

Introduction of Dame Sue Carr DBE, Lady Chief Justice of England and Wales

My Lady, it is the most incredible honour to welcome you, the first Lady Chief Justice of Wales to Cardiff, the capital city.

As others have already observed, it was not long ago we celebrated 100 years since the first woman entered the legal profession; now we are celebrating the first woman to ascend all the way to the pinnacle of our legal system and we hope you are the first of very many more to hold the role of Chief Justice of Wales.

My Lady you are of course, and without a doubt, the first Lady Chief Justice of Wales - but what about the first Welsh lady Chief Justice? Under the heading Notable Welsh Lawyers, the Legal Wales website tells us that Dame Sian Elias GNZM, after emigrating to New Zealand as a child, became Chief Justice of New Zealand between 1999 and 2019. Dame Elias was in fact born in England – but as with so many of our sporting heroes, that does not stop us claiming Dame Elias as one of our own. She did have Welsh ancestry, the website tells us. My Lady, might you I wonder? No matter, we are very happy to claim you as one of our own either way.

Conference, please welcome loudly and proudly the very new and very first Lady Chief Justice of England and Wales, Dame Sue Carr DBE.