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Congratulation Speech re Chief Justice Ramsay-Hale

Your Excellency the Governor, Deputy Governor, Distinguished Members of the Government and Distinguished Members of the Judiciary, Sir Anthony, Madame Chief Justice

My Lady,

Together with all members of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, I congratulate you on your appointment as Chief Justice of the Cayman Islands and look forward to working with you to assist and support you in ensuring an efficient and effective Criminal Justice System.

Tuesday, 25 October 2022

In saying congratulations and welcome to you, I also acknowledge the longstanding and outstanding service of the former Chief Justice, Sir Anthony.

My Lady, it is with great pleasure that I address you with a few short words today.

Prior to considering what I was to say, I noted from the announcement of your appointment that it was your 'extensive legal knowledge and significant leadership' together with your vision, passion and commitment to strengthening our judicial system and rule of law that have put you where you are today.

Those attributes (vision, passion and commitment) plainly combine with all of the usual and necessary facets of a Chief Justice, namely patience, integrity, impartiality and fairness to name but a few.

It is also plain that those attributes have seen you become the first Lady Chief Justice in two jurisdictions – a remarkable achievement.

We all know that for someone to excel in such a way, there is more to you and to those attributes which I have just mentioned.

The Cayman Islands law reports and The Turks and Caicos Islands law reports have assisted me with what I needed to know

There, I was able to read some of the judgments, and I echo the words of the Attorney General in this regard, which you delivered month after month involving :

- Orders for the sale of land
- The intricacies of Commercial leases
- The sensitivity which you attached to Declarations of children as wards of court
- The compassionate but firm approach required of you in Immigration matters
- The independence you displayed in dealing with Breach of Constitutional Rights
- Providing a succinct summary of the issues relating to Declarations of trusts

- Overcoming the complexities of multi million dollar commercial litigation, and even
- Getting to grips with Exceptional circumstances arguments in firearms cases

To quote the ancient Greek word ‘Poikilia’, the judgments I read demonstrate your multi faceted abilities and hard work ethic to address a wide variety of legal issues at the very highest level.

Out of court, your involvement in numerous extra-judicial engagements which you have undertaken over the years, for instance, in training workshops to do with criminal procedure reform, domestic violence and special measures for vulnerable witnesses further demonstrate your passion for the law and advocacy.

Accordingly, in addition to those attributes I mentioned a few moments ago, it is plain that your remarkable achievements also can be measured by :

- Your common sense,
- The fact that you act with compassion and firmness,

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- Your hard work ethic

But also because you appear,

- blessed with a deep grasp of the law in addition to a sharp intellect and quick wit

It may not surprise you to hear that those last few characteristics were also attributed to your late father who, I am sure, would have been so proud of your achievement in becoming Chief Justice of the Cayman Islands.

Finally, this. I am confident that you will bring all of these attributes I have mentioned to your appointment as Chief Justice and,

Together with all members of the Office of the DPP, I wish you well with your new role, I look forward to working with you and, once again, Congratulations !

Simon Davis, DPP
25th October 2022