

John also resuscitated cases for members of the junior Bar, often after they had commenced. On one occasion he dropped everything and came to PNG to assist me in the conduct of a commission of inquiry. During that visit we had lunch at a restaurant where he ordered a fruit pizza and his advocacy skills were such that he managed to make it sound delicious when he wrote of that meal in his 'culinary column' in the *Bar News*.

Underneath the long succession of cases in which John was briefed lay a number of unshakeable principles. These included, of course, a rigid adherence to ethical

standards and a firm view that barristers should not avoid hard cases which is the practical application of the 'cab rank' rule. Those views reflect the fact that John Coombs QC did not just practise at the Bar: he loved the Bar. It was his intended career from his teenage years. He was not just a master of the law: he was its servant.

In the preface to *Bacon's Maxims of the Law* we read the words:

'I hold every man a debtor to his profession; from the which, as men of course, do seek to receive countenance and profit, so ought they, of duty, to endeavour themselves, by

way of amends, to be a help and ornament thereunto.'

There may have been a time when John Coombs QC was a debtor to his professions but there has been a credit balance in that account for some time.

Some are here today to pay tribute to a skilled colleague; others to farewell a much loved partner, father, grandfather or friend. As one who falls into both those categories, I am glad to have had the opportunity to acknowledge, with admiration, appreciation and affection, someone who was, to me, a brother in the law.

Mark Anthony Macadam QC (1941-2007)



Mark was born in Tumut. His father Archibald, a young Scottish migrant, fought at Gallipoli and the Western Front, was decorated for bravery at Passchendale in 1917. He moved to Tumut as a soldier settler and married Isobel Halloran, the daughter of a local grazier in 1923.

Mark inherited leadership, eloquence, a stage presence and a fine singing voice from Arch, along with a highly developed sense of fair play. Arch was in many respects a model for Mark throughout his life, including, unfortunately a predisposition to depression later in life.

His mother Isobel was a strong personality with a great sense of humour, manifest in her ability to make do with limited resources

and laugh about it. Mark's brother, Robert, recalls her amused pride in overalls she made from sugar bags, decking them out during World War 2.

Arch and Isobel walked off their farm, broke, in 1929 and moved into town where they somehow managed to raise their eight children on Arch's salary as a council clerk, including providing them with a boarding school education. The four boys all went to St. Patrick's College in Goulburn where Mark's unique leadership capacity emerged. Despite an aversion to playing sport and a moderate scholastic record he was, in 1958, appointed School Captain as well as Adjutant of the 250 strong Army Cadet Corps, and maintained his popularity with the boys and Brothers.

After leaving school, Mark revelled in his freedom as a telegram boy in Tumut in 1959, but came under increasing pressure from the higher aspirations for him of Arch and Isobel. The first step was a less than successful stint as an administrative assistant on the Snowy Scheme, followed by a somewhat desperate declaration of a vocation to the priesthood that led to a thirteen (13) day sojourn at St Columba's Seminary at Springwood. Mark's lifelong nickname among his boyhood friends of 'The Archbishop' stems from this interlude.

Isobel's maiden sisters in Leura intervened and introduced Mark to Jack Bolton, a barrister and family friend who launched a stellar career by getting Mark a job in the Clerk of Petty Sessions Office, which he began on 14 March, 1960.

Mark gained valuable practical experience at the Childrens', Coroners', Manly and North Sydney courts. He was also on the court relieving staff for a period. Mark qualified by studying through the Barrister's Admission Board and was called to the bar in 1972 while then working at the Office of the Clerk of the Peace, the precursor to the DPP.

Mark and Margaret (nee Underhill) Macadam began a 40 year marriage in 1967. They lived in Beacon Hill and Roseville before moving, in 1981, to Lismore where Mark became the first resident crown prosecutor with establishment of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Lismore Regional Office.

Mark and Margaret had three children. Andrew was born in 1970, Mathew in 1971 and Kate in 1980. Mark and Margaret were deeply affected by Andrew's death in a tragic accident in 1990.

In recognition of Mark's skill as an advocate, and no doubt his inherited stage presence, he was one of the first appointments as

a crown prosecutor from the ranks of the Office of the Clerk of the Peace. His undoubted success in that position is in no small way contributed to the continuation of such appointments. Mark took silk in 1987 and was appointed a deputy senior crown prosecutor in 1990.

On 23 November, 2001 the Crown Prosecutors Chambers at Lismore was named the 'Mark Macadam Chambers' and were officially opened by the director of public prosecutions, Nicholas Cowdery QC.

By the time of Mark's retirement in 2002, he was then the longest serving crown prosecutor in NSW. His professional life (and a great deal of his personal life) was dedicated to travelling the state giving service to the courts and people of New South Wales. He prosecuted countless serious criminal trials and in excess of one hundred and fifty (150) murder trials.

From modest beginnings Mark rose to conspicuousness, prosecuting many of the state's infamous murderers. The list includes; Maiden and Petty, Bassett and Steele (the siege at the 'Hanging Rock' Homestead at Cangai), Katherine Knight (who was responsible for one of the states most gruesome murders) and Hyland, Parry, Yates and others (a home invasion and murder by a bikie gang on the Central Coast). Mark also appeared to oppose the application by Leonard Keith Lawson for a determination of a specified term in lieu of his life sentence. Lawson was serving sentences for the kidnap and sexual assault of five professional models and later holding hostage a number of schoolgirls (one of which he murdered) at Moss Vale. Lawsons application was refused.

Unfortunately Mark did not long enjoy his retirement, he suffered a severe stroke

that left him frustrated and to an extent immobilised. He later required surgery, however, suffered further strokes and passed away at Lismore Base Hospital on 24 August, 2007.

Mark was filled with goodwill towards others and was blessed with both a sharp intellect and sense of humour. He was always available as a mentor to others coming up through the ranks. The essence of Mark was in the high expectations he set of himself and others that all things be done to the appropriate and proper standard. He maintained a dignity and integrity to be envied. His perception of fairness and justice was a model for all.

Mark Macadam was a devoted husband and father and a good friend to many. I regard myself privileged to be amongst that number.

By Colin McPherson

David Officer QC (1946 – 2007)



David Officer was the son of Forbes Officer QC and Suzanne.

Forbes Officer QC was a hard working leader of the New South Wales Bar. He raised his son in Turramurra. He educated him at Knox Grammar School, Sydney University and St Andrew's College. He set his son a fine example and gave him as good a start as any. One thing is certain, David made the very most of this opportunity.

He commenced his work in the law at Sly

and Russell. He then worked in London for some little time.

He came to the Bar in 1972 and read with RV Gyles (as he then was) and took a room on Tenth Floor Selborne Chambers (then not combined with Wentworth). He practised from that floor until October 2006 when his final illness dictated he cease.

He had a practice of great breadth and depth. He was equally at home in the High Court as he was before magistrates, and he did not disdain the Local Court.

He did common law cases. He had a significant practice in the Land and Environment Court. He did many Family Provision Act cases. He was the protective commissioner's senior counsel of choice. The work of helping unfortunate people in the care of that office was a source of great satisfaction to him.

In recent times he did cases and gave much advice on the Gaming Machines Act and the liquor licensing legislation.

He appeared for the Forestry Commission in the Terania Creek Enquiry which went

for years. He appeared in the Seaview Inquiry into the fatal crash of an aircraft on the way to Lord Howe Island. The Hyland Estate litigation lasted for ten years. David appeared for the testator's illegitimate son on legal aid. He appeared in the *Wentworth v Rogers* litigation.

He was a member of the Legal Services Division of the Administrative Decisions Tribunal. No member of the profession could have had a fairer judge than him. He also determined the correctness of the local government behaviour of elected councillors.

He had a powerful intellect which he used to its optimum. He was, disconcertingly to some people, forthright in his honesty. He was an economical advocate. No judge was troubled by repetition from him. No 'loose' witness or submission missed his withering attack. He had great judgement, yet, like his father he did not wish for judicial appointment.

He not only did his job with consummate skill but in the process earned the enduring