

Dennis Norman

continued from previous page

during his time in the Territory, but I am confident that the qualities I am about to mention were qualities that he had demonstrated throughout his nearly 50 years of service to the public.

Perhaps the most common description that I have heard of Dennis over the years is that he was a "gentleman". He was, in a sense, a link with a more refined and gracious age of the law. When he was first admitted as a practitioner the formal certificate of admission recorded that he was "called to the degree of an Utter Barrister of the Honourable Society of Gray's Inn". The terminology stands in stark contrast to the formula of words used in our court now, when one is admitted as a legal practitioner or, perhaps as a barrister and solicitor of the court. Dennis' manner was courteous, even courtly, though this did not prevent him from fighting vigorously and persistently in his client's interests.

The other quality I wish to mention – and it is perhaps the quality that I most admired in Dennis – was his loyalty. His loyalty, once given, was total and absolute. I had quite a bit to do with Dennis in the early 1980s, both professionally and at a personal level, and I am aware of a number of instances where Dennis was let down (and in some cases publicly embarrassed) by persons whose support he was entitled to expect. Nevertheless, because he perceived that he owed loyalty to those persons, he never, publicly or privately, criticised those persons or made any complaint about their conduct to any third person. Since he chose never to speak of those matters it is not appropriate that I should now go into any detail and I do not intend to do so.

Dennis Arthur Norman combined the qualities of gentlemanliness and loyalty with the practice of the law, and in that respect was a model for us all. The profession, and the Territory, are both the lesser for his passing."

*Peter Tiffin
2 July 1998*

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