

# Farewell to Chief Justice Brian Martin

Northern Territory Chief Justice Brian Martin MBE AO will be retiring in October this year after 44 years in the legal profession.

Brian Frank Martin was born in Lithgow, NSW, in 1936. At the age of 17, he started studying law under the Solicitors Admission Board Scheme while completing articles with a Lithgow solicitor.

In 1959, Martin was admitted in New South Wales and just four years later

moved to Alice Springs to start work as a barrister and solicitor.

While living in Alice Springs, Martin was actively involved in the Town Council. Alice Springs became a municipality in 1971 and elected its first council. Martin held the position of Deputy Mayor on the original council and became Mayor in 1973 when Jock Nelson resigned.

When Martin first became Mayor there was a tied vote for the position of Deputy Mayor - between Peter Leunig and Len Kittle. Opting not to cast the deciding vote, Martin asked Works Manager Eric Johnson to determine the outcome by flipping a coin. Peter Leunig became the Deputy Mayor.

Martin was re-elected as Mayor in 1974 and resigned in 1976 to move to Darwin with his wife, Lorraine, and their four children.

In 1974, Martin was admitted to the Northern Territory Supreme Court and in 1981 he was appointed as the Solicitor General and secretary

of the Department of Law.

Martin was awarded Queens Counsel in 1983, became a Judge of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory in 1987 and Chief Justice in 1993.

In 1982, Martin received an Order of the British Empire Member (Civil) award and in 1989 he received an Order of Australia award, both for services to the community.

Chief Justice Martin has had a long a distinguished legal career in the Northern Territory, and we wish him and his family a happy retirement and all the best in the future.①



At 3pm on the 31 October, there will be a ceremonial sitting of the Full Court to mark the Chief Justice's retirement.

This will be held in Court 1 of the Darwin Supreme Court and followed by a farewell function.

*The Law Society will host a farewell dinner for  
Chief Justice Brian Martin MBE AO*

*on Friday 29 August from 6.30pm  
at Cornucopia Museum Cafe, Bullocky Point.*

*Invitations have been issued.*

*Tickets: \$88 per person (includ. GST)*

*Seating is limited. Book early to avoid disappointment.*

*For further information please contact Zoe at the Law Society on 8981-5104*