



Law Council
OF AUSTRALIA

President's Dinner 2017: Concluding Remarks

Speech delivered by Fiona McLeod SC, President, Law Council of Australia at the Law Council's President's Dinner, Canberra.

30 November 2017

Thank you to the Directors. I have worked with most of you for many years and it has been a pleasure. To work with you now as President has been a true privilege.

I think we are all conscious that our Directors work hard, but truly their generosity with their time and their expertise is quite remarkable. I believe it is only because we operate in a profession with such a strong culture of giving up time for free that we are able to secure such stellar service.

Truly their capacity to protect and uphold the rule of law both at home and abroad is something none of us should take for granted.

I would like to also thank the Members of the Law Council Executive who have directly supported me throughout the year.

They have helped the Law Council achieve so much this year. The Law Council has always been important and influential, but I believe it is the work of this executive that has made us truly formidable.

This Executive has – step by step – made the Law Council fit for the future; fit enough to be able to produce life-changing, nation-changing outcomes.

Of course, this isn't quite the end of the presidency for me, I will be in office for some weeks yet. And if the rest of the year is any indication that means there is plenty of scope for a lot to happen.

But if you can forgive me for glancing in the rear view mirror just for a moment, I feel genuinely proud of what we have been able to achieve together.

It is also so gratifying to know that the organisation is in such great shape, with such a terrific President-elect waiting to take the reins in 2018.

My final thank you its reserved for my family – my husband, Livio, and my daughters, one of whom is here this evening.

Your unwavering support and your extraordinary patience may not have always been acknowledged, but it was always appreciated. You too have committed to the Law Council, but with hardly any of the fun bits. I could not have done it without you guys.

I feel like I've said an awful lot this year, even by my standards. Yet if you could indulge me to say just one more thing I feel it may be worth your while: please come and join me at the bar at the back of the hall, where the first drink is on me.

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