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Speech by President of the Australian Bar Association Noel Hutley SC on the occasion of the swearing-in of Chief Justice John Pascoe to the Family Court of Australia and of Chief Judge Will Alstergren to the Federal Circuit Court of Australia on Friday 20 October 2017.

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May it please the Court.

I begin by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which we meet and pay my respects to their elders' past and present.

It is my privilege to appear today on behalf of the Australian Bar Association and the New South Wales Bar to welcome the appointments of Chief Justice Pascoe and Chief Judge Alstergren.

As the Attorney-General has observed, today is not the occasion for the Australian bars to express at length their appreciation of your Honours' respective talents and achievements. That will occur at your judicial welcomes. Any potted preview would not satisfy.

Each Court acquires a new Chief. That is an important event. Each Court commands jurisdiction over subject matters vital to the interests of the Australian community.

The Courts share responsibility in the field of family law; one where the organisation and deployment of judicial resources of the highest quality is particularly critical to delivering to the community the law's aspirations and promise.

Chief Justice, you bring years of experience to that endeavour. Chief Judge, your energy and skill as President of the ABA, to name but one of your former pursuits, and the one which I have personally observed, together with your learning in the law identifies you as eminently suited to your new role.

To each of your Honours, the bars extend their congratulations and best wishes.

May it please the Court.