



## The Honourable Roger Gyles AO KC

It was with sadness that I learnt this morning of the passing over the weekend of the Hon Roger Gyles AO KC at the age of 86.

Roger held various judicial appointments in this State over a period spanning some three decades after distinguished practice as a solicitor and barrister, his first such appointment being as Acting Master in Equity in this Court in 1975 and culminating in this time as Acting Judge of Appeal in 2008. Of course, in the meantime Roger served with distinction for many years as a judge of the Federal Court of Australia, being a member of the Court's New South Wales panels for corporations, taxation, competition, patents, intellectual property and industrial relations, as well as sitting in constitutional, administrative and commercial matters. Roger was an additional judge of the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory from 2001 to 2008 and sat as Deputy President of the Australian Competition Tribunal from 2003 to 2008 and as a Presidential member of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal from 2005 to 2008.

Before his appointment to the Federal Court in 1999, Roger was involved in various high profile matters, including his role as Commonwealth Special Prosecutor into the "bottom of the harbour" tax frauds in 1982 to 1984 and his role in the Royal Commission into the Building Industry of New South Wales in 1990 to 1992.

After his retirement as a judge, Roger had extensive involvement in arbitrations in a wide variety of commercial and building disputes and with the Court of Arbitration for Sport and also acted as a mediator and independent evaluator/adjudicator in many disputes.

Roger read at the Bar with the Hon RJ Ellicott AC KC and the Hon TR Morling QC, both of whom also served as judges on the Federal Court of Australia. Roger's career at the Bar was conducted as a member of 10<sup>th</sup> Floor chambers. As a barrister, Roger was noted for his adversarial fortitude and determination. Throughout his professional career he was also noted for his generosity of spirit.

Roger's foremost dedication, however, was always to his family. He was a devoted husband of many years to his late wife, Alison, and a proud father and grandfather to his children, Lachlan (who followed him to the Bar), Anna, Mandy and Kirsten, and to his grandchildren . He will be sorely missed.

On behalf of all those at the Supreme Court of New South Wales I offer our sincere and deepest sympathy to Roger's family and friends on the death of a formidable advocate and judge; and true friend to all.

The Hon Julie Ward  
Acting Chief Justice of New South Wales

3 March 2025