

**SPEECH BY THE HON. MARILYN WARREN AC ON
THE OCCASION OF A DINNER BY THE SUPREME
COURT OF VICTORIA JUDGES AND MASTERS
TO MARK THE RETIREMENT OF
THE HON. MURRAY GLEESON AC**

DELIVERED IN THE SUPREME COURT LIBRARY
FRIDAY 23 MAY 2008

Chief Justice Gleeson and Robyn,

Justices of the High Court - Justice Kirby, Justice Hayne,
Justice Heydon, Justice Crennan and Justice Kiefel,

And Michelle, Pamela, Michael and Michael

Judges and Masters of the Supreme Court of Victoria and
partners

Welcome

Venue – association between building and High Court (Banco
and Old High Court Building)

Appropriateness – quintessential Victorian-ness of this
magnificent room.

On 30 August the Hon. Murray Gleeson AC will be farewelled
from the High Court.

The Chief Justice will be farewelled from many forums
culminating in the ceremony in the No 1 High Court in
Canberra.

I expect on each of those occasions much will be said about
the Chief Justice's erudite judgments, his intellectual acumen
and his distinguished legal and judicial life.

This evening it is, I believe, appropriate to record the contribution made by the Chief Justice to the judiciary.

Since appointment to the High Court in 1998 the Chief Justice has delivered leadership to us through his wide ranging contribution to the wider aspects of being a judge.

He has delivered almost 60 speeches, papers and orations in ten years on topics relevant to our work. Let me mention a few:

The Role of a Judge in a Representative Democracy –
Judiciary of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, 4 January
2008

The Role of a Judge in a Criminal Trial - Lawasia Conference,
Hong Kong, 6 June 2007

The State of the Judicature - 35th Australian Legal Convention,
Sydney, 25 March 2007

A Core Value - Annual Colloquium, Judicial Conference of
Australia, Canberra, 6 October 2006

National Access to Justice and Pro Bono Conference,
Melbourne, 11 August 2006

The State of the Judicature - 19th Biennial Conference of
Lawasia, Gold Coast, 24 March 2005

Judicial Selection and Training: Two Sides of One Coin -
Judicial Conference of Australia, Colloquium, Darwin, 31 May
2003

The State of the Judicature - 13th Commonwealth Law
Conference, Melbourne, 17 April 2003

Global Influences on the Australian Judiciary - Australian Bar Association Conference, Paris, 8 July 2002

Public Confidence in the Judiciary - Judicial Conference of Australia, Launceston, 27 April 2002

The State of the Judicature - 14 October 2001

Valuing Courts - Family Court Conference, Sydney, 27 July 2001

The Shape of Representative Democracy - The Ninth Lucinda Lecture, Monash University, 24 July 2001

A Changing Judiciary - Judicial Conference of Australia, Uluru, 7 April 2001

Managing Justice in the Australian Context - Australian Law Reform Commission Conference, Sydney, 19 May 2000

Current Issues for the Australian Judiciary - Supreme Court of Japan, Tokyo, 17 January 2000

The State of the Judicature - Australian Legal Convention, Canberra, 10 October 1999

The Future State of the Judicature - Judicial Conference of Australia – Third Annual Colloquium, Gold Coast, 8 November 1998

The Role of a Judge and Becoming a Judge - National Judicial Orientation Programme, Sydney, 16 August 1998

These occasions represent a prodigious workload that included five State of the Judicature addresses.

The Chief Justice has represented the nation, the High Court and the Australian Judiciary throughout the world.

Importantly the Chief Justice has promoted and developed close relations with the courts and judiciary of the Pacific and Asia. He has been quietly persistent in ensuring for example the development of our close relationship with the Supreme Courts of Canada, Japan, the US, NZ, and of late India. Justice Heydon and other judges visited New Delhi on an occasion when a warm rapport was affirmed between Australia and India.

The Chief Justice has expanded the minds of the Australian judiciary to embrace our interface with the world, well beyond the Commonwealth.

Importantly, the Chief Justice has steered Australia firmly in the direction of acceptance of judicial education as an accepted part of judicial life in his oversight and support of education generally and of course the National Judicial College.

The Chief Justice inspired all heads of jurisdiction across the nation to meet in Hobart in April 2007 to discuss and develop our leadership skills. Leadership by example.

So many things: leadership training, substantial judicial education, embracing our role in the Pacific and Asia – all things little thought about 10 years ago – now a permanent feature of our judicial lives.

Tonight is not intended to be one of high formality.

Rather it is one to mark the regard and warmth with which the Chief Justice is held by the Supreme Court of Victoria.

Being a Chief Justice is not an easy task. To assume the mantle twice is extraordinary.

As part of our Victorian warmth and friendship, we wish the Chief Justice and his wife Robyn every joy, peace and happiness in the glorious time that lies ahead.