



THE HONOURABLE JMN (MORETON) ROLFE KC

It is with great sadness that I note the passing of the Honourable Moreton Rolfe KC on Saturday.

Moreton Rolfe was a member of the Supreme Court from 24 September 1990, retiring on 16 March 2001. For most of that time, he sat in the Commercial Division of the Supreme Court and also served as the Judge in Admiralty between 1995 and 1999. I recall appearing before him frequently in my first six years at the Bar. He was incredibly industrious and had an excellent command of commercial and admiralty law. His judgments were thorough, systematic and rarely disturbed on appeal. He presided in some of the most significant commercial cases in the 1990s including the *Hungry Jack's v Burger King* litigation, the *Ampolex* litigation and *CSR v Cigna*.

At the Bar, he had been a member of the 12th Floor Wentworth and, whilst at the Bar, argued leading cases in the High Court including *Walton's Stores v Maher* (1988) 164 CLR 387 and *Port Jackson Stevedoring Pty Ltd v Salmond & Spraggon (Australia) Pty Ltd* (1978) 139 CLR 231.

He dealt with his physical challenges with great courage and dignity, and exemplified the highest qualities of public service throughout his judicial career. He had a successful post-judicial career as an arbitrator and mediator.

He was also a pastoralist, breeding Santa Gertrudis cattle for many years, and supported a number of philanthropic causes.

His funeral service will be held at St James' Church, King Street next week. Further details will be circulated once known.

Andrew Bell
Chief Justice of New South Wales

28 October 2024