



Valedictory ceremony: the Hon Justice P A Keane
Banco Court
Tuesday 16 March 2010, 9:15am

**The Hon Paul de Jersey AC
Chief Justice**

We join to farewell Justice Keane on his departure from this court, with his translation to the Office of Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Australia.

The only members of the court not present are the Northern, Far Northern and Central Judges and Justice Alan Wilson. They wish to be associated with my following remarks.

I begin by acknowledging with pleasure the presence of the Honourable the Attorney-General, Her Honour the Chief Judge and Judges of the District Court, His Honour the Chief Magistrate and Magistrates, Judges of the Federal and Family Courts, retired Judges and Tribunal members.

Justice Keane has been a highly valuable member of this court since 21 February 2005. He then became the 99th appointee to the court since its inauguration in 1861. On the occasion of his swearing-in, I noted his impressive credentials for high judicial office. His subsequent judicial service has exhibited those credentials in full measure, reflecting the gifted lawyer he is, an astute lawyer with a fine capacity for decisive and reliable judgment.

Prior to his Honour's joining the court, I was I think fairly generally regarded as quick in the production of judgments. Justice Keane, I should say, was, from the very start, not just quick, but rapid, and that reflected his unbridled capacity for hard work, his judicial assurance, and his immense learning. The Federal Court is fortunate indeed to have been able to attract such a talented Judge from the Supreme Court.



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I particularly note with gratitude Justice Keane's role in advising me from time to time on proposals from the executive government which may affect the operation of the courts, on which he invariably provided prompt and percipient advice.

His Honour has, I sense, been a very happy member of this productively collegial court. While farewelling him and Shelley with regret, we are comforted they are just moving next door. We wish them well as the Judge assumes the high office of Chief Justice of the Federal Court, and we are pleased now to be saying, not "adieu", but "au revoir".

I mention two heritage items which the Librarian has displayed outside. They are the two volumes of the roll of King's and Queen's Counsel. The first volume is open at the front page displaying the signatures of the State's first group of Queen's Counsel, including the legendary Sir Samuel Griffith. The second volume is open at the page which shows the signature of Justice Keane when he was sworn in as Her Majesty's Counsel on 5 December 1988.

Finally, I note that today marks the 10th anniversary of the appointment of Justices Holmes and Mullins. They have our congratulations and best wishes.

Mr Attorney

Mr Solicitor

Mr Douglas SC, President of the Bar

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Mr Doyle, Deputy President of the Law Society

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Justice Keane