



DAVID JACKSON AM KC

All members of the legal profession will be deeply saddened to learn of the death last night of David Jackson AM KC. He was the much admired, deeply respected elder statesman of the Australian Bar who continued in his practice including in the New South Wales Court of Appeal until very recently.

David Jackson was a giant of the Australian Bar. With the possible exception of Bret Walker AO SC, no barrister has appeared as frequently in the High Court of Australia as he did. There he was hugely respected for his consummate professionalism, integrity and legal acumen. Although perhaps best known for his constitutional expertise, he was in truth a generalist. His specialty was advocacy, the art of persuasion.

His skill as an appellate advocate was universally admired and to work with him was an education to any junior counsel in the importance of meticulous preparation, the logical and coherent structuring of submissions and anticipating questions from the Bench. His standards were exacting, his courtesy exemplary and his personality warm and generous.

David Jackson was also generous in his contribution to the legal profession over many years, especially in the fields of public and constitutional law. He was also one of the wittiest after-dinner speakers imaginable with various speeches at Bench and Bar dinners still vivid in the memory decades later.

On behalf of the Supreme Court, I extend my sincerest condolences to his family including his extended family in New Chambers where he was the much loved Head of Chambers and will be deeply missed. May he rest in peace.

Andrew Bell
Chief Justice of New South Wales

15 May 2023