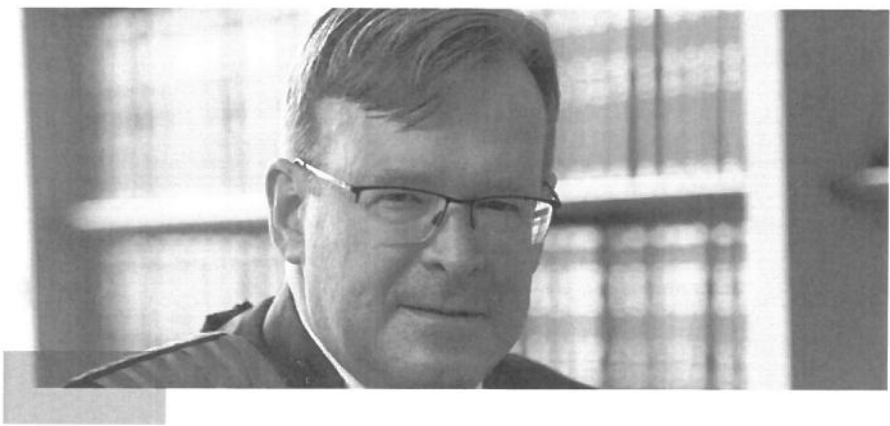
We invite everyone to join us in celebrating NAIDOC Week 2024. Let's come together to honour the rich cultural tapestry of our nation and ensure that the fire of First Nations cultures continues to burn brightly. By focusing on the positives and celebrating the strengths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, we can build a more united and harmonious future.

To learn more about NAIDOC Week click through the resources provided:

- [About NAIDOC Week](#)
- [NAIDOC Events](#)
- [Educational Resources](#)



NEWS | POSTED APRIL 14, 2022



In March OzChild Board Member, the Hon Justice Timothy McEvoy was appointed as a Judge of the Federal Court of Australia, commencing on 28 April 2022.

Justice McEvoy has been appointed to the Victorian Registry to replace the Hon Justice Jennifer Davies following her retirement on 1 April 2022. Justice McEvoy has been a Judge of the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 1) (formerly the Family Court of Australia) since 2019 and a Deputy President of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal since 2020.

Justice McEvoy's appointment highlights the high calibre of OzChild Board Members and the significant contribution they make to the community. It is an honour to have this kind of expertise on our Board, and we congratulate him on this achievement"

- DR LISA J. GRIFFITHS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, OZCHILD.

Read the official media release from Senator the Hon Michaela Cash here

Latest news

VIEW ALL



AWARDS

Celebrating Molly Fergus: Young Victorian of the Year

Today Molly Fergus was honoured with the prestigious Young Victorian of the Year Award. This accolade celebrates her exceptional dedication and tireless efforts as a carer and advocate for children,...



KEEP THE FI BURNIN BLAK, LOI AND PROI 7-14 JULY 2024

NAIDOC

NAIDOC Week 2024: Embracing First Nations Culture

At OzChild, we believe in the power of community and the importance of honouring the diverse cultures that make up our nation. NAIDOC Week is a significant event in our...



NEWS

A holistic approach to rising youth offending rates

Recent data reveals a troubling trend in youth crime, with the number of juvenile offenders in Australia rising for the first time in over a decade. The Australian Bureau of...

Hearsay: Tony Abbott's pro-bono lawyer joins Family Court



Michael Pelly *Legal editor*

Mar 21, 2019 - 11.00pm

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There can't be too many Family Court judges who have found their way on to the pecuniary interest register of federal parliamentarians.

Last week, Attorney-General Christian Porter put Melbourne QC Timothy McEvoy onto the court.

Perhaps Tony Abbott sent his congratulations to McEvoy, who represented him in his defamation claim against CFMEU leader John Setka in 2013-14.



Tony Abbott ... two members of his pro bono legal team for the defamation action brought by union boss John Setka have now been appointed to the bench. **Andrew Mearns**

Because McEvoy acted pro bono, Abbott was obliged to list the legal largesse as a gift.

This was brought to Hearsay's attention by a number of parties, with judges of the Family Court taking a particular interest. The others mentioned on the register for their free work on the Setka case were silk Michael Wheelahan, who joined the Federal Court in 2018, and law firm Arnold Bloch Liebler.

McEvoy is another new judge who could hardly claim to be a family law specialist. There's only a very brief mention of family law on a lengthy CV and while he has an impressive academic record, none of it appears to touch family law.

Timothy McEvoy

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From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Timothy McEvoy is a judge of the Federal Court in Australia. He was appointed by Christian Porter and has served in the position since 26 April 2022.^[2] McEvoy acted as pro-bono lawyer to former Prime Minister Tony Abbott in a defamation claim against unionist John Setka in 2013-2014.^[3] McEvoy initially served on the Family Court of Australia. His appointment was met with criticism owing to his lack of experience in family law at the time.^[3] McEvoy is an alumnus of the University of Melbourne, where he was a resident of Ormond College and graduated with bachelor degrees in arts and law, as well as a Master of Laws. In 1998, McEvoy obtained Doctor of Juridical Science from the University of Virginia. He then commenced his legal career as an Associate to then Chief Justice of the Federal Court in 1994 and was admitted to the Supreme Court of Victoria and High Court of Australia in 1996. After spending time working in private practice at Herbert Smith Freehills, McEvoy was admitted to the Victorian Bar where he practised as a barrister until his appointment to the Family Court.^[4]

	<div>The Honourable Justice Timothy McEvoy SC</div>
	<div>Judge of the Federal Court of Australia</div>
	<div>Incumbent</div>
	<div>Assumed office 26 April 2022</div>
	<div>Appointed by Christian Porter</div>
	<div>Judge of the Family Court of Australia</div>
	<div>In office 27 March 2019^[1] – 25 April 2022</div>
	<div>Appointed by Christian Porter</div>
	<div>Personal details</div>
	<div>Alma mater University of Melbourne, University of Virginia</div>
	<div>Occupation Jurist</div>

References [edit]

- ↑ Porter, Christian (14 March 2019). "Appointments to the Family Court of Australia and Federal Circuit Court of Australia" *Parliament of Australia*. Commonwealth of Australia. Retrieved 10 December 2022.
- ↑ Doraisamy, Jerome (21 March 2019). "New judges appointed to Family Court and Federal Circuit Court" *Lawyers Weekly*. Retrieved 19 November 2022.
- ↑ ^a ^b Pelly, Michael (21 March 2019). "Hearsay: Tony Abbott's pro-bono lawyer joins Family Court" *Australian Financial Review*. Retrieved 19 November 2022.
- ↑ "Biography of Justice McEvoy" *www.fedcourt.gov.au*. 4 May 2022. Retrieved 19 November 2022.



This Australian law-related biographical article is a stub. You can help Wikipedia by expanding it.

Categories: Australian jurists | Living people | 21st-century judges | Melbourne Law School alumni | Judges of the Family Court of Australia | Judges of the Federal Court of Australia | University of Virginia alumni | Australian law biography stubs



Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash
ATTORNEY-GENERAL
MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
DEPUTY LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SENATE
SENATOR FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

4 March 2022

APPOINTMENT TO THE FEDERAL COURT OF AUSTRALIA

I am pleased to announce that the Hon Justice Timothy McEvoy has been appointed as a Judge of the Federal Court of Australia, and will commence on 26 April 2022.

Justice McEvoy has been appointed to the Victorian Registry to replace the Hon Justice Jennifer Davies following her retirement on 1 April 2022. Justice McEvoy has been a Judge of the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 1) (formerly the Family Court of Australia) since 2019 and a Deputy President of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal since 2020.

On behalf of the Australian Government I congratulate Justice McEvoy on his appointment and thank him for his willingness to continue to serve the people of Australia as a Judge of the Federal Court.

JUSTICE TIMOTHY MCEVOY

Justice McEvoy graduated with a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Melbourne in 1993. He obtained a Master of Laws from the University of Melbourne in 1998, and the degree of Doctor of Juridical Science from the University of Virginia in 1999.

Justice McEvoy began his legal career as Associate to the then Chief Justice of the Federal Court in 1994, and was admitted as a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Victoria and the High Court of Australia in 1996. He was subsequently a solicitor and then senior associate at Freehills (now Herbert Smith Freehills) in Melbourne and Sydney. Justice McEvoy signed the Victorian Bar Roll in November 2002 and was appointed Senior Counsel in 2016. Prior to his appointment to the then Family Court he was Senior Counsel Assisting the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety. Justice McEvoy has been a member of the Visiting Faculty at the University of Virginia School of Law since 2001. He has been a Fulbright Scholar, and has served as a member of the Australian Delegation of Experts to a special commission of The Hague Conference on Private International Law.

MEDIA CONTACTS

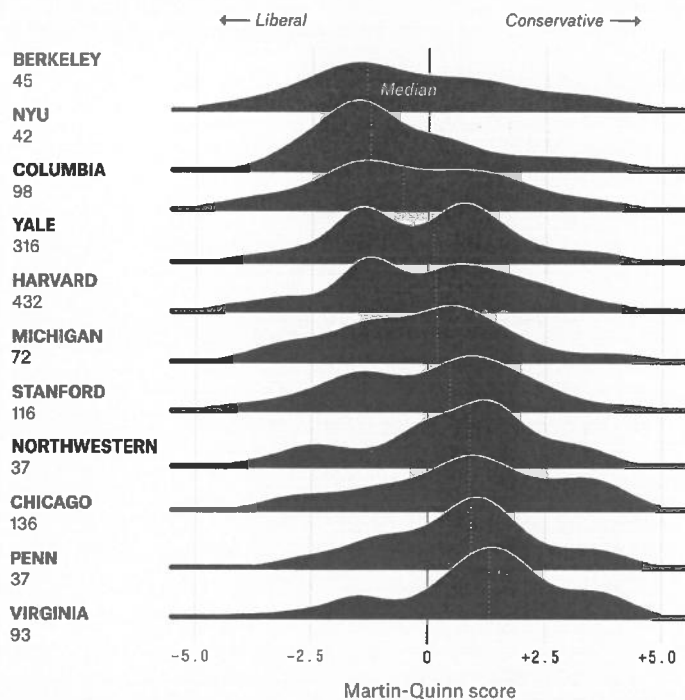
Guy Creighton – Guy.Creighton@ag.gov.au – 0438 815 302

Among the top law schools, Northwestern University and University of Virginia are clearly both the farthest to the right and with the most



The Wide-Ranging Politics Of Elite Law Schools

Distributions of justice ideology for Supreme Court clerks, by school since 1937



ALLISON MCCANN

Living up to its reputation, Berkeley is the most liberal of the elite law schools. The median Berkeley clerk works for a justice with a Martin-Quinn score of -1.3 — about the equivalent of Stephen Breyer. On the other side of the spectrum, the median University of Virginia clerk works for a justice with a Martin-Quinn score of 1.3 — roughly Anthony Kennedy in his more conservative years.

The median clerk from Harvard and Yale... liberal's main... fall

[Home](#) [Faculty](#) [Timothy J. McEvoy](#)



Timothy J. McEvoy

Lecturer

BIOGRAPHY

Justice Timothy McEvoy was appointed to the Federal Court of Australia in 2022.

He graduated with a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Melbourne in 1993. He obtained a Master of Laws from the University of Melbourne in 1998, and the degree of Doctor of Juridical Science from the University of Virginia in 1999.

McEvoy began his legal career as associate to the then-chief Justice of the Federal Court in 1994, and was admitted as a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Victoria and the High Court of Australia in 1996. He was subsequently a solicitor and then senior associate in the litigation and competition groups at Freehills (now Herbert Smith Freehills) in Melbourne and Sydney. He practiced at the Victorian Bar from 2002 to 2019, largely in general commercial, public and common law. He was appointed Senior Counsel in Victoria in 2016. In 2019, McEvoy was appointed to the Family Court of Australia, and in 2020 he was appointed as a judicial deputy president of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

Immediately prior to his appointment to the Family Court, McEvoy was senior counsel assisting the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety. He has been a member of the visiting faculty at UVA Law since 2001, teaching an annual course in the conflict of laws. He has been a Fulbright Scholar and has served as a member of the Australian delegation of experts to a special commission of The Hague Conference on Private International Law (Jurisdiction and Judgments Convention). In 2018, he was elected to the American Law Institute. McEvoy has published a number of articles on private international law, administrative law and competition law in Australian and international law journals. He is a Board Member of OzChild.

CURRENT C
 Globalizat
 (SC) Judg

EDUCATION

S.J.D., University of Virginia School of Law, 1999
 LL.M., University of Melbourne, 1998
 LL.B., University of Melbourne, 1993
 B.A., University of Melbourne, 1993



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1. Monarchist/Royalist?

“recently travelled to London to attend Queen Elizabeth II’s platinum jubilee. Indeed, one of your colleagues has previously noted that the protocol and pageantry surrounding the monarchy no doubt underpins your love of the courtroom...

“Royal weddings, all with appropriate bunting, and the most memorable, the Queen Mother’s funeral, complete with gin and Dubonnet.”

2. Right-Wing/“Conservative

(i) see Monarchist/Royalist above at 1.

(ii) University of Virginia, most rightwing/conservative of elite universities (see above page xx)

“relationship with the University of Virginia was cemented early and, since 2001, you’ve been acting as a visiting Professor of Law teaching conflict of laws. Further, in 2011, you spent a prolonged period in Virginia with your family as both you and your wife, Libby, took up Fulbright scholarships at the same time. Your longstanding connection to the University of Virginia”

(iii) Judge Wheelahan

“In 2002, you were called to the Bar, reading with Michael Wheelahan, now your brother Judge of this Court...

You were very close to your mentor...

you secured a room on the same floor as Justice Wheelahan...

concerned as to what high jinks you and Justice Wheelahan might now get up to now that the band is back together. Your Honour became one of Justice Wheelahan’s preferred juniors, and through that and your background as a senior associate of Freehills “

“Justice Wheelahan ...the frequency with which we worked together and the friendship we developed”

(iv) Judge O’Meara

“the Judges of the Supreme Court of Victoria who are here today....Justice Stephen O’Meara with whom I shared chambers for many years”

(vi) Friendships?

“In speaking with your friends, it became clear that on the friendship scale, your Honour is gold standard. You will do anything you can do for a friend”

(vi) Darker side?

“there is sometimes to be found a darker side to your Honour. . . When your Honour arrived at a lunch spot, this member of the Bar teased your Honour that the coffee cart had just left. He continued with tiresome jokes of this nature throughout the trip. Your Honour took these jests with your usual good nature, or so it seemed. At the end of the hike the jovial barrister found that a very large and very heavy rock had somehow secreted itself into his backpack.”

<https://www.fedcourt.gov.au/digital-law-library/judges-speeches/justice-mcevoy/mcevoy-j-20220623>

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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

O/N H-1730351

FEDERAL COURT OF AUSTRALIA

CEREMONIAL SITTING OF THE FULL COURT

TO WELCOME

THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE McEVOY

THE HONOURABLE JAMES ALLSOP AO, CHIEF JUSTICE
THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE GREENWOOD
THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE MIDDLETON AM
THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE MURPHY
THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE MORTIMER
THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE BEACH
THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE MOSHINSKY
THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE O'CALLAGHAN
THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE WHEELAHAN
THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE O'BRYAN
THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE SNADEN
THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE McEVOY
THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE HESPE
THE HONOURABLE MICHAEL BLACK AC QC

MELBOURNE

9.29 AM, THURSDAY, 23 JUNE 2022 ALLSOP CJ: Welcome to everyone for this ceremonial sitting of the Court to formally welcome Justice McEvoy. I first acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather, the Wurundjeri peoples of the Kulin nation. I pay my respects to their elders, past, present and emerging. Justice McEvoy, I particularly welcome your wife, Elizabeth, and your daughters, Alexandra and Emily, and your father, Raymond, and your many friends. May I acknowledge and welcome to the Court the Governor of Victoria, Her Excellency, the Honourable Linda Dessau AC, and Mr Howard AM QC, the Honourable Justice David Beach of the Court of Appeal and Marea Beach, the Honourable Michael Sifris and the Honourable Kristen Walker of the Court of Appeal and Justices Beale, Connock, O'Meara and Attiwill of the Supreme Court and the Honourable Kirsty Macmillan, former Judge of the Family Court of Australia.

And may I acknowledge the Solicitor-General of Victoria at the Bar table. Sitting on the bench with the Judges of the Victorian Registry and myself is Justice Greenwood, the senior Judge of Queensland. And my Chief Justice. May I particularly welcome the Honourable Michael Black AC QC who is with us today. Justice McEvoy, may I, on behalf of all the Judges of the Court around Australia, formally welcome you to the Court. You have already commenced, of course, and Covid-19 has delayed this welcome. You will find, I hope, it is both a busy but a collegiate court with a great variety of work and the Judges of the Court and I wish you a happy, fruitful and rewarding time on the Court serving the Australian people in the exercise of the judicial power of the Commonwealth.

Mr Attorney.

THE HON M. DREYFUS QC: May it please the Court. I would like to begin by acknowledging the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we meet today, the peoples of the Kulin nation. I also pay my respect to their elders, past and present. I would like to extend that respect to any Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples present today. It's a great privilege to be here today to congratulate your Honour on your appointment as a Justice of the Federal Court of Australia. I would like to thank you on behalf of the Australian Government for your willingness to serve as a Judge of this Court. The Government extends its best wishes for your career on the Bench.

Your Honour's appointment to this Court is another success in a diverse and respectable career. It's a testament to the high regard in which your colleagues hold you that so many of your colleagues in the legal profession are here today. May I particularly acknowledge Her Excellency, the Honourable Linda Dessau AC, Governor of Victoria, Ms Rowena Orr QC, Solicitor-General for Victoria, and the Honourable Michael Black with whom your Honour had the privilege of serving as an Associate. And I would acknowledge other current and former members of the judiciary and members of the legal profession. May I also acknowledge the presence of your family who proudly share this occasion with you.

While time won't permit a full exposition of your Honour's many accomplishments, it's with great pleasure that I speak to a few of the fine qualities that have led to your appointment to this Court. Your Honour comes to this Court today with exceptional academic achievements. You were educated at Parade Christian Brothers College where you were awarded dux of the school in 1987. From school, you went to the University to study a Bachelor of Laws with Honours and a Bachelor of Arts, graduating in 1993. Immediately after your undergraduate studies, you took up the role of

Associate to the Honourable Michael Black AC QC, then Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Australia.

It's a great testament to your abilities and dedication that you are now becoming a Judge of this same Court. Your Honour undertook articles of clerkship at Freehill Hollingdale & Page, now Herbert Smith Freehills, in 1995 and in 1996 you were admitted and remained a solicitor and senior associate at Freehills until 2002. While working as a solicitor you continued your academic pursuits, completing a Master of Laws at the University of Melbourne and a Doctor of Juridical Science from the University of Virginia in the United States. In 1998, you were appointed by the Attorney-General's Department to the Australian Delegation of Experts to the Special Commission of the Hague Conference on Private International Law.

Your Honour's relationship with the University of Virginia was cemented early and, since 2001, you've been acting as a visiting Professor of Law teaching conflict of laws. Further, in 2011, you spent a prolonged period in Virginia with your family as both you and your wife, Libby, took up Fulbright scholarships at the same time. Your longstanding connection to the University of Virginia led you to being elected as a member of the American Law Institute in 2018. I'm told that only a handful of Australian Judges hold that honour and many of those are current or former members of the High Court. In 2002, your Honour was called to the Victorian Bar.

I've been told that you were universally liked and respected there, not only for your legal ability, academic rigor, cheery disposition and storytelling but also for your love of a good lunch. As a junior, you were sought after by silks due to the excellent quality of your writing and oral submissions which were always delivered with charm. At the Bar, you developed a general commercial practice primarily in the Federal and Supreme Courts. Your Honour took on a broad range of briefs, including contract law, trade practices, administrative law, professional negligence and defamation proceedings. Notably, your Honour acted as lead counsel for Domain in a misleading and deceptive conduct case bought by its rival, realestate.com.au. I'm told you excelled in that matter in what was a very tricky brief for the respondent.

Your Honour took silk in 2016. I understand that the matter that brought you the greatest satisfaction was acting as Senior Counsel assisting the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety. I've been told that you felt the great privilege and responsibility of working on a matter of such value and importance to the community. This is indicative of your empathy, a quality that stands you in good stead for your time here on the Federal Court. More recently, your Honour has been a Judge of the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia Division 1, formerly the Family Court of Australia, since 2019, and a Deputy President of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal since 2020.

Your Honour is recognised as a leader in the legal field not only for your expertise but for your development of the profession through research, publications and teaching. I turn now to speak of a few of the personal qualities that I have no doubt will complement your appointment to this Court. Throughout your career, your Honour has been known for your commitment both as a mentor and friend. You are a naturally gifted mentor and have dedicated your time to no fewer than six readers and several associates since your appointment, including assisting their preparations for the Bar exam. I'm told that your Honour has a wide and loyal circle of friends, all of whom are very fond of you.

I'm told that there have been many occasions when you have instinctively stepped in to assist many of these friends during difficult times and that you are a wonderful person to have on a team. In tandem to your Honour's knowledge of the legal system, I'm advised that you have a remarkable love of food and cooking. I'm told that you've been known on occasion to order more food than is strictly necessary for the number of people dining if the menu looks interesting. No doubt, this would be your Honour's insatiable intellectual curiosity at play. I understand you have a love of history and also a love of matters of protocol. It therefore follows that you recently travelled to London to attend Queen Elizabeth II's platinum jubilee. Indeed, one of your colleagues has previously noted that the protocol and pageantry surrounding the monarchy no doubt underpins your love of the courtroom. Your Honour's hobbies extend to bushwalking and skiing and you've surprised many colleagues with phone calls from the chair lift.

Before I conclude, I would like to give special mention to your family who are here today. Your Honour's daughter, Emily, has asked that I mention today that you are the reason that she has decided to pursue a career in law herself. I have no doubt you are proud of her current studies at Monash University. Further, Emily has expressed that you are who she most wants to be when she grows up, a testament to your influence. Your appointment to this Court acknowledges your dedication to the law and accomplishments in the legal profession. Your Honour takes on this judicial office with the best wishes of the Australian legal profession, and it's trust that you will approach this role with exceptional dedication to the law as you've shown throughout your career. On behalf of Australia and the Australian people, I extend to you my sincere congratulations and welcome you to the Federal Court. May it please the Court.

ALLSOP CJ: Thank you, Mr Attorney. Ms Annesley, President of the Victorian Bar and representing the Australian Bar Association.

MS R.N. ANNESLEY QC: Your Excellency, Chief Justice, Justices of the Court, Justice McEvoy, I appear on behalf of the Australian Bar Association and the Victorian Bar to congratulate your Honour on your appointment as a Judge of this Court. Dr Collins AM QC regrets that he is unable to attend this morning and sends his best wishes to you on your appointment. Your Honour's appointment to this Court comes some three years after your appointment as a Judge of the Family Court of Australia and has been greeted with acclaim by the profession. The Family Court's loss is this Court's very great gain. Not only is your Honour an outstanding lawyer with a prodigious intellect and excellent judgment, but your Honour has been regarded as an efficient, courteous and hard-working Judge who has undertaken his judicial role with care, compassion and skill.

There has been some speculation as to why your Honour has moved to this Court. One theory is that you wanted to get the band back together and re-join your mentor, Justice Wheelahan, for old time's sake. Another is that you wanted chambers on a higher floor with a better view. Perhaps the most credible theory, though, is that the DVD of your first welcome has worn out from the constant replaying of it by your Honour to your daughters in the vain hope that they would hold you in higher regard. Your brilliant academic career and early time has been outlined by the Attorney-General, so I will skip through to your practice at the Bar. In 2002, you were called to the Bar, reading with Michael Wheelahan, now your brother Judge of this Court. You took silk in November 2016. At the Bar your practice was wide and varied, taking in administrative law, competition and consumer law, equity and trusts, property disputes, environmental and planning law, probate, class actions, media law and defamation, disciplinary proceedings as well as crime and family law. Your Honour's breadth of experience makes you well-suited for this Court.

You were very close to your mentor, so much so that he eventually had to suggest that you find your own room well after the end of your reading period. Accordingly, you secured a room on the same floor as Justice Wheelahan and developed a habit of bursting into his room in the style of Kramer from the legendary television show *Seinfeld*. Good humoured high jinks were part and parcel of your relationship with Wheelahan. Upon joining the Bar your Honour was keen to establish yourself as an intellectual commercial powerhouse. John Dever had other ideas. In keeping with the Dever motto “you need a barrister, do I have a barrister for you”, he sent you a brief to appear on an application for an adjournment in the Magistrates Court. So successful were you on that application that your practice in adjournment applications grew.

Soon after, a new textbook appeared on your Honour’s chambers at about eye-level to solicitors coming to consult you. It was purportedly part of the famous English series of textbooks known as the Common Law Library, and was entitled ‘McEvoy on Adjournments’. The Chief Justice might well be concerned as to what high jinks you and Justice Wheelahan might now get up to now that the band is back together. Your Honour became one of Justice Wheelahan’s preferred juniors, and through that and your background as a senior associate of Freehills, you had plenty of briefs in large matters for sophisticated clients. However, John Dever also ensured that you had plenty of briefs that consisted of shoeboxes filled with a random assortment of papers and clients who paid but occasionally. He says you were the man for the job because he could count on you to be as diligent and enthusiastic for the small client as for the big end of town, and you never lost your sense of humour.

While a Judge of the Family Court, you decided a number of important cases, including *Tailor & Tailor*, *Keane & Keane*, and *Harlen & Hellyar*. Each of these cases, like so many others before you in the Family Court, involved complex legal and factual issues where the stakes were high for the respective parties. Your Honour brought your analytical mind, excellent legal training, and a strong sense of justice and compassion to bear in your deliberations. A leading family law silk says that you treated counsel who appeared before you with great courtesy and consideration and that your Honour applied your considerable intellect to the issues that needed resolution, and your judgments were always sound. It is difficult to think of a better commentary on a Judge of any Court.

Your Honour has been described as perhaps the Bar’s leading *gourmand*. *Gourmand* is the word that was used. It is a French word and sounds very swish. The Economist Style Guide helpfully explains that “gourmet” means “epicure”, “gourmand” means “greedy guts”. Your Honour likes to dine, and your Honour does not like to dine alone. Readers were very convenient company at the wide variety of Melbourne restaurants that your Honour likes to frequent. Certainly, when your Honour started taking readers, Justice Wheelahan suggested that they would need a good laptop, and a gym membership. These requirements did not deter people from reading with you. You had six readers: Sandip Mukerjea, Gemma-Jane Cooper, Brian Mason, Marcus Fleming, Brooke Hutchins and Robert Forrester. It seems that life on the Bench has allowed your Honour to seamlessly combine your judicial role with your role as a *gourmand*.

When you were first appointed to the Family Court, you heard a case in Launceston. It was originally listed for three days, but in the way of these things, the matter extended over some 13 days across three months. This necessitated a culinary tour of Launceston with your Honour befriending the maître d’s of the finest restaurants the city has to offer. One of your former associates tells a story of when you were waiting in the judges’ corridor as a matter was briefly stood down. Your Honour occupied yourself not with legal thoughts but with a far more important

matter, refining the menu of a gin tasting that you were giving for your readers. Your Honour commented then that if you weren't in the law, you would have been a party planner as you are never as happy as when planning a party. Indeed, your Honour is a consummate party host. Any excuse, it seems, is an occasion for your Honour to throw a party: presidential inaugurations, fourth day of July, Royal weddings, all with appropriate bunting, and the most memorable, the Queen Mother's funeral, complete with gin and Dubonnet.

Still, amongst all the congeniality, there is sometimes to be found a darker side to your Honour, something that counsel appearing in front of you may wish to bear in mind. Your Honour recently went on a hiking trip to Tasmania. This is not an activity within your Honour's usual range of interests. As a result of a recent bout of COVID and perhaps other fitness reasons, you were not generally found at the front of the walking group. This group comprised some barrister colleagues. One barrister friend rather impertinently took it upon himself to comment on your Honour's tardy progress on the first morning. When your Honour arrived at a lunch spot, this member of the Bar teased your Honour that the coffee cart had just left. He continued with tiresome jokes of this nature throughout the trip. Your Honour took these jests with your usual good nature, or so it seemed. At the end of the hike the jovial barrister found that a very large and very heavy rock had somehow secreted itself into his backpack.

Your Honour has been married to Libby for over 20 years, and together you have two beautiful daughters, Emily and Alexandra, of whom you are justifiably very proud. It's fair to say that your Honour does not have a practical bone in your body, so it is just as well that you are married to Libby, who is the world's most practical person. Legend has it that those who knew you and Libby before you were engaged were sure that it would be a successful match when on the way to skiing holiday it was discovered that you had a flat tyre. Faced with this daunting situation, for which you had no solution, your Honour gallantly allowed Libby to take over the task of changing the tyre, freeing up your Honour to do what you do best: observe and commentate. Things did not go so well when your Honour and Libby participated in sailing lessons one summer for the simple reason that, when sailing, one actually needs to do something rather than just commentate. Needless to say, when, through your Honour's inaction, you tipped both you and Libby out of a boat, somewhat of an emergency arose. Being practical and in keeping with the first rule of safety, save oneself first, Libby did just that. Your Honour, unable to hoist yourself up into the boat, I'm told, had a very long swim back to shore.

Finally, in preparation for this speech, I had the opportunity to speak with many of your Honour's many friends. This crowded courtroom today is a testament to that. In speaking with your friends, it became clear that on the friendship scale, your Honour is gold standard. You will do anything you can do for a friend, which speaks to your Honour's character and generosity of spirit. Your Honour has already proven yourself as a capable, compassionate and considered Judge. You will undoubtedly make a substantial contribution to the work of this Court. On behalf of the Victorian Bar and the Bars of Australia, I wish your Honour long, satisfying, and distinguished service as a Judge of this Court. May it please the Court.

ALLSOP CJ: Thank you, Ms Annesley. Now, Ms Juliana Warner, who will address us remotely, from the Law Council of Australia and representing the Law Institute of Victoria. Ms Warner.

MS J. WARNER: May it please the Court. I acknowledge the traditional owners of the country on which we all meet and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and community.

Normally, I'm on Gadigal or Cammeraygal land in Sydney, but today I'm on Larrakia land in Darwin. I pay my respects to elders, past, present and emerging, and extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here today. I would also like to acknowledge the Attorney-General, The Honourable Mark Dreyfus QC, Her Excellency, The Honourable Linda Dessau AC, Governor of Victoria, The Honourable Michael Black AC QC, former Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Australia, and President of the Victorian Bar Association, Ms Annesley QC, all Judicial Officers, dignitaries, colleagues, friends and family. I must say your wife, Libby, sounds like a great girl, and most of all, your Honour.

It is an honour to be with you today, not only to welcome your Honour on behalf of the Law Council of Australia and the Law Institute of Victoria, but I would like to personally have the opportunity to publicly celebrate your Honour's appointment to this Court. Unfortunately the President of the Law Council of Australia and the Law Institute were unable to be with us today, and I know they wish that they could be, but they're on planes heading for Darwin, and when they asked if I would be able to appear in their stead, I jumped at the chance. You see, I was lucky enough to work with your Honour during your time with Freehills. The detail of what we worked on together is now thankfully lost in the mists of time, but I do remember that it was ghastly, and I remember being down in the trenches with your Honour on a matter. I recall you being the bright young star from the Melbourne office of Freehills doing a stint in the Sydney office, and I recall your wit and humour being greatly appreciated by your companions in that trench.

However, I didn't want to rely just on my memory and impressions for today's speech, so my spies and I reached out to others who know you well. The approach for information was met with overwhelming enthusiasm. While I know that some of the people who were approached had many competing priorities at the time they were contacted, they fell over themselves sharing their insights regarding your Honour, and they made it an urgent priority, and unfortunately, most of those insights have already been referred to, so I have to skip them. But the determination to contribute perhaps more than the words or anecdotes they rushed to provide paints a clear picture of the esteem in which your peers hold you, all of whom want to be invited to your next party or dinner. I have enormous respect for your skills and attributes as well as the poise with which you always conduct yourself.

From early on in your career you conducted yourself in a manner and with wisdom that was beyond your years. Your career trajectory and achievements are no surprise to those who knew you when you were first starting out, and I can certainly attest to that. I must say that it is wonderful to see bright young stars go on to achieve their full potential, as your Honour most clearly has done. You've handled difficult situations with good humour, and you're never lost for words. But particularly appreciated by your peers is your ability to defuse tense moments by reciting a story or ditty apt to the issue at hand, so I can tell that you are still a dab hand in the trenches.

You have tirelessly served the community throughout your career, and I must particularly note your time as Senior Counsel assisting the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety as a Judge of the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (Division 1) and a Deputy President of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. And I must say, also, you look like you haven't changed at all. You've not aged one day, so I must say, you either have Dorian Gray-like features somewhere or must just be very [indistinct]. Your Honour, on behalf of the legal profession, congratulations. The people of Australia will be privileged to be served by you in this new role. May it please the Court.

ALLSOP CJ: Thank you, Ms Warner. Justice McEvoy.

McEVOY J: Your Excellency, your Honours, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you all so much for taking the time from your busy schedules to come today. You do me, but more importantly the Court, a great honour. I thank you in particular, Mr Attorney, Ms Annesley and Ms Warner, for your kind words, and I also thank those who had a hand in the composition of your remarks. The less flattering stories that have been told make the identities of the informants well apparent. They will keep. The generous ones have doubtless been embellished, but I suppose these are occasions for some embellishment.

The last time I listened to submissions from you, Mr Attorney, we were opposed to one another in a case in the VCAT about the deregistration of a bookmaker. I was being led by Mr Holdenson QC. Sitting here today, that seems like a long time ago. The last time I heard submissions from you, Ms Warner, they were probably to direct me to do some photocopying for that case you mentioned. It was actually a case in this Court brought by PetroTimor & Ors against the Commonwealth, concerning oil concessions in the Timor Sea. Happily, you had briefed with Mr Bathurst QC, leading Mr Gageler SC, leading Mr Stephen Lloyd. We were in safe hands, and the photocopying was of a very high quality.

I cannot say, Ms Annesley, that I've had the pleasure of hearing submissions from you before, other than perhaps in a social environment. However I recall that Justice Wheelahan, at his welcome, wondered whether serious injury applications under the Victorian Accident Compensation Act might attract Federal jurisdiction. I'm not sure where those ruminations have landed, but you're always very welcome here.

I also acknowledge the presence at the Bar table today of the Solicitor-General for Victoria, Ms Rowena Orr QC, and Mr Jeremy Ruskin QC. I shared chambers with Jeremy for ten years prior to my appointment to the Family Court, and he is my grand master; or, to use slightly less Masonic and more modern language, my grand mentor.

It is, of course, an enormous honour to have been appointed to the Federal Court of Australia, and I repeat here the oath I took before the Chief Justice on 26 April this year to well and truly serve in the office of a Judge of this Court and to do right to all manner of people according to law without fear or favour, affection or ill-will.

As you have heard, I began my legal career in the Federal Court, fresh out of university, as the Associate to the then Chief Justice Black. What an introduction to legal practise that was. His Honour had been appointed Chief Justice only three years earlier, and he had already embarked on substantial reforms to the organisation, the jurisdiction and, indeed, the physical architecture of this Court.

His remarkable success in that project and the development of this Court is clear today. One's daily interactions as a first-year lawyer were, of course, with him, but also with Justice John Lockhart, Justice Ian Sheppard, Justice Bill Gummow, Justice Peter Heerey, Justice Richard Cooper and others. Sir Maurice Byers was still appearing in the Full Court. It would, I think, have been impossible to have had a more fascinating and educative first year in the law, and I pay tribute today to the formative role of Chief Justice Black played in my legal education, and I'm deeply touched by his presence on the Bench today.

It would be remiss of me not to say something more about the late Justice Richard Cooper, another great friend and mentor of mine in my early days in the law, whom I wish very much were here today. As will be well-known to many, Justice Cooper died in office as a Judge of the Federal Court in March 2005 shortly before his 60th birthday. It was through friends of his in the maritime law world that I came to undertake post-graduate work at the University of Virginia in 1997, and he and his wife were with my wife and me in Charlottesville in the spring of 1999 when I defended my doctoral dissertation. Justice Cooper's untimely death was a great loss to his family, his many friends and to Australia.

The other great absence today is, of course, the late Justice Richard Tracey who also died far too young in October 2019. Almost 30 years ago he was the first silk I encountered as a young associate. Richard was good enough to move my admission to practice two years later. I was a Master's student of his, I would brief him often as a solicitor, and I appeared led by him and opposed to him as a young barrister prior to his appointment to this Court. I appeared in front of him as a Judge, and I was one of his Senior Counsel assisting, as you've heard, in the Aged Care Royal Commission. I know there are several Judges in the Court today who routinely ask themselves when confronted with particular problems, "What would Richard Tracey have done about this?" His role in my life was very significant and, like so many of us, I miss him more than I can say. I acknowledge the presence online of Richard's wife, Hilary, who is prevented from attending today by reason of flu-like symptoms.

It is entirely uncontroversial to observe that Judges of this court, especially those I have mentioned, have set the highest standards. I will do my best to live up to these standards.

I have said it is a great honour to be appointed to this Court, and so it is. My acceptance of the appointment, however, should not be thought to indicate any ambivalence about the first three years of my judicial career. Although it may fairly be said that I did not appear frequently in the Family Court of Australia, I could not have enjoyed my time on that Court more, and it has been the highlight so far of my time in the law. The importance of that Court's work cannot be overstated. It is the Court that many Australians – too many Australians – find themselves in or in the shadow of when they're at their lowest ebb and embroiled in a relationship breakdown or other family dispute. As a result, it is often the Court that shapes the public's perception of the law in Australia.

I acknowledge here and pay tribute to the extraordinary work that has been done in recent years by the Chief Justice, the Honourable William Alstergren, and the Deputy Chief Justice, the Honourable Robert McClelland, in the much-needed reforms to that Court and to the family law system in this country more generally, particularly in the area of family violence. I acknowledge also my colleagues in Melbourne not able to present by reason of the annual Judges meeting of that Court which is occurring in Sydney today. It has been a pleasure to serve with them and I have valued their friendship and support very greatly.

The Honourable Kirsty Macmillan SC, recently retired from the Court and no longer needing to attend judges meetings (mercifully) is here. My years as a Family Court Judge would have been very different without the support and many kindnesses of Justice Macmillan and Justice Jill Williams, and I thank them both publicly for that.

Before leaving the subject of the Family Court, I acknowledge the distinguished presence today of Her Excellency, the Governor of Victoria and Mr Tony Howard QC, and the perspicacity of the Governor's advice to me at various times. To paraphrase Walter Bagehot's famous dictum, Her Excellency has always been available for consultation, and she has encouraged and warned me when I needed both. I thank her for that.

One particular observation which I do not think she will mind me recounting is that it's always best to leave the party when you're having the most fun. That is not something I have been used to doing, but it is good advice. As well as my three years on the Family Court, I had 17 happy, fulfilling and generally fun-filled years at the Victorian Bar. Many of the defining friendships of my adult life were made at the Bar and it is a delight to see so many of my dear friends from the Bar present in court today. I mention two members of the Inner Bar specifically: Penny Neskovic QC and Anthony Strahan QC. Penny and I did the readers course together and we have been great friends and confidantes ever since. Anthony read after me with Michael Wheelahan. I cannot imagine my time at the Bar without them both, and I thank them most sincerely for their companionship and wise counsel. On the subject of the rock and Mr Strahan, I say that any liability I have for that episode is accessorial at best.

On the occasion of my welcome to the Family Court, Justice Wheelahan received almost as much attention in the speeches as I did. That is unsurprising given the frequency with which we worked together and the friendship we developed. His Honour read these remarks prior to publication, and I record that I leave out an observation at this point. However, I would like to say that his Honour was an exceptional master just as he has become an exceptional Judge. I have learned more from him about the practice of the law than from anyone, and I owe him a debt of gratitude which I can never repay. I thank him and his wife Cathryn for being present today.

Of course, such is the nature of life at the Bar that, in time, I had my own readers; six in all, and one reader to whom I have been senior mentor. As you've heard, my readers were Sandip Mukerjea Gemma-Jane Cooper, Brian Mason, Marcus Fleming, Brooke Hutchins and Robert Forrester. I've been Joanna Dodds' senior mentor, and I have tried to perform something of that role for my first associate, Luisa Frederico, who has recently joined the Victorian Bar. Save for Brooke Hutchins who is occupied in another jurisdiction, they are all here today.

All are in active and successful practise at the Bar, and I'm incredibly proud of each of them. They continue to be solicitous of my wellbeing. When I went on to the Family Court, my first reader, Sandip Mukerjea, presented me with a package containing what he categorised as a CLE. It was, in fact, a DVD of "Kramer vs. Kramer", which came in handy. His latest suggested viewing is a DVD of "The Castle" which, as many of you will know, concerns the acquisition of property on other than just terms. Perhaps that will come in handy too.

As well as the opportunity to work with my readers, I've also had the pleasure of having many fine barristers as my juniors and appearing in front of me in recent years. Many of them are here today. I will not list them all but they know who they are and I thank them all. And, of course, I had the great privilege to be led over the years by many exceptional silks. As well as those I have already mentioned, it would be remiss of me not to mention the presence of Mr Jim Peters QC and his wife Sally today.

I wish to acknowledge also the Judges of the Supreme Court of Victoria who are here today. It has been a privilege to appear either with them as their junior or opposed to them or in front of them as judges, and they are exemplars for me of the judicial art. I mention, in particular, Justice David Beach of the Victorian Court of Appeal and Justice Stephen O'Meara with whom I shared chambers for many years. Justice Beach when a silk was the ideal leader. He and his wife, Marea, have been great friends to me and I thank them for their attendance today.

I remember very fondly my time as a solicitor at Freehills. I did articles, as has been mentioned, in the property section of the firm with Peter Mitchell, and I worked subsequently in litigation both in Melbourne and in Sydney with a series of talented solicitors, all of whom were very good to me. They were happy days.

I should say something briefly about my American life. I began post-graduate work in the Law School at the University of Virginia in 1997 under the watchful eye of Professor Paul Stephan, and I joined the visiting faculty of the Virginia Law School in January 2001. I've taught there almost every year since. Professor Stephan has had a great influence on my life, and he and his wife, Dr Pam Clarke, have become firm friends. I understand that they're watching this sitting from Charlottesville. I should also acknowledge my many colleagues on the Faculty who have so warmly greeted my appointment to this Court. I mention, in particular, Professor Paul Mahoney and the Rt Honourable Sir Jack Beatson. I've enjoyed many happy times with all of them.

My time at Melbourne University, now almost 30 years ago, should not be overlooked. They were wonderful years of my life and many of my friends from that time are here today or watching online. They include Joshua Puls, William and Jennifer Irving, Dominic Banfield, the Honourable Mary Wooldridge, Michael Gronow QC, Robert Heath QC, Dinusha Joseph, Renato Marasco, Peter Talacko and Simon Thornton. I mention also my oldest friend, Alistair Wenn, who is here today and who continues to do his best to give me some exercise on our morning walks.

I was privileged to have had many outstanding teachers in the Melbourne Law School, including Professors Michael Crommelin and Cheryl Saunders for constitutional and administrative law, and a young Mark Moshinsky for private international law. I acknowledge the presence in Court today of both Justice Moshinsky and Professor Crommelin.

Let me turn, finally, to my family. I would not be here at all without their love and support. My father is here today. My mother, who could not countenance a second welcome, has not unreasonably chosen Paris in the summertime with my sister, Vanessa. My parents gave my sisters and me a happy family life and a good education, and they are model parents. We had three of our four grandparents and one great grandmother. Grandparents are very important, and mine were a tremendous influence on me. I wish they could have been here today also.

Then there are my own gorgeous girls: my wife, Libby, and our two daughters, Emily and Alexandra. Libby and I have been married for almost 22 years and we continue to have many adventures together. Life would be unrecognisable without her, and I thank her for her love and support of me and our daughters. Our immediate family would not function without her. Both of us would say that Emily and Ally are our most outstanding achievements. They have been the salt of our lives. We are so very proud of them and all that they do and we delight in seeing them blossom into confident and engaging young women. I am so thankful that you're all here with me today and I love you more than I can say.

I would end by thanking the Chief Justice, the Judges, the Registrars and the staff of the Court for the very warm welcome I have been given. My Associates, Rebecca Brun and Janine van Eyk, also deserve special attention for their considerable forbearance in recent months. I am delighted to have joined the Court, and I look forward to many more years of service as a Judge of the Federal Court of Australia.

ALLSOP CJ: Thank you, Justice McEvoy. The Court will now adjourn.
