

**Senior Warden's Mansion House Banquet Speech 27<sup>th</sup>  
January 2010**

Master, Junior Warden; My Lord Mayor Locum Tenens; Sheriffs;  
My Lord; Distinguished Guests: Ladies and Gentlemen.

Master, may I, on your behalf welcome everyone here tonight. It is my honour on behalf of the Company to extend our thanks to those people who have made it possible for us to again enjoy the privilege of holding our Annual Banquet in the magnificent setting of the Mansion House. This is indeed probably the ultimate dining experience, wine, fine food, fabulous architecture and the beneficence of the Lord Mayor of this old and venerable City.

We are delighted, Liverymen, Freemen and (or) guests to be present with such a distinguished Civic Party and Official Guests and we revel in the continual sparkling blessing of our own Chaplain, the **Reverend George Bush**, who started (began) proceedings with his usual aplomb – he never fails to delight us with his grace and his pithy wit.

Master, may I start my welcome with the Civic Party.

Present tonight with us as Duty Esquire is the Common Cryer and Sargeant at Arms, **Colonel Richard Martin**.

We also welcome **Alderman and Sheriff David Wootton and Mrs. Elizabeth Wootton, Sheriff Peter Cooke and Mrs Julie Cooke**. The Civic Party is led by the Lord Mayor Locum Tenens, **Sir Michael Savory**.

Sir Michael was elected to Common Council in 1980 in the Ward of Bread Street and he was elected an Alderman in 1996. He was Sheriff in 2001/2002 and Lord Mayor in 2004/2005. He has served on most of the committees of the City of London and is

currently Deputy Chairman of The Standards Committee which oversees the conduct of members and the operation of the Employee Code of Conduct. He was a City stockbroker for 40 years, has been Master of two Livery Companies and is on the council of a number of national charities. He is the Hon. Colonel of The London Regiment.

We are delighted to have you all with us this evening.

It is also a pleasure to welcome **Mr Joe Behan, the President of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators and his wife, Mrs Ruth Behan.** The president is a consulting Engineer, Arbitrator and Mediator and is involved with University College Dublin as part of the training faculty. He is treasurer of the Association of Consulting Forensic Engineers and has a Diploma in Legal Studies as well as being a Council Member of the Irish Commercial Mediation Association.

It is an enormous privilege to welcome **Sir Anthony and Lady Evans** again. Sir Anthony is a tremendous supporter of the Company and well known for his time as President of The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, his international arbitration work and his judicial achievements in the Commercial Court and The Court of Appeal.

**Sir Anthony and Lady Evans you are most welcome.**

We also welcome **Sir Vivian and Lady Ramsey** who were also with us last year. Sir Vivian's fame as Construction Silk of the Year in 2005 and head of a leading set in Essex Street led to his elevation to the Bench. Sir Vivian is currently the Presiding Judge of the Technology and Construction Court and chairs the Users Committee of that court.

**Sir Vivian it gives us great pleasure that you and Lady Ramsey are with us tonight.**

I also welcome the President of The Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, **Mr Max Crofts and Mrs Angela Crofts.**

Mr Crofts is a Bristol based partner of and international property consultants and is specialist in corporate real estate advice and arbitration in property disputes. Like The Master of this Company Mr Crofts is a Chartered Surveyor and **we are delighted to welcome him and Mrs Croft.**

Last but certainly not least, I welcome **Lord Hoffmann.** Lord Hoffmann really needs no introduction. He was born in Cape Town, South Africa and as the son of a well known solicitor was destined for a career in law. He graduated from the University of Cape Town then studied at Queens College, Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar and won the Vinerian Scholarship. He was called to the bar at Gray's Inn in 1964 and was made a Queen's Council in 1977. He was appointed a Judge of the High Court (Chancery Division) and served from 1985 to 1992 when he was elevated to The Court of Appeal. In 1995 he was appointed a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary and created a Life Peer taking the title Baron Hoffman of Chedworth. He retired in April 2009. In addition between 1980 and 1985 he was apart time Judge in the Courts of Appeal in Jersey and Guernsey. He is also a non-permanent Judge of the Hong Kong SAR Court of Final Appeal.

Lord Hoffmann is known for his willingness to break with convention, his lively intellect and his informative decisions. He has had an appreciable impact on shareholder actions in UK Company Law, restricting tort liability for public authorities and his views on human rights.

**Lord Hoffmann, we are all looking forward to your address.**

Finally, I recognise that it is the **guests of all the Members** of the Company that bring colour to our celebration and therefore a warm welcome is extended to you all.

Please will all Members of The Company be upstanding and join me in raising our glasses in a toast to the health of our guests.

**OUR GUESTS**