

**SUPREME COURT OF
THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**THE HONOURABLE CHIEF JUSTICE MURRELL
THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE BURNS
THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE ELKAIM
THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE MOSSOP
THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE LOUKAS-KARLSSON
THE HONOURABLE ACTING JUSTICE ASHFORD
THE HONOURABLE ACTING JUSTICE KELLAM
THE HONOURABLE ACTING JUSTICE PENFOLD
THE HONOURABLE ASSOCIATE JUSTICE McWILLIAM
THE HONOURABLE CHIEF JUSTICE MILES (Retired)
THE HONOURABLE CHIEF JUSTICE HIGGINS (Retired)
THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE REFSHAUGE (Retired)**

**CEREMONIAL SITTING ON THE RETIREMENT OF JON WHITE
SC, ACT DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS**

CANBERRA

10.02 AM, MONDAY, 15 OCTOBER 2018

Mr Gordon Ramsey MLA, Attorney-General for the ACT
Mr Jack Pappas, Acting President of the ACT Bar Association
Ms Margaret Jones, Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions
Mr Jon Boersig, CEO of ACT Legal Aid

5 MURRELL CJ: The court acknowledges the first people, who are the traditional custodians of this land, and we pay our respects to their elders, past and present. We also acknowledge other first peoples who are present today. We thank those who cleansed the new building this morning in the smoking ceremony.

10 Mr Attorney, judicial officers, members of the legal profession, other friends of the court, family and friends of Mr White. Resplendent in our new robes, bedazzled by our first experience of a naturally illuminated workplace, the judges welcome you to the first sitting in our new Supreme Court building; our new home.

15 What an appropriate occasion to celebrate the distinguished career of our learned Director of Public Prosecutions. Mr Director, for the first, and I trust the last, occasion, the court has you where it wants you: in the witness box. Some of those present may have preferred to see you in the dock, perhaps the secure dock; it was a hard call.

20 It has been 37 years since you graduated in law from the ANU. For 33 of those years you have served the community as a prosecutor. Over the past decade you have led the prosecutors of this jurisdiction as the Director of Public Prosecutions.

25 Four years ago, when I had the privilege of congratulating you on your appointment as senior counsel, I observed that the appointment reflected your achievements in three areas. Since then, you have expanded and cemented those achievements.

30 First, you are a compelling advocate. Without doubt the Territory's leading criminal appellate advocate, although perhaps challenged by your Deputy Director. You combine fearless advocacy with a deep and comprehensive knowledge of the criminal law. Your style is clear, focused and concise. You welcome engagement with the bench. You greatly assisted the judges of
35 the court. Fine advocacy supports good judging.

40 Second, you have promoted the rule of law in the Territory, working tirelessly to defend the independence of your office. By definition, a good DPP is not a crowd pleaser. Unpopular decisions must be made. You have been unafraid to make tough decisions, even when they meant that the court itself was unable to sit in our number one court for much of this year.

45 But the true measure of any great leader is not what they have given to the past but what they have given to the future. You have given much. You have mentored talented young lawyers within your office, including many fine women prosecutors. We have gender equality on the bench. We have

gender equality in the DPP. Perhaps in our lifetimes we will see gender equality at the bar, even the senior bar.

5 As the court settles into its new home, we too look to the future, not just our personal futures but the future of the judicial arm of government both in this Territory and nationally. That future depends not least on the commitment of the advocates who prosecute with integrity and independence.

10 Today we celebrate the distinguished career of one such advocate; that is to say, the career to date. We sincerely hope that we will continue to benefit from the Director's outstanding advocacy, perhaps from the unfamiliar end of the bar table.

15 Mr Director, congratulations on your remarkable career. We will now hear from the Attorney-General.

MR RAMSEY: Thank you, your Honour. May it please the court.

20 I acknowledge the significant presence in the room today, judges, magistrates, distinguished members of the legal profession, current and former members of the ACT executive, ladies and gentlemen and, of course, Jon White.

25 It's very fitting today that we have commenced this time with the smoking ceremony, and can I too acknowledge the traditional owners of this land and commit myself to ongoing personal acts of reconciliation with our nation's first peoples as well.

30 I do wish to take the opportunity briefly to acknowledge the completion of stage 1 of the Territory's new joint court precinct. This project represents an investment of \$160 million for the ACT Government. It has created an ACT court facility that will indeed serve the Canberra community for decades to come. The new facility will enable efficient access to justice, particularly given the great number of jury courtrooms, and I specifically
35 want to acknowledge the work of Chief Justice Murrell and the rest of the court's project team in reaching this important milestone.

40 Jon, I'd like to welcome members of your family here today, your partner Julie, your sisters Linda and Helen, as well as many of your esteemed colleagues. The attendance today of so many members of the judiciary, the profession, the government and the ACT community is indeed a true reflection of the mark that your leadership has made during your time in the role at the DPP.

45 The Director position has played a vital role in access to justice outcomes for a period of more than 25 years in this Territory, and I'm pleased to

acknowledge your commitment and your contribution to the role since you commenced it in 2008.

5 You have been a strong advocate for improvements to the criminal justice system right throughout your tenure, perhaps best encompassed through updates you made to the DPP's prosecution policy in 2015, the first of its kind since 1991, and that ensured consistency in decision-making and informed sound exercise of judgment.

10 My predecessor, Simon Corbell, and I am most pleased that Simon is with us today, noted the update acknowledges and encompassed the Human Rights Act 2004 and the Victims of Crimes Act 1994, and notably acknowledges a prosecutor's role to act in accordance with human rights as a public authority under the Act. I wholeheartedly echo those sentiments today.

15 You have been a strong advocate for survivors of family violence and sexual assault in the Territory. Your experience and thoughtful contributions have been invaluable in advancing significant reforms in this area. These reforms place the ACT at the forefront of national efforts to improve access to justice and just outcomes for victims of family violence and sexual assault. This
20 includes the implementation of many of the recommendations coming from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, including those that relate to the ability of children to give evidence.

25 On a personal note I do thank you for the consultative approach that you have shown towards the Office of the Attorney-General. I have appreciated the positive, the informative and the robust conversations that we have had on reforms during my time in this role.

30 Lastly, I wish to acknowledge your standing in the community. You have shown leadership, steering the DPP through significant periods of change, and it is clear that you leave the office in a very strong position. I congratulate you on your career as the DPP and I thank you for your continued commitment and your contribution to the people of the Australian
35 Capital Territory.

On behalf of the ACT Government, and personally from myself as well, I wish you the very best as you embark on the next stage, the next endeavour in your distinguished career. May it please the court.

40 MURRELL CJ: The Acting President of the Bar Association, Mr Pappas.

MR PAPPAS: Chief justice, your Honours, Attorney-General, honoured
45 guests, brothers and sisters in law, ladies and gentlemen. I am, like other speakers today, conscious that we gather in this place on this morning on traditional land of the Ngunnawal and the Ngambri people and I pay my respects to them, their ancient culture and their elders.

5 However, as we gather here in the completed first stage of a long overdue revamp of the Territory's criminal justice facilities I pause to recall what Judge Stephen Norrish QC of the New South Wales District Court described in 2016 as the gross and grotesque overrepresentation of indigenous Australians in the criminal justice system.

10 In 2016, the ACT had the smallest Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population of any jurisdiction in Australia, 1.9% of our population and just .9 % of the total Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. At the same time Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons accounted for 24% of the adult prisoner population in this Territory. The age standardised imprisonment rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders was 18 times the non-indigenous rate. That's the highest discrepancy in Australia.

15 In September last year, The Canberra Times reported that ACT Police were apprehending indigenous Canberrans 35% more often than they had four years previously. The Alexander Maconochie Centre is full to bursting and it is being extended. The problem is getting worse not better.

20 194 years after white settlers first drove a mob of sheep into the area which we now know as Civic we have a problem, and we don't need a citizens' jury to tell us what the problem is, and it's about time the government addressed it.

25 Now, what I've had to say is not the purpose of this morning's gathering. This ceremonial sitting of the Supreme Court marks the end of Jon White's tenure as Director of Public Prosecutions. Jon has occupied a very important statutory office for 10 years, and in that role has filled some very big shoes left by his predecessors, Ken Crispin QC, Terry Buddin SC and Richard Refshauge SC, all of whom went on to distinguished judicial careers. That speaks volumes for the qualities which a Director of Public Prosecutions must possess and develop in order to discharge what is a very difficult job with massive responsibilities.

30 As Director, Jon has represented and is employed by all of us. I'm pleased to say I haven't had to pay his wages, at least not directly.

35 Jon has shouldered the very heavy load of controlling the office of the Director and of initiating and conducting criminal and other prosecutions on behalf of the Territory, all of us, and during Jon's tenure I've watched as the workload of his office has expanded enormously. The number of Supreme Court trials has increased, and with the growth of the Territory population and demographic changes serious crime has become far more prevalent than it once was.

40 45 Jon's office has to deal with far more family violence matters than was once the case, far more sexual assault matters, far more matters of restraint and

confiscation of assets derived from the commission of crime, and it seems far more appeals than were once the case.

5 Jon has been involved heavily in the appeal work of his office, including appeals which have gone on to the High Court and resulted in the settling of important questions of law.

10 And in doing all of that, and a lot more, Jon has had to act with absolute fairness and detachment, free from political persuasion, influence or control, balancing the concerns of the victims of crime and the community at large, whilst at the same time ensuring the fairness of the trial process and all the while demonstrating that fierce independence which has already been referred to this morning.

15 However, I'm not prepared to shower Jon with praise for doing that or any of it. I've known him for a very long time, since, in fact, he was a junior Commonwealth prosecutor, and I know through experience that as difficult as that balancing exercise might sound, this man's an imposter, in other words, a fraud, because it all comes absolutely naturally to him.

20 Even before Jon White senior counsel earned those postnominals "SC", which mark him out as a leader of our profession, he was already a leader. He was always fair in his dealing with other advocates, always fair and proper in his approach to the court, and although we faced each other then and have done so since in a number of difficult at, at times, tense and hard-fought cases, and although I've occasionally taken pen to paper in a vitriolic letter to The Canberra Times, Jon has remained unfailingly polite, courteous and professional. It's infuriating.

30 But it's part of what makes a good Director of Public Prosecutions, and more than once I've returned to my chambers thinking to myself, "Why can't I be more like Jon White."

35 Jon has never pandered to the baying of the crowds, the readers of The Canberra Times; sometimes he's had to make hard decisions. He's had to tell police that, "I won't prosecute that matter, there's not enough evidence," or, "It would be a waste of resources and a vexation to all to proceed further." They are hard decisions to make. He has only made them occasionally, mind you, because he has that facility described by Rumpole of the old Bailey of making bricks without straw.

40 For those attributes, Jon, I thank you on behalf of the Bar Association of the Australian Capital Territory. We are proud that you're a member of our Association. We wish you in your transition to the next phase of your legal career all the very best.

45

I know with some certainty that I will never be far from your thoughts, however, and you may well ask how do I know that. As anyone would in preparing a speech of this magnitude, I went to the most trusted of sources, Google, and I searched for Jon White, barrister, and in a moment of madness
5 I pressed the image button, and to my unrestrained delight, Jon, in the first two rows of results two very flattering photographs of me emerged. There were also a number of murderers, Abraham Lincoln, Margaret Jones from your office came up, as did Lord Jonathan Sumption OBE, reputedly the most expensive silk in the world by the time he retired from practice, and
10 you'll be pleased to know, a page for the sexiest lawyers in America. Not a sign, however, of your nemesis, local lawyer, Ben Aulich.

So remember, Jon, if you're ever feeling nostalgic I'll only ever be a Google selfie search away. May it please the court.

15 MURRELL CJ: Madam Deputy Director.

MS JONES: Attorney-General, Chief Justice, judges of this court, visiting judges, magistrates, distinguished guest, I too acknowledge the Ngunnawal
20 people and pay respect to their elders, past, present and emerging.

It is a great honour to speak on behalf of the Office of the DPP at this ceremony to mark Jon's remarkable contribution to the ACT community over the past 10 years as the Territory's fourth and longest serving Director of
25 Public Prosecutions.

It is also an occasion tinged with sadness for me personally after working 10 years closely with Jon and for the staff of the ACT DPP who have worked under Jon's wonderful leadership and guidance during his term as Director.
30 He is a highly respected and much loved Director, as evidenced by so many members of the office attending the ceremony today.

Our fourth Director of Public Prosecutions is not only the longest serving but also Canberra's first truly home grown Director. Jon was born in Canberra,
35 grew up here, went to school here, attended ANU, and after a very brief stint working in Sydney in private practice and the Commonwealth DPP he returned to Canberra to continue his work with the Commonwealth DPP before becoming the ACT Director of Public Prosecutions in 2008. He is truly part of the fabric of the Canberra community and has devoted almost his
40 entire working life in the public service of its citizens.

Shortly after commencing as Director Jon set about reviewing every aspect of the office, leaving no aspect untouched, including the DPP logo. Our logo incorporates Ethos, the sculpture sitting outside of the Legislative Assembly.
45 Ethos has become an integral part of the DPP, gracing the cover of our annual report each year, and a fact little known Ethos is photographed and the

cover is designed every year personally by Jon and by Mercy Wilkie, our human resources manager.

5 Of Ethos Jon said in the annual report for 2008/2009, his first, "Ethos was conceived by its creator, Tom Bass, as representing the spirit of the community of Canberra. It is a particularly appropriate symbol for the DPP, which acts for and represents the community".

10 The role of a Director of Public Prosecutions is a unique role in our legal system. Unlike other lawyers who have clients whose interests they represent, uniquely the Director has no client other than the Canberra community. When making decisions all relevant interests must be taken into account, including those of the accused and victims of crime. As the chief justice and Mr Pappas noted, decisions may be unpopular. It is a heavy, 15 weighty responsibility that the Director bears. John has always approached his role in a principled and ethical way.

20 Jon is a quiet achiever. He has achieved much, and I just want to mention a few of those achievements that people may not know about, although I'll just touch the surface. Under Jon's leadership, the Office of the DPP is a professional organisation where some of Canberra's best and brightest young lawyers have flourished. Our prosecutors can be found throughout the country now as Crowns, respected barristers, advocates and otherwise 25 employed in the law.

30 Jon professionalised the paralegals and ensured that they had access to qualifications and training. In terms of the legal practice of the office, under his leadership our prosecutors have been at the fore in leading tendency evidence, expert evidence in child sexual abuse cases and the utilisation of section 38 of the Evidence Act, which has allowed for the prosecution of often violent crimes committed against the most vulnerable members of our community who would otherwise not participate in the criminal justice process.

35 Jon is one of the smartest lawyers I know. He is one of the few lawyers in the country who truly understands the Criminal Code, and anyone who has had to grapple with the Code knows what an achievement that is.

40 He has appeared in the most complex of trials and sentence matters, the most complex appeal cases before the Court of Appeal, and is equally at ease before the High Court. A highlight for Jon, and for those of us who worked on the case, was the High Court decision in GW in 2015, the effect of which is that the evidence of young children cannot be accorded less value merely because their evidence is not sworn. This decision has had application 45 throughout the Evidence Act jurisdictions and has contributed significantly to ensuring the evidence of young children is heard in our courts.

5 Apart from the High Court, Jon has appeared in hundreds of Court of Appeal matters. While he appears mostly as respondent, he has instituted reference appeals and Crown sentence appeals as he thought necessary, and many of those appeals have been upheld. He has contributed significantly not only to the jurisprudence of this Territory but also to its legal culture.

10 Continuing on with Jon's achievements, one of his first acts was to significantly expand the family violence section, and that is a centre for excellence in the prosecution of family violence offences in the ACT.

15 But it's particularly in the area of the prosecution of sexual offences, including child sexual offences, that the Office, under the guidance and leadership of Jon, has excelled, and I mentioned before the use of tendency evidence and expert evidence, both of which have been so important in the prosecution of child sexual abuse.

20 There is no doubt that the community expects more now from more justice agencies and the criminal justice system in terms of justice for victims of sexual offences and child sexual abuse, and this has been an important focus under Jon's directorship.

25 Jon has a subtle and sophisticated appreciation of human nature, and it is a combination of intelligence and wisdom that has made him such an asset to the ACT community as its Director for the past 10 years. He truly understands the dynamics of gender violence and sexual abuse.

30 The ACT is a leader in Australia when it comes to innovative ways in ensuring the process of giving evidence is less intimidating for witnesses, particularly children and victims of crime and other vulnerable witnesses while balancing the rights of the accused to a fair trial. Our office has been at the forefront in the developments of changing how witnesses give evidence, and as noted by the Attorney-General, as a result the ACT has some of the most comprehensive special measures in Australia.

35 During the past 10 years the Office has faced many challenges. As Canberra has grown and matured so has the work of criminal prosecutions. We have, in Jon's words, seen a paradigm shift in the complexity and seriousness of the work of the Office. As a DPP we have had to grow and grow quickly to deal with the substantial increase in trials, appeals, an increase in the number of judicial officers and now the new court complex, which of course is very welcome. Jon has successfully navigated the office through these changes.

45 The staff of the Office will miss Jon greatly, as can be seen from the turnout; I think the entire Office is here this morning. Jon is a greatly respected and loved Director. He keeps us motivated when the going gets tough. He has great faith in the staff of his office. He has fostered a positive, professional

and safe environment, an environment where we work hard but we also get to laugh.

5 Jon values everyone in the office, paralegals, our corporate staff, receptionists and prosecutors alike. Under Jon's directorship women advocates and women managers have flourished and have been able to reach their full potential in a way that serves as a role model for the rest of the profession in the ACT. Jon, you'll be greatly missed by us all. Through his relentless hard work, which I know will continue up until his last day, he has left the Office
10 in a strong position to face the challenges ahead.

15 It's a very exciting time for you, Jon, and your partner Julie as you embark on this new part of your life. I can see your future of slow, unhurried mornings, endless possibilities for gardening, walking and, of course, travel, all of which are great loves of you and Julie. And as in the famous 1970s soap ad for those of us old enough to remember, I imagine Julie, from the comfort of the spa on a luxury jet saying, "Jon, Tahiti looks nice." Jon will pick up the phone, call Charles the pilot and the jet will lurch left and fly off into the sunset. We will all be jealously looking on.

20 May it please the court.

MURRELL CJ: Mr Boersig, CEO of Legal Aid ACT.

25 MR BOERSIG: Mr Attorney, your Honour and judges, all judicial officers here today, my colleagues, your family and, of course, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who we rightly acknowledge this morning.

30 It's great to be here, Jon. I have worked with you now for over five years and it has been a pleasure, and I particularly thank the court for allowing me to be here to express that today.

35 It's important in high office to be independent, to uphold high ethical standards, and the role is one in which you are integral, and you have been integral to the proper administration of justice for our community here. All those things, as you've heard here today that have been said about out, and it's been a delight to hear that because it has been tough and you've really had to maintain your independence and exercise that on many occasions, and I've seen it and I congratulate you for that.

40 You've discharged your duties with commitment, enthusiasm and professionalism and, most importantly, upheld the independence of this office, and all these people here today acknowledge that and thank you for doing that; it's very difficult.

45 We've come across each other not in courtrooms but in a range of other places, in particular, around law reform, and I've highly regarded your views,

the way you've approached your task, the issues that you've been able to address in your time as Director of the DPP. Again, that role is instrumental in guiding this community and making the best laws and ensuring justice is done in our community.

5

The legacy that's been set out here will be marked in legislation to come. Mind you, I would have liked to have seen you sort out the Code and the Act and a few things like that. I guess you have to leave something for someone else.

10

We've disagreed from time to time on a range of topics, but we've found much in common, particularly around victim policy and in our approach to legislation. You've always expressed great empathy around family violence and victim violence and always recognised the need to ensure that's properly addressed in our courts.

15

We've worked cooperatively together and, in particular, we've worked to develop a different culture between our organisations, and I think the exchange program between our lawyers is one which has really borne fruit, not just for the individuals but also for this community and for the future for our organisations.

20

All of this I trust will have a positive and lasting impact on ACT legal culture, and I think that's certainly what I see happening now. Legal Aid, DPP, two sides of the same coin. We both pursue justice and I think we've been able to show that, and I thank you because it wouldn't have happened without you.

25

Your time in office has been singular, and I think your influence will be long-lasting. I applaud your contribution to the law and to this community. I congratulate you, as others have, about the next chapter in your life, and clearly it is. I certainly hope to see you in defence work, and I don't think you should spend too much time in Tahiti. I think you should get down to it and come on the other side for a while.

30

35

Please the court.

MURRELL CJ: Director.

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MR WHITE: Chief Justice, judges of this court, magistrates, other distinguished guests, members of the legal profession, family and friends, I would like to thank everyone for their kind remarks on this occasion. I think I must see if a transcript of this occasion is available. I may have need to use it against Mr Pappas in the future.

45

But I'm very honoured by this ceremonial sitting, which I take to be a recognition of the achievements of the Office of the Director of Public

Prosecutions as a whole over the last 10 years, rather than my role specifically.

5 I've never lost sight of the privilege and responsibility that comes with the role of the DPP. I've had a great team, and there are too many wonderful people for me to thank for me to individually name them. But as Margaret Jones and others have said, the role of the DPP is a unique one. All relevant interests have to be considered, including those of the accused and victims of crime. The upside of all of that is that there tends to be no client other than
10 the community. But one tends to make decisions that will inevitably be unpopular, at least in one quarter, and often they are unpopular in all quarters.

I want to mention today just a few of things of which the DPP team can be very proud. Firstly, when your Honour the Chief Justice came to your role
15 there was a real backlog of problems with delayed judgments in this court. Through a lot of hard work, to which my office has contributed, that problem has been conquered. A lot goes into preparing a trial behind the scenes, and it's not just lawyers who contribute to that but all sections of the office. It's truly a team effort, and I'm very appreciative of the fact that many of my staff
20 have turned out on this occasion today.

Your Honour the Chief Justice, the court under your leadership is now courteous and businesslike. My office works closely with the profession, the registrar and deputy registrar, whose contribution I would especially like to
25 acknowledge, to maintain the work of the court.

My main advocacy, as has been mentioned, in this court in recent years has been in the Court of Appeal. I haven't made an exact count, but I've appeared
30 in hundreds of appeals. This has been immensely satisfying professionally.

I want to particularly acknowledge the visiting judges of the court. This is a unique arrangement for this court which greatly benefits a small jurisdiction and prevents us becoming too insular, and I've been very honoured to appear
35 in front of many fine judges from the Federal Court and other jurisdictions in appearing in the Court of Appeal.

I also want to acknowledge the court staff, and I'm particularly honoured that Simone, Terry and Rose are all here today. The court staff make these workplaces, which are full of tension and drama, into very efficient and
40 pleasant workplaces to be in, and on behalf of my staff I'd really like to acknowledge the contribution that is made.

I must say, though, I was mortified - I think it was at the farewell of Justice Penfold - Justice Penfold noted that she would miss receiving the
45 unsolicited advice from Terry. I was quite mortified by that because I was under the impression that I was the only person to whom Terry gave

unsolicited advice. Apparently that's not the case. But I would like to thank all of those who contribute to what is part of the workplace for the Office.

5 I'm very proud of the promotion of women during my time as DPP, and I appreciate your Honour the Chief Justice mentioning this. Women who have received their start at the office and who have moved on to the private bar and other senior advocacy roles have included Kylie Weston-Scheuber, Emilija Beljic, Sarah Gul, Tamzin Lee, Stephanie Lind and Larissa Michalko. They have been inspired by great women who have worked in the Office, 10 including Margaret Jones, Rebecca Christensen, Jane Campbell and Louise Taylor, the latter two having themselves recently moved on to bigger and better things.

15 We cannot take credit for the natural abilities of those women, but I'm proud that the Office has provided them with an environment where their talents were nurtured and developed. We will hear a lot more from these women, and I can assure you there are plenty more great female advocates in development in the Office.

20 I'm also very proud of the relationship that has developed between my office and Legal Aid. We fight like cats and dogs in court, but out of court a very respectful and productive relationship exists, as John has told us today. The swap arrangement with staff has been a particular feature of this. I know that my prosecutors who have spent time at Legal Aid have come back much 25 better and well rounded as lawyers. At Legal Aid they get insight into how difficult it is to obtain instructions and how sometimes a client's criminal matter is the least of their problems and preoccupations.

30 I want to lastly mention the fact that the Office has been very innovative legally. We have explored the use of section 38 of the Evidence Act, as Margaret has told you. We have also been on the cutting edge of the use of tendency and coincidence evidence, for example, using it outside of sexual offending, as in the case of Vojneski, and we have contested psychiatric and psychological evidence. The days of accepting something just because it 35 comes from a person wearing a white coat are over. The evidence should assist the jury, not blind it.

40 For these reasons I believe the community can be satisfied that the ACT DPP is amongst the most forward thinking and indeed the best in Australia. This new building marks the beginning of an exciting time for justice in the Territory. I trust that the Office of DPP will be able to continue to contribute to that time on behalf of all of the community.

45 Again, I thank the court for the honour bestowed upon me by this ceremonial sitting.

If it please the court.

MURRELL CJ: Thank you, Mr Director. The court will now adjourn.

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ADJOURNED

[10.41 am]