

The Hon RJ ‘Bob’ Ellicott AC KC

1927—2022

Attorney-General of Australia, Solicitor-General of Australia, Judge of the Federal Court

Kevin Tang

8 Wentworth Chambers

The Honourable Robert James ‘Bob’ Ellicott AC KC died on 31 October 2022 at the age of 95.

Ellicott KC was born in 1927, raised in Moree and near Cobar in country NSW. Notably he was the second cousin of Sir Garfield Barwick.

Ellicott KC would go on to attend Fort Street High School and the University of Sydney where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws. He was called to the Bar in 1950 where he practised continuously until relatively recently. At heart, he was a great advocate and frequently appeared in common law cases in his early days at the Bar.

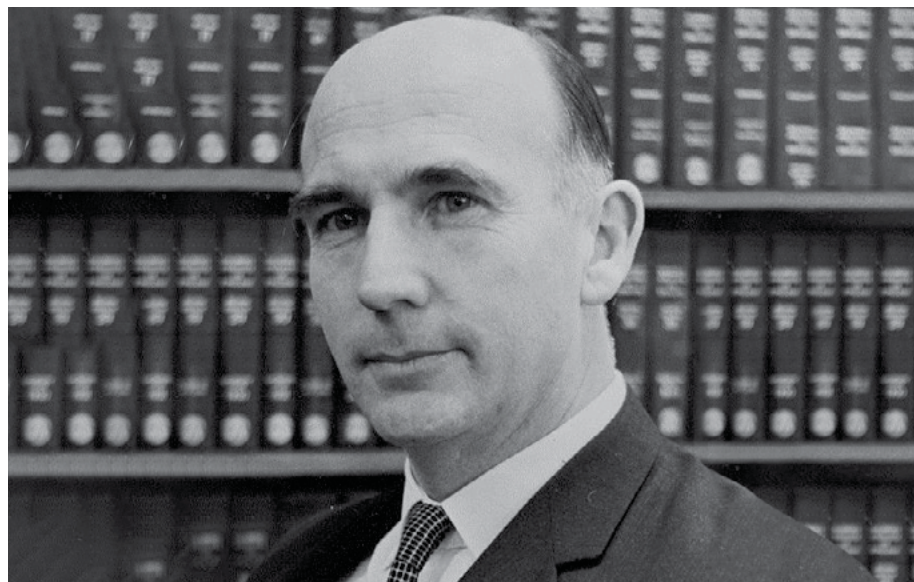
Ellicott KC practised in keeping with the old school traditions of the Bar. In court, he would talk about a number of topics in opening, astutely observing anything which piqued the interest of the Bench with an eye to following-up such points with grand expositions and colourful speeches. It was a technique of the old bar which worked very well for Ellicott KC. In 1964 he was appointed one of Her Majesty’s Counsel and was clearly at the height of his powers. He would have a long and significant career.

From 1969 to 1973, Ellicott KC served as Solicitor-General of Australia.

Following his term as Solicitor-General, Ellicott KC more than dabbled in politics and in 1974 was elected as the Liberal member for Wentworth at the Federal Election.

Ellicott KC is the only person to have served as both Solicitor-General and Attorney-General of Australia.

In 1975 Ellicott KC was appointed Attorney-General, however he resigned in 1977 after a falling out with Malcolm Fraser, interestingly enough over a dispute regarding costs in the famous case of *Sankey v Whitlam*. Ellicott KC took the view that it was the obligation of the Commonwealth



to pay the individual respondents’ costs in respect of a private prosecution taken against Whitlam, Murphy QC (by then a High Court judge) and others in respect of their time as Ministers of the Crown. Ellicott was then reassigned to the portfolio for Home Affairs.

In 1981 Ellicott KC was appointed to the Bench of the Federal Court of Australia. He was one of only six politicians to have served in Federal Parliament and the Federal Court, the others being Sir Nigel Bowen QC, EG Whitlam QC, Reeves KC, Kerr SC and Merv Everett.

Despite the fact he had more than a ring of old Australia about him, Ellicott KC was always enthusiastic about public rights and public affairs, which led some to regard his life in the law as somewhat radical. He practised at arguably the most exciting time in respect of administrative law in this country, while it was taking shape, and as a barrister, judge and politician, he had his fair share of opportunities to fashion it. He left his mark on the law.

From 1995, Ellicott KC served on the Court of Arbitration for Sport and in November of 2007 he was appointed as Chair of the tribunal investigating allegations of misconduct by the then Chief Justice of Fiji.

In 2006 Ellicott KC was awarded the Olympic Order of Merit, for his role in establishing the Australian Institute of Sport in his time as Minister of Home Affairs from 1977 until his appointment to the

Bench. Ellicott KC would also go on to enter the Sport Australia Hall of Fame in 2016. In 2017 he was appointed as a Companion of the Order of Australia for eminent service to parliament as Attorney-General, legal practice and innovative policy development, and to advancements in international trade and arbitration in sport.

For a short time, he reverted to the Bar and it was a haven for him from politics and the Bench. It reminded him of his best days as a relatively young man. He loved referring to his old friend the Hon TEF ‘Tom’ Hughes AO KC as ‘Snappy Tom’ (referring to the jingoistic pet food advertisement and that he always had a can in his top drawer) when they shared chambers and crossed paths. Although he did not appear much in the later years, both he and Tom Hughes KC would, on occasion, stand up in court to do a small case. The rustle of the old silk gowns on those days was unforgettable. No doubt both felt the wrench of leaving the Bar where so much of life was lived and experienced. Time waits for no one. A gentler way of life awaited both of them in retirement.

In later years, Ellicott KC was no stranger to St Vincent’s Hospital owing to his declining health. He was amicable, hail and well met, as always, and knew all the staff.

His funeral was held at St Stephen’s in Macquarie Street. BN

John Michael Spender KC

1935—2022

Ambassador, Parliamentarian, Barrister, Queen’s Counsel

Kevin Tang

8 Wentworth Chambers

John Michael Spender KC died on 13 October 2022. A patrician barrister raised in a politically charged household, Spender KC was one of the legal profession’s finest exponents.

Born on 2 December 1935, Spender KC was the son of the Honourable Sir Percy Spender KCVO KBE KC – a politician, diplomat and judge of the International Court of Justice – and Lady Spender (née Jean Maud Henderson) who was an accomplished writer of crime fiction.

As a result of his father’s lengthy tenure as Australia’s Ambassador to the United States in the 1950s, Spender KC completed his schooling at Cranbrook and then in the USA, in New Haven Connecticut at Yale. He had a charmed life as a young man and was a frequent visitor to homes of the titans of American industry.

Intent on creating his own world, Spender KC returned to Australia and came to the Bar in 1961. He had previously been called to Gray’s Inn in London and that admission gave him seniority at the Sydney Bar. The young John Spender went to work for Justice Barney Collins in the Supreme Court to familiarise himself with procedure and the way the Bar worked in Sydney. Those he came to know as a young barrister in this Post War era included on the bench: their Honours Mr Justice Cyril Ambrose Walsh (as he then was), Mr Justice Martin Francis Hardie and Mr Justice James Kenneth Manning, along with a younger set at the Bar: Nigel Bowen QC, AB Kerrigan QC, HH Glass and MM Helsham (as they then were) among many others. He eventually practised from the Eleventh Floor of St James’s Hall Chambers. There, at the basement level of the building, was a tight car space reserved for his own use where he regularly parked his father’s perfect vintage Rolls Royce Phantom (never a scrape).

Spender KC was immediately busy and was careful about which cases he took. On more than one occasion his taste for politics intruded into his life in the law. Until about 1974 when Spender KC was appointed one

of Her Majesty’s Counsel, he devoted a great amount of time and enthusiasm to the Liberal Party in Sydney. He frequented the homes of party luminaries, such as the Right Honourable Sir William and Lady McMahon and Sir John and Lady Atwill, to crystallise his conception of politics.

At around this time, in the mid 1970s, he met the charming fledgling fashion designer Carla Zampatti and they married in 1975.

Spender KC was imbued with old world manners and performed superlatively in his profession and in the public eye. Those who remember him as an advocate recall his stylish manner – a combination of knowing what to say and when to say it.

He became the Member for North Sydney in 1980. Spender KC is remembered as an individualist politician, ever wary but jovially mixing with politicians of all persuasions. Famously he crossed the floor in his first term of Parliament. Notably this was over a statutory amendment which would stop witnesses in the National Crime Commission being paid their legal costs. It was the sense of injustice that moved Spender KC to advocate for equal access to justice, and it was an occasion of which he was particularly proud.

Spender KC was a great proponent of women’s rights – perhaps encouraged by the examples of his mother and wife.

Unusually for a politician, Spender KC was a great protector of the media, especially of the freedoms inherent in political commentary. He successfully drove reform in respect of parliamentary privilege which allowed journalists such as Laurie Oakes to refer to politicians as ‘drunks and bludgers.’ The old laws of defamation – libel and slander – had until then allowed journalists to be prosecuted for reporting such remarks.

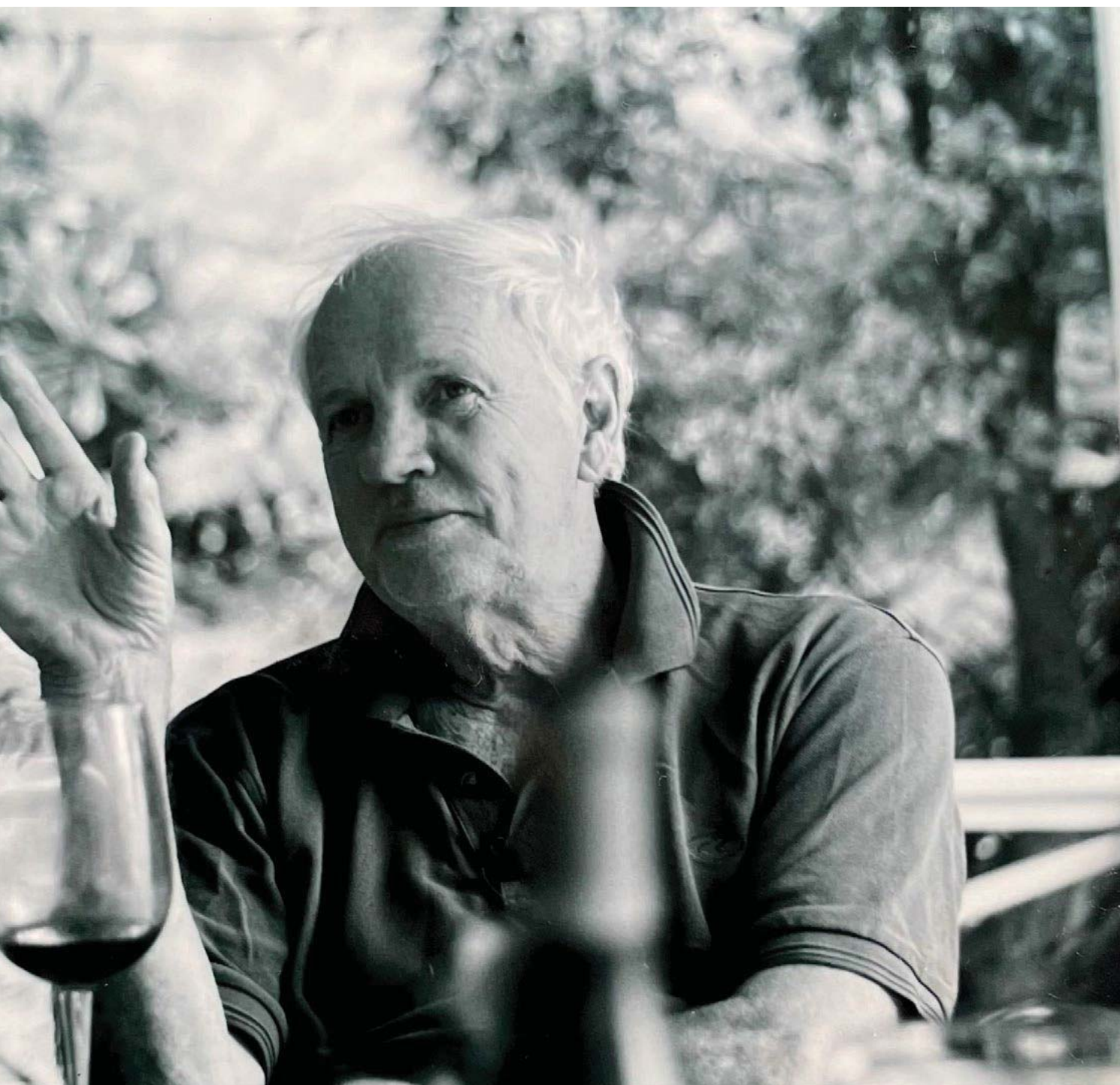
Spender KC was appointed by John Howard as the Shadow Attorney-General and later the Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs.

John Howard appointed Spender KC as Australia’s Ambassador to the French Republic in 1996, a position which he held until 2000. Spender KC and his wife Carla Zampatti resided at the Palais Seidler on the



Rue Jean Ray which possessed magnificent views of the Eiffel Tower. With his wife, Spender KC hosted many foreign dignitaries and Australian visitors, not to mention European royalty. Arguably Zampatti’s profile as an internationally famous Australian clothing designer surpassed that of her spouse. In their role in Paris they became one of the most memorable Australian couples to have ever set foot on the international stage.

During these years Spender KC navigated a particularly delicate impasse between Australia and France when French nuclear



testing was underway in the Pacific (shades of Mururoa Atoll in French Polynesia). Spender KC successfully first mollified and then enhanced the relationships that largely still exist between France and Australia. Some say he was born for that role. He was appointed a Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur for his work to strengthen Franco-Australian relations.

During his appointment to Paris Spender KC also held diplomatic roles representing Australia to Portugal and then to Cyprus. Spender KC and Zampatti returned to

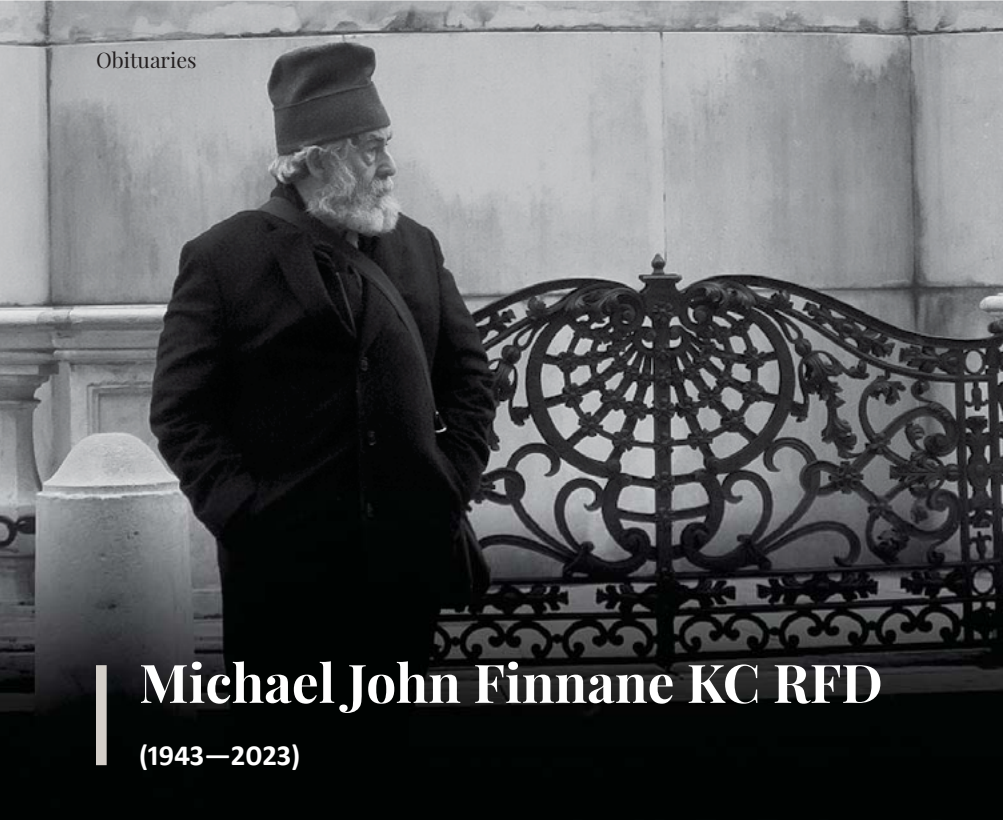
Sydney in 2000 and resumed life in the Eastern Suburbs. Spender KC and Zampatti lived in a mondaine world. Their daughters, Bianca and Allegra, each forged successful careers in their chosen spheres in fashion and business then politics respectively, with Allegra, in 2022, becoming the third generation of her family to sit in federal parliament.

Spender KC and Zampatti separated in 2008 and he later married Catherine. Spender KC was survived by his wife Catherine Spender, his daughters Allegra

Spender MP and Bianca Spender, his stepson Alex Schuman and his five grandchildren.

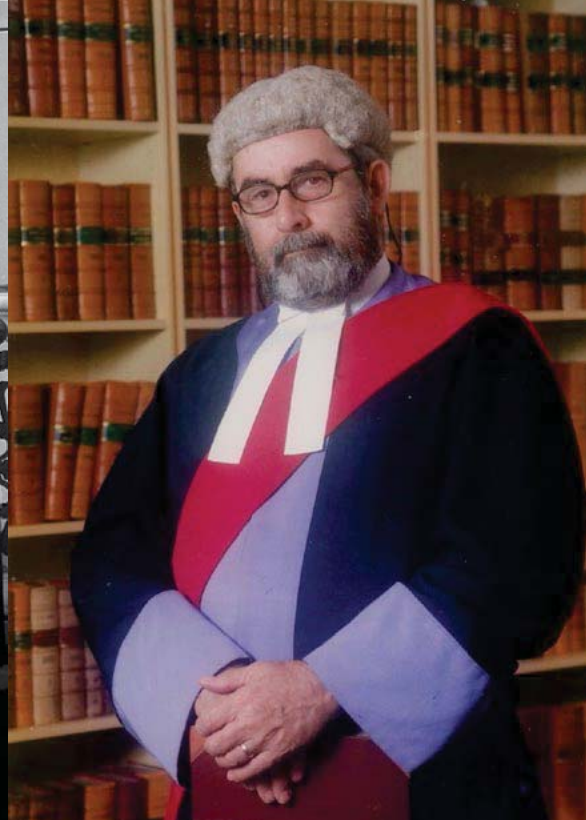
Spender KC's obsequies were held at St Mark's Church Darling Point on 24 October 2022. He will be remembered as someone who was not only worldly, infinitely well-mannered, courteous and possessing the requisite sangfroid required of diplomacy, but also as a jovial conversationalist and a most gracious individual.

The Sydney Bar laments his passing. **BN**



Michael John Finnane KC RFD

(1943—2023)



Edmund Finnane

13 Wentworth Chambers

Michael Finnane KC, former judge of the District Court of New South Wales and of the Dust Diseases Tribunal of New South Wales, died on 29 March 2023.

Michael is still remembered by many as the judge who presided over a series of trials relating to gang rapes that had occurred in August 2000. When Michael sentenced the gang leader, Bilal Skaf, to 55 years imprisonment, with a 40-year non-parole period, there was a storm of publicity. To Michael's surprise, his photograph and biographical details were included in many newspaper articles covering this sentence, as well as the sentences given to the other offenders. He subsequently received letters from across Australia and overseas congratulating him on his sentences. One such letter enclosed a petition in his favour with 121 signatures. Another letter was from a union delegate at a container terminal in New Zealand, and recorded that Michael had secured 100% support from that terminal's workforce. Many in the legal profession were uneasy at the idea of a judge being lauded by the public, and some thought the sentences excessive. Michael did not think the sentences excessive, but he, too, was uneasy about the attention, which he had never sought and struggled to understand. After all, he had simply sentenced some offenders, as a presiding judge is required to do following a conviction and had, in doing so, applied the law as he understood it.

The 55-year sentence was successfully appealed, so that Skaf ultimately served (and still serves) a shorter sentence imposed by the Court of Criminal Appeal rather than Judge Finnane. Notwithstanding this detail, Michael would, for the rest of his life, be approached quite regularly by people from all walks of life, who wanted to congratulate him for sentencing Skaf to 55 years.

Michael John Finnane was born on 22 February 1943 to Jack and Jean Finnane, the first of eight children. Jack served in World War II as an army officer in the Pacific, and at the other end of his career, would find himself managing Michael's chambers for some 20 years.

Michael completed his leaving certificate at Marist Brothers Darlinghurst, after which he commenced his studies for a Bachelor of Laws at Sydney University.

Two years into law school, Michael decided that he should become a Jesuit priest. He took a break from studies and attended the Jesuit novitiate in Melbourne. He lasted 18 months. The discipline involved in the Jesuit lifestyle was not for him, although his time with the Jesuits remained a strong influence in his life.

He returned to Sydney to finish his law degree. During this period, Michael worked as an articled clerk with the Justice Department. He enjoyed this work, which gave him exposure to the development of policies affecting the law, as well as the administration of the court system. Michael was occasionally tasked with dealing with people who thought that the purpose of the Department of Justice was to reverse injustices that they believed they had experienced. Examples given in Michael's book, *The Pursuit of Justice* (published in 2018),

include a woman who sought recognition as both the illegitimate daughter of Pope John and the former mistress of the American billionaire, J P Morgan. Another claimed to be the true Queen of England. Michael would promise to have the Minister look into the matter and to write the appropriate letters.

Michael finished his law degree in 1968. During his studies Michael had met Jill, and they were married in January 1969. They celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage in 2019 with family and friends.

Michael was admitted to the bar in February 1969. He developed a strong and varied junior practice. In 1978, he was appointed as an Inspector into the affairs of the Sinclair Pastoral Company Pty Ltd and associated companies: the 'Sinclair Inquiry'. Ian Sinclair was the Federal Minister for Primary Industry. The inquiry attracted a lot of media attention. When Michael's report was set to be tabled in the New South Wales Parliament, he took the family on an unscheduled holiday to a secret location. It was just as well – on Michael's return, he was told that journalists and photographers had been camped outside the family home and had even climbed over the neighbours' fences into his backyard. Michael's youngest son was a baby at the time.

Michael was appointed as Queen's Counsel in 1982 at the age of 39.

During his career at the bar Michael practised in fields as diverse as crime, divorce (now called family law), tenancy, personal injuries, arson, fraud, equity, coronial inquiries, company law, insolvency, partnership and other commercial disputes, workers compensation, intellectual property, and administrative law.

Michael was also involved in many Royal Commissions and Inquiries in the 1980s and 1990s. They included the 'Ananda Marga Inquiry' relating to convictions of Messrs Alister, Anderson, and Dunn for conspiracy to murder, the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, an ICAC inquiry concerning the Corrective Services Department, the Inquiry into the conviction of Andrew Kalajzich, the Royal Commission into the New South Wales Police Service, and the Special Commission of Inquiry into the Glenbrook train crash.

Michael joined the Australian Army Legal Corps in 1973. He retired as a Colonel in 1998, having appeared at numerous courts martial and boards of inquiry and acted as a judge advocate.

During Michael's career as a barrister he had some brief stints as an acting judge in both the District Court and in the Supreme Court, although he never expressed any interest in a permanent appointment. He enjoyed his work as a barrister too much. But to the surprise of many in his family, he did accept an appointment as a judge of the District Court, for which he was sworn in on 23 October 2000.

As a judge of the District Court, Michael heard both civil and criminal matters, although the majority of his time was spent in crime. The criminal cases were varied, but a significant number involved charges of serious sexual offences including offences against children. After years of these cases Michael needed a change, and so he welcomed the opportunity that arose in 2012, to be appointed as a judge of the Dust Diseases Tribunal.

Michael retired as a Judge of the District Court and of the Dust Diseases Tribunal at the then mandatory retirement age of 72 on February 22, 2015.

Michael returned to the bar immediately upon his retirement, and shortly thereafter purchased a room on 2 Wentworth. Always looking for new challenges, Michael obtained the necessary qualification to appear in migration matters and appeared in a number of cases in that area, including in the High Court. Much of his migration work was for asylum seekers. As he had done previously Michael practised in a range of cases in other areas, civil and criminal. In his last few years Michael was planning to retire. Each year as he received his practising certificate, this was going to be his final year. But as the practice year came to an end there would be some residual work to be done, such that the practising certificate had to be renewed. He really did enjoy being at the bar, and it is fitting in a way that he had a current practising certificate at the time of his death.

During this post-judicial period, Michael wrote his book, *The Pursuit of Justice*. One of the things that comes through clearly from the book is that Michael admired great advocacy. He devoted a chapter to the topic. One of his suggestions was to make a case as interesting as possible. Another was to make sure to explain the technical information in expert reports. Another was not to insult the judge – although the book includes an anecdote about the late Clive Evatt QC doing just that.

Michael contributed to the educational programs of the NSW Bar on many occasions over the years. He was a firm upholder of the open-door policy, and the family has received numerous notes in the last couple of months from colleagues young and old, many of whom were appreciative of the assistance that he gave them. Michael did a considerable amount of work for no payment. During his second period at the bar he was a regular volunteer at the Toongabbie Legal Centre, where he would spend entire Saturdays assisting people with their legal problems.

Michael made significant contributions to the community outside of the law. He made contributions in many areas, but just two examples will be given.

Michael devoted a great deal of his time over many decades to a not-for-profit company called Tradewinds Tea and Coffee, that helps tea and coffee growers in countries like Sri Lanka and East Timor. This organisation was one of the initiatives that led to the modern movement known as 'Fair Trade'.

Michael was a friend of Mum Shirl, who devoted her life to helping Aboriginal people in need. He assisted her in these endeavours financially and provided legal assistance without payment to a number of people at Mum Shirl's request. For several years, the Finnane family would host Mum Shirl and the children in her care at an annual Christmas party. He assisted Aboriginal people and causes in many other ways.

Michael had eclectic interests and he pursued them in his own eccentric way. He was interested in Latin, and he gained, in his later years, a Master of Arts in classics. His thesis was on the advocacy of Cicero. On a visit to Italy a few years ago, he attended the Forum in Rome and recited, for whichever tourists happened to be there, Cicero's address on Clodia, in both English and Latin.

From the time of the Sinclair inquiry his main mode of transport was the bicycle. During the Sinclair inquiry, newspaper stories of the inquiry would be accompanied by a photograph of Michael, taken as he arrived in Phillip Street with his bicycle, wearing old clothes and appearing

dishevelled in general. Decades later, in the immediate aftermath of the gang rape trials, the bicycle was replaced briefly with secure, chauffer-driven cars arranged by the Sheriff. But Michael soon returned to the bicycle. As Michael explained in his book, 'My view was that no-one would think an elderly man in lycra on a bicycle was me. My bicycle gave me anonymity'. So Michael found his anonymity by riding a bicycle, clad in his multi-coloured 1970s-era cycling outfit, bushy grey beard, lights flashing (on bicycle and helmet), spikes protruding from helmet to deter magpies. He was probably right to think that no-one would pick him as a judge, so attired, but if he thought that he somehow blended in with everyone else, he was mistaken. In more recent years he would arrive in Phillip Street on a fold-up bicycle with small wheels. It was a comical sight.

Michael also liked to keep hens, although he was not so good at selecting them. On more than one occasion he bought a pullet that matured into a rooster, and indeed he once bought a flock of prize-winning roosters at the Royal Easter Show. The breeder involved may have been culpable by his silence.

Michael was a diehard Sydney Swans supporter. He attended all home games and travelled to Melbourne when the Swans played in grand finals.

Michael was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He is survived by his wife Jill, four children, three grandchildren, a hen (an actual hen) and a rabbit. BN



John Kennedy McLaughlin AM KCSG KGCHS

(1938—2023)

Barrister, Master in Equity, District Court Judge, Legal Historian

Kevin Tang

8 Wentworth Chambers

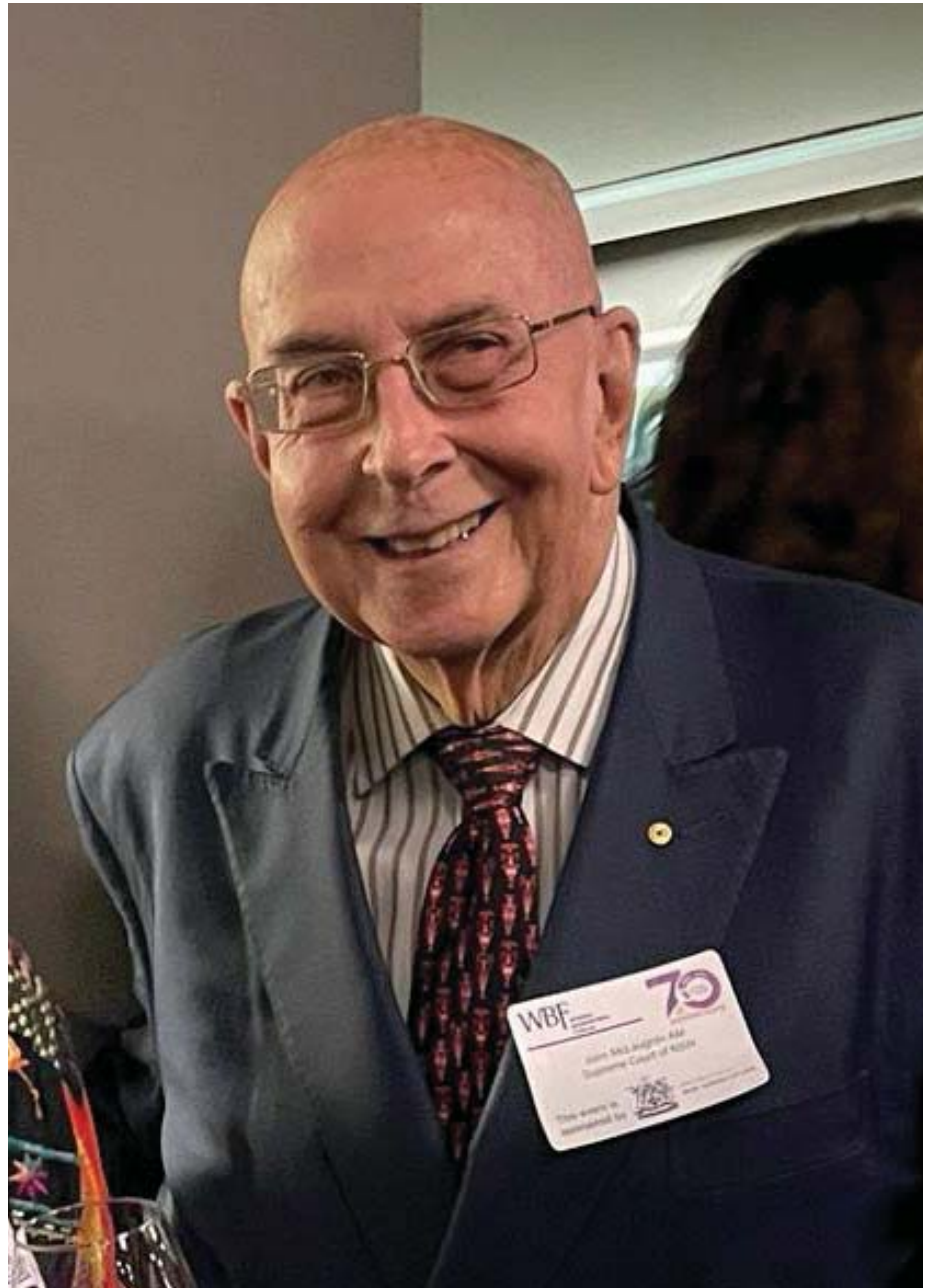
Dr John Kennedy McLaughlin AM KCSG KGCHS, the last Master in Equity in the Supreme Court of NSW, died peacefully at the age of 85.

The Chief Justice of the NSW Supreme Court, Dr AS Bell, paid tribute in a condolence message to the Bar, upon learning of his death. At the end of the morning's court session, the Chief Justice noted the life of a learned and modest man of distinction. John McLaughlin had lived a remarkable life of service and faith.

His Honour retired in 2010 from the court after serving on the Supreme Court since 1989 as a Master of the Supreme Court and as an Associate Justice in 2005 when the title changed.

Born in Wagga Wagga in 1938, the family moved to Sydney shortly thereafter. His mother was an early graduate in medicine of the University of Sydney. His older brother Robert forged an academic career in Australia and for a time in the United States. John McLaughlin had an idyllic childhood in Randwick. He attended Waverly College where he made friendships that would last a lifetime. He lived his entire life in the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney in Paddington.

Barely aged 16 he commenced the study of liberal arts and then law at the University of Sydney. He recalled fraternising with his friends at law school and on campus taking some interest in the student union and student politics and debating in the 1950s. Among his cohort of friends were Jim Poulos, Ken Carruthers, Murray Tobias, Bill Windeyer and Terry Cole and the young JJ Spigelman and Michael Kirby (as they were). There also commenced his lifelong interest in academia. Later in life he obtained a PhD on the role of Irish lawyers in Australia from Monash University (2020) and he had a lifelong fascination with his Irish ancestry. He was President and fellow of the Australian Society of Genealogists and a councillor of the Royal Australian Historical Society. He would become an Honorary Fellow of the University of Sydney. He was noted to have been continuously and conspicuously involved in the interests and welfare of the university. He was a fine scholar and citizen.



For a time, he was a tutor in law at St Paul's College within the University of Sydney.

He was called to the Bar in 1961 and read with the Hon John 'Jack' Slattery who would become a QC and a celebrated Supreme Court judge and Royal Commissioner. He worked as Associate to Sir Cyril Walsh for a time when his Honour sat as a judge of the Equity Division (later of the High Court of Australia 1969—1973). He acquired

chambers on the 13th Floor of Selborne Chambers and fraternised with the likes of Philip Hallen, David Davies, Frank Hutley QC, Mary Gaudron, Michael Meek, Des Fagan, and JR Sackar (as their Honours were). He loved the company of the inimitable Janet Coombes and Cecily Backhouse and Bill Lee (William Jang Sing Lee 1912—2010). He recalled appearing with Sir Maurice Byers QC and also the late Linton Morris

QC. He knew the Hon TEF Hughes AO KC, JB Kerrigan QC, the late Hon Simon Sheller QC, and the late Hon RP 'Roddy' Meagher QC. The Hon Dennis Mahony KC was a friend as well as the Hon Keith Mason KC and the Hon JP Bryson KC. John McLaughlin's chambers were designed and decorated by none other than Harry Seidler in the brutalist taste.

In 2014 John McLaughlin was made a member of the Order of Australia AM 'for significant service to the judiciary and to the law, particularly through the documentation and preservation of Australian legal and constitutional history, and to the community.'

Initially as a barrister, he appeared in many common law and personal injury cases in those years when Dr Evatt was the Chief Justice of NSW. He garnered the nickname of 'the Holy Spirit' by dint of appearing with the famous trio of counsel, the Evatt father son duo Clive Evatt and young Clive and JK McLaughlin. He recalled vividly the night that Sir Douglas Menzies died suddenly of a heart attack in the Bar Common Room (1974) and Lionel Murphy pacing the corridors considering the aftermath.

Over time, he built a large practice in equity especially in Newcastle and preferred it to common law. His specialty areas were to become wills and estates and general equity. His monicker 'Honest John' came from his ability to wear an expression of probity before the court. John McLaughlin recalled fondly appearing in the Privy Council (Lord Diplock) with Laurie Gruzman QC in London in the 1970s. He gave unstinting and distinguished service at the Bar and was schooled in the best traditions of the Chancery.

Judicial appointment came first as an acting master in 1989, at the time when it was common to have 'acting judges', then he was made a full master (full powers of a Supreme Court judge) in 1992 when such appointments were rare. He was sworn in by the Hon AM Gleeson, the Chief Justice, when aged 51 years. He sat in the Equity Division as a master under the Chief Judges in Equity: the Hon TW Waddell KC, the Hon PW Young KC and then the Hon PA Bergin SC whose leadership he admired. His lengthy and distinguished service at the Bar meant that he had known PW Young, BT Sully QC and John Hamilton KC as younger men in Mena House Chambers in Macquarie Street when they were fledgling barristers. Life comes full circle. While on the court he served on the Education Committee and the court's Heritage Committee.

As a master of the court, he demonstrated his strong and instinctive sense of justice, and his thoughtful and principled approach

to resolving disputes. The judicial burden of a master was heavy and he heard a great many cases over a long period. He kept chambers on 6th Floor of Judges Chambers in Queen's Square with Masters Macready, Malpass, Joanne Harrison AsJ, and prior to that, Master Windeyer and Master Cohen, among others.

To Master McLaughlin there was nothing small about the cases which he heard; he considered each with care and court approvals for settlements were given only after careful deliberation. He was sensitive to the effects of legal decisions on the vulnerable. The majority of cases were equity and probate suits and his savoir faire was remarkable. It was a joy to ask him about legal questions because he was steeped in the old knowledge and traditions of the Equity Bar and before that of the Chancery. John McLaughlin was deeply valued and much-loved among those on the Bench.

John McLaughlin loved the legal profession and he was particularly interested in legal history. He was a well-known scholar in the field, having prepared an LLM by research about the magistracy. He was a member of the Francis Forbes Society and he avidly attended the lectures and talks which the society hosted. He was a long-time friend of the late Dr John Bennett AO. He gave lengthy service to the Australian Dictionary of Biography and wrote many articles in the Dictionary.

John McLaughlin was a devout Catholic man. His service to the church was important as it was distinguished. He was an adherent of the St Thomas More Society. He attended St Francis of Assisi in Paddington weekly and read the lesson regularly and he loved attending the Cathedral on occasion. In 2020 he was made a Knight Commander of the Order of St Gregory the Great by Pope Francis, following a Knighthood bestowed upon him in 2009 by Pope Benedict in the same order. Modestly, he said his latest achievement was a shared one with many others at parish, archdiocese and state level.

The Archbishop officiated at his obsequies and Justice Francois Kunc delivered a eulogy. Further eulogies were delivered by John McLaughlin's brother Robert and his friend Richard D'Apice.

He was a patron of the arts and donor to the Australian Ballet with coveted dress circle seats in the Opera House.

Before the pandemic, he travelled annually to London, Athens and Mykonos and often to European locations Nice, Juanles-Pins, Beaulieu, Florence ... It was a late summer circuit which he loved, and he would stay at the same family-run hotel on

Mykonos for over 40 years. John McLaughlin visited his close friends Yvonne and Geoff Larsen (deceased) who lived in London near the Greenwich Observatory. For decades he was a regular visitor to their home before exploring other European locations. On one such occasion he was received by the Margravine of Baden (cousin of the British Royal Family and direct descendant of Queen Victoria). His knowledge of the Almanach de Gotha and Debret's was extensive. He used to stay at the Royal Overseas League just next to the Ritz in Central London and on many occasions breakfasted with judges and barristers from Sydney sojourning in St James's. Each trip he made was always calibrated to a tight schedule of meetings often travelling by night train somewhere to meet an acquaintance – London – Cahors – Geneva.

John McLaughlin was an enthusiast of fine antique furniture and objets d'art, especially glass items. He had an extensive and exquisite collection of Baccarat crystal, French Daum, Schneider Le verre français and Nancy glass. He also had a penchant for fine Wedgewood and Moorcroft items. He collected Ilias Lalaounis items from Greece, e.g., gold vessels and beaten metal dishes. He had a vast collection of owls (hiboux, chouettes) in every form.

He read only historical crime fiction, e.g., Georgette Heyer's Georgian novels, and was a long time client of Abbey's Bookshop in the city. He lived a 19th century gentleman's life in a commodious house which he referred to as a domiciliary abode suitable to his requirements. The walls of his reception rooms were lined in moiré silk. It might have been in Sloane Street or Montpellier Square London. His conversation and vocabulary were always infused with words of nostalgia and memory, *Où sont les fleurs d'Antan...*

He was profoundly committed to kindness in a world which had (as he saw it) unlearned it, although on rare occasions he could be fierce. One of his perennial comments to younger barristers was to do all that was necessary and also to be kind. A great human trait (as he thought) was to be kind because it equated with selflessness. As the kindest, most generous and delightful man, he had an impish sense of fun – he was always ready for a joke or a wind-up.

John McLaughlin lived a most excellent life, full of conviviality, laughter and fun. It was a life lived in the sunlight among friends. He had a singular devotion to the law and to his faith which never dimmed. He will be deeply missed by all those who knew him. God came swiftly for him. That was a relief. He was a good one and a kindly one. May he rest in peace. BN