

**WELCOME SPEECH AT THE SWEARING-IN
CEREMONY OF NEW BARRISTERS**

20 JANUARY 2012

I shall call upon Mrs Manna to present the callees in turn on behalf of the Attorney-General's Office.

MRS MANNA PRESENTS NEW CALLEES IN TURN

Thank you, Mrs Manna for presenting the new members of the Bar. Twice, every year and for the past four years now the Supreme Court has, in the months of January and September held the Swearing-in ceremony of new members of the Bar. This is done before the full bench and this fact alone is an indication of the importance that the Supreme Court places in welcoming you as full fledged practicing barristers. Beyond the solemnity and the pageantry, this function marks the start of your career in one of the most noble professions on earth where you are authorized and indeed mandated to use your acquired skills to ensure that your client, as a litigant in Court, is well represented so that Justice is delivered in good conditions and in the best tradition.

I shall, after my address, invite the Attorney-General and the Chairman of the Bar Council to make in turn an address as an expression of the commitment and the solidarity of the Judiciary, the Attorney-General's Office and the Bar Council to accompany and support you, the new members of the Bar in your career as you familiarize yourselves in the practice of the law in full observance of the ethics of the profession.

New members of the Bar, it is the privilege of the Court to welcome you in what is going to be your “*domus*”. Henceforth you will be spending much of your active life within our midst. Congratulations and welcome to the Bar.

You are already a source of pride and satisfaction for your respective families and it is right and befitting that those who have been beside you, accompanying you in your academic and professional progress should savour this moment of your achievement. The Bench takes this opportunity to warmly congratulate all the parents who are present at this ceremony

As I said earlier, the profession of Barrister is a noble one and the principal “*raison d’être*” of this ceremony is to remind each of you, as you start your career, that the privilege of being accepted as a Barrister carries a corresponding duty on your part to promote, maintain and uphold the administration of Justice and the dignity of the Court.

You will be expected, in the exercise of your noble profession, to show multiple skills, imparting expert opinion, drafting legal process, cross examining the witnesses, submitting to the Courts with fervour but also with fairness. You will do all these within a legal framework.

You have to defend the interest of your client to the best of your ability but you must not overstep or transgress into realms where even devils may fear to tread. You must bear in mind that your paramount duty is towards the Court. You are not the mouthpiece of your client, paid to say what he wants you to say, nor should you tell or coach him on what he ought to say to save his skin which does not reflect the truth. You are called upon therefore to show a remarkable degree of rectitude. Indeed you are an accessory, and a very necessary one, in the noble process of administering Justice. I commend you to familiarize yourself with the Code of Ethics for Barristers published in the Gazette on December 1, 1997, a copy of which will be handed to you through the courtesy of the Attorney-General's Office after the ceremony.

You are at the threshold of a career. Hopefully it is going to be long and fruitful. Fame or notoriety depends solely on your deeds.

On behalf of my brother and sister Judges and in my personal name, I wish you success in your career.

I shall now invite the Honourable Attorney-General to make his address.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL DELIVERS HIS SPEECH

Thank you, Attorney-General.

I shall now invite Sir Hamid Moollan, Chairman of the Bar Council to make his welcoming address.

SIR HAMID MOOLLAN DELIVERS HIS SPEECH

Thank you, Sir Hamid.

I now invite you to take your place at the Bar.

This ends to-day's swearing-in ceremony. The Court will now rise.

Y K J Yeung Sik Yuen, G.O.S.K.

Chief Justice

20 January, 2012