



Opening of the Law Term Service in NSW

Service conducted by Archbishop Stylianos at the Cathedral of the Annunciation of the Theotokos



Left: Chief Justice of NSW the Hon. Tom Bathurst, His Eminence Archbishop Stylianos, His Grace Bishop Seraphim and Judges during their entry to the Cathedral.
Right: His Eminence during his address on the occasion of the beginning of the Law Term 2015 in NSW.

On Tuesday 10 February 2015, at the Cathedral of the "Annunciation of our Lady", His Eminence Archbishop Stylianos conducted the Service for the Opening of the Law Term 2015 in NSW.

Dignitaries present were His Eminence Archbishop Stylianos, Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church of Australia, a representative of His Eminence Metropolitan Archbishop Paul Saliba of the Antiochian Orthodox Church of Australia and New Zealand, His Grace Bishop Irinej of the Serbian Orthodox Diocese of Australia and New Zealand, His Grace Bishop Seraphim of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, the Hon. Tom Bathurst AC, Chief Justice of NSW, From the Supreme Court of NSW The Hon Justice Margaret Beazley AO, President, Court of Appeal, Justice Julie Ward, Judge of Appeal, Justice Stephen Rothman AM, Justice Michael Slattery and Justice Francois Kunc. Present from the Land and Environment Court were Justice Brian Preston, Chief Judge and Justice Terry Sheahan AO, from the District Court of NSW Justice Derek Price AM, Judge John Hatzistergos and Judge Dina Yehia, from the Local Court of NSW Judge Graeme Henson, Chief Magistrate and Magistrate Theo Tsavdaridis, from the Law Society of NSW Mr John Eades, President, from the NSW Bar Association Mr Gregory Antipas representing Jane Needham, President.

Also present were Dr Stavros Kyrimis, Consul-General of Greece and Mr Branko Radosevic, Consul-General of the Republic of Serbia and Mr Jack Passaris, of the Ethnic Communities Council of NSW, and many others.

In his address, His Eminence Archbishop Stylianos based the message on the following scriptural reading:

Epistle Reading: 1Timothy 1:3-11

I urge you, as I did when I was on my way to Macedonia, to remain in Ephesus so that you may instruct certain people not to teach any different doctrine, and not to occupy themselves with myths and endless genealogies that promote speculations rather than the divine training[a] that is known by faith. But the aim of such instruction is love that comes from a pure heart, a good conscience, and sincere faith. Some people have deviated from these and turned to meaningless talk, desiring to be teach-

ers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make assertions. Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it legitimately. This means understanding that the law is laid down not for the innocent but for the lawless and disobedient, for the godless and sinful, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their father or mother, for murderers, fornicators, sodomites, slave traders, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to the sound teaching that conforms to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me.

Your Honour, the Chief Justice, other distinguished Justices, Judges, Members of the Judiciary and various Servants of the Law Profession, Reverend Clergy, sisters and brothers,

The custom of having a Law Term Service is not merely a social event. It is rather a just recognition of the significance of Law in our lives, both as individuals and as a society. For the Church, a fundamental starting point in this regard is the teaching concerning the ancestral fall, according to the biblical verse that "the law is not laid down for the innocent" (1Tim. 1:9).

The human person rejected the divine will through love of self. Law therefore exists in order to reverse the cause of the problem of self-love. This in turn highlights the role of Law in upholding moral order

generally. If we now wish to make more concrete the significance of Law for the individual person in everyday life, it is sufficient to recall the following basic thoughts:

1. We know from personal experience that the pursuit of individual and social progress presupposes love and enthusiasm.

2. Love and enthusiasm presuppose trust and optimism (as no one would dare start something that was expected to end in failure).

3. Trust and optimism however presuppose security and stability.

4) Finally, security and stability presuppose Justice. With the above thoughts, our soul is filled with gratitude and admiration for all that the Law has offered until today within developed societies.

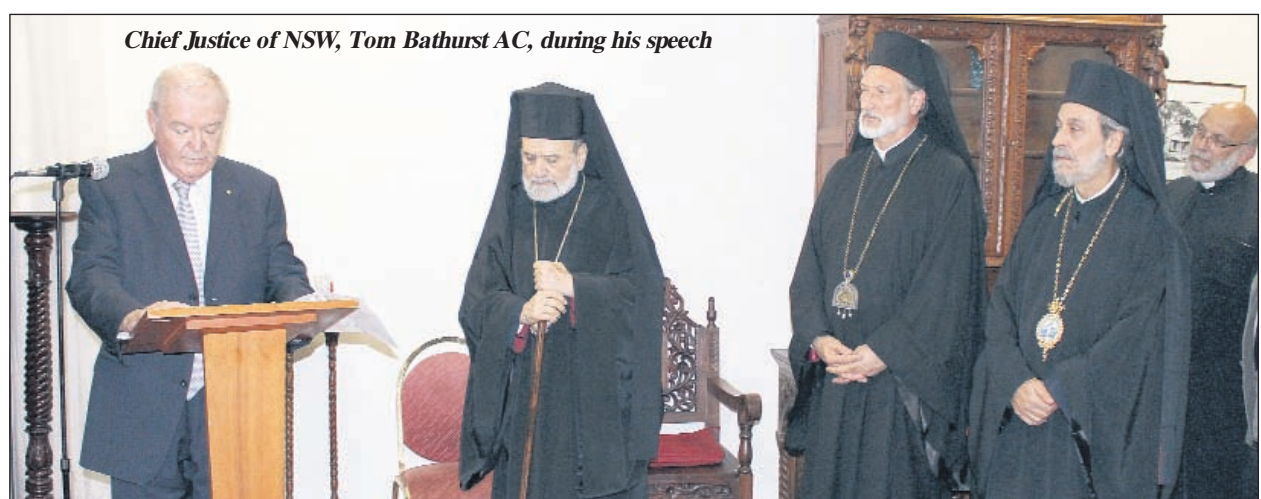
We therefore take this opportunity to wish every strength from above to all Legal and Judicial Services of our State and Commonwealth, on behalf of all Orthodox jurisdictions in Australia.

May God bless once again, at the commencement of this Law Term, not only those who are present, but also all who were unable to attend the special Prayer Services of the various Churches and Denominations.

We pray fervently that God may enlighten all who work within this profession, in fulfillment of the Prophet Isaiah's great exhortation:

"The inhabitants of the world learn righteousness" (Is. 26:9).

Amen. ■



Chief Justice of NSW, Tom Bathurst AC, during his speech