

He was appointed Crown Solicitor in 1953, and Judge of the Supreme Court in 1961. In 1974 he was appointed to the New Zealand Court of Appeal and was made a Privy Counsellor. He became President of the Court of Appeal in 1981. He was made Knight Bachelor in 1974 and KBE in 1981, and holds honorary doctorates in law from Victoria University of Wellington (1978), and University of York, Toronto (1981).

In 1957, as counsel assisting the Commission of Enquiry into the question of water fluoridation, he prepared a report which drew much praise. But he is better known for his work on accident compensation schemes.

From 1966 to 1967 he chaired the Royal Commission on Compensation and Rehabilitation in respect of Personal Injury in New Zealand. The Royal Commission's report of December 1967 suggested a scheme of immediate earnings-related compensation for all persons injured as a result of accident regardless of fault. The report formed the basis of New Zealand's present accident compensation scheme, introduced in 1974.

The Hon Gough Whitlam, the then Australian Prime Minister, described the 'Woodhouse Report', as it became known, as 'pioneering and epoch-making'. In 1973 he appointed Sir Owen to chair the Australian National Committee of Inquiry into Compensation and Rehabilitation.

From 1980 to 1983 Sir Owen was a member of the international study group advising the Director-General of the International Labour Organisation on the evaluation and adaptation of social security to the year 2000.

The period in which Sir Owen was President of the Court of Appeal was notable for the development of its law-making role in such areas as administrative law, criminal liability, negligence, tax and matrimonial property.

Sir Owen became the founding President of the New Zealand Law Commission in 1986 on his retirement from the Court of Appeal. He stressed the need for wide public

participation and continuing input from the profession in the reform and development of the law.

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obituary

The Hon Justice Trevor Hartigan. The Hon Mr Justice Trevor Hartigan, President of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal since 1987, died on 24 April 1990 at the age of 50 years. Justice Hartigan graduated in law from the University of Queensland and was admitted to the Queensland Bar in 1965. He was appointed as a Judge of the Federal Court of Australia and President of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal in 1987. Prior to his appointment to the federal court he was President of the Queensland Bar Association and Chairman of the Queensland Barristers Board. Justice Hartigan also served as Secretary of the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties. In his two and a half years as President of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, Mr Justice Hartigan made an outstanding contribution in the area of Administrative Law. He was instrumental in re-organising the Tribunal's procedures and case management techniques. In conveying his condolences to the family of Justice Hartigan, the Attorney-General, Mr Duffy said that Justice Hartigan's period of office had been characterised by his dedication and enthusiasm.

The Hon Justice GJF Yuill. Mr Justice Gordon Yuill, a judge of the Family Court of Australia, died in Canberra on 10 February 1990. He was 68 years of age. He had been based in the Australian Capital Territory and served on the bench of that court since 1977. He graduated in laws from the University of Sydney and was admitted in 1947 as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of New South Wales. He joined the Commonwealth Attorney General's Department in 1955 and from 1966 to 1977 was Senior Assistant Secretary in charge of the Family Law Branch, assisting in the drafting of the Family Law Act 1975 (Cth). He held a United Nations Human

Rights Fellowship in Family Law in 1970 and also served as a member of the Family Law Council.

Lord Gardiner. Lord Gardiner, decried as one of Britains greatest law-reforming Lord Chancellors of the century, died in January at the age of 89 years. He was Labour Lord Chancellor from 1964 to 1970 and during this period was responsible for the abolition of capital punishment and changes in laws affecting divorce and homosexual offences. He was responsible for creating the Family Division of the High Court and for setting up the Ombudsman and the Law Commission. Lord Gardiner was born in 1900, graduated from Oxford University and was called to the Bar in 1925. He took silk in 1948. He was a member of the Lord Chancellor's Law Reform Committee from 1952 to 1963 and became a member of the International Commission of Jurists in 1971. He was Chancellor of The Open University from 1972 to 1977. His publications included *Capital Punishment as a Deterrent and the Alternative*, 1956; *Law Reform Now* (Joint Editor) 1963. The Canberra Times pointed out that Lord Gardiner was Defence Counsel in the first case brought under the 1959 Obscene Publications Act against Penguin Books for their paperback edition of Lady Chatterley's Lover. During his defence of Lawrence's language he said 'no-one should think that if the use of these words for this purpose by this particular author in this particular book is legal, it will follow that these words can be used by any scribbler writing any kind of novel'.

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personalia

The Hon Michael Duffy, Attorney-General. The Hon MJ Duffy, Attorney-General in the fourth Hawke Ministry has been the Member for Holt, Victoria since 1980. He was formerly Minister for Trade Negotiations, Minister Assisting the Minister for Industry, Technology and Commerce and the Minister Assist-

ing the Minister for Primary Industries and Energy. Mr Duffy was also Minister assisting the Minister for Defence from 1984 to 1987 and Minister for Communications 1983 to 1987. Prior to his election to the House of Representatives he was a partner in Duffy and Forrest. Mr Duffy replaces the Hon Lionel Bowen MP who was Attorney-General and Deputy Prime Minister in the third Hawke Ministry. Mr Bowen has now retired from Parliament.

President of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission. Sir Ronald Wilson, KBE, CMG, AC has been appointed President of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission for a period of five years. In 1979 Sir Ronald was appointed a Justice of the High Court of Australia and from 1987 to 1989 he was Senior Puisne Justice of the High Court. Sir Ronald was born in 1922 and graduated with first class honours in law from the University of Western Australia. He later studied at the University of Pennsylvania where he gained a Master of Laws Degree. From 1954 to 1959 he was Assistant Crown Prosecutor in Western Australia and from 1959 to 1961 Crown Prosecutor, from 1961 to 1969 he was Crown Counsel for Western Australia and from 1969 to 1979 he was Solicitor General for Western Australia. Sir Ronald resigned from the High Court in 1989. In addition to his long and distinguished legal career, he was also Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in WA in 1965 and from 1977 to 1979 he was Moderator of the WA Synod of the Uniting Church. He has been President of the Uniting Church in Australia since 1988 and Chancellor of the Murdoch University since 1980. In 1963 he became a Queen's Counsel. He was awarded the CMG in 1978 and the KBE in 1979. In 1988 he was made a Companion in the General Division of the Order of Australia. He took up his five year appointment as President of Human Rights, Australia on 7 February 1990. The Australian commented on 20 March 1990 that Sir Ronald is a man of convictions: