

SPIGELMAN CJ: On behalf of all of the members of the Bench gathered here today but also on behalf of all of the Judges of the Court please let me congratulate you on your appointment as senior counsel and also thank you for your courtesy in coming and making this announcement to the Court in the traditional manner.

All of us here remember with great fondness the time that we received the honour that has been bestowed upon you. In our case it I think in all cases was conferred by the Attorney of the day. You have gone through a much more rigorous process than any of us had to go through and are none the worse for that. It does mean that your elevation to the rank of silk has the acclamation of the profession and the support of your colleagues in the profession, perhaps to a much greater degree than was true in the past. It is a more rigorous process. You have all come through it and it is a testimony to your standing in the profession amongst your colleagues. That was true in our day also but it was a little messier, if I might put it that way, and considerably less transparent.

All of us on the Bench will look forward to the continued assistance that you have given us in the past but in your new role we are sure that you will continue to appear and give us the assistance that courts need for the proper administration of justice in this country and in particular in this State.

Most of you have appeared before me at some stage or another, although not all of you. That is the nature of practice in this day and age when specialisation is perhaps a little more prevalent than may be desirable but as silk I think you will all find that you appear in places you've never appeared before so that I look forward to those who have not appeared before me doing so in the future.

Once again congratulations on your appointment.