



Law Council
OF AUSTRALIA

Ceremonial Sitting of the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia – Judge Anastasis (Tass) Liveris

Speech delivered by Law Council of Australia President, Mr Greg McIntyre SC, at the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia, Darwin (delivered virtually).

14 March 2024

I thank Nicole for her welcome to the lands of the Larrakia people on their behalf.

I echo the acknowledgment of those on the Bench and the Bar Table and Your Honour's family, friends and colleagues.

It is a privilege to appear today, through the assistance of technology to be in more place than one on the same day to welcome Your Honour's appointment on behalf of the legal profession. We have formed a firm friendship over a number of years as colleagues serving on the Executive of the Law Council of Australia.

Your Honour' has all the relevant skills, ability, knowledge and commitment to the law to deliver justice to the community you will be serving.

The work of the Law Council of Australia and Law Society of the Northern Territory, both of which you have served as President, is at its heart focused on ensuring Australia's legal system is fair, just and accessible to the people who need to use it and your Honour was an exemplary steward of that work.

Your Honour's belief in this ideal, demonstrated throughout your career, and your ever-present characteristic of empathy for all those you come across will serve those who come before you well.

Your Honour has not only shown dedication to the profession and people of Australia, but to the Territory.

You are a proud third-generation Territorian. You studied in the Northern Territory and practiced in the Territory throughout most of your career, after gaining valuable advocacy experience in your first four and a half years of practice in my home State, WA with the Commonwealth and State Directors of Public Prosecutions.

When reflecting on your time as President of the Law Council of Australia, of the many highlights you could have chosen, you recently said in an interview:

"As a Territorian, where 30 per cent of the population is Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and where the negative impacts of systemic disadvantage within the justice system are acute, I was glad that the Board met in person in Darwin in 2019 and approved a change in the Law Council's policy to support an increase in the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 12 to 14 years; and that we met again in Darwin in my Presidential year to approve an addendum to that policy that guides responses to children under the minimum age."

Along with your passion and deep respect for people and the law, Your Honour brings to the bench an appetite for hard work and ability to juggle demands while getting things done.

While you were President of the Law Council, which I can attest to being a full-time job; you also retained your practice in the Northern Territory. You were there for your young family; and maintained your fitness regime. I am aware that in your travels for the LCA you carried with you your running gear and were regularly out pounding that pavement in the early hours wherever you were. You are known to have set as least one-half marathon PB (personal best) during the year.

Your Honour, on behalf of the Law Council of Australia, I welcome your appointment and extend to you our congratulations and best wishes.

May it please the court.

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