

# BALANCE

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## Justice Mildren appointed

**H**is Honour Justice Dean Mildren was sworn in as the Territory's new judge last Friday then proceeded to the Supreme Court for a ceremonial sitting at which he presented his commission to the Chief Justice and his brother judges. He will replace Justice Phillip Rice who retired earlier in the year because of ill-health. Justice Rice died in Adelaide earlier this month.

Justice Mildren is the seventh judge of the Supreme Court to be appointed locally.

He was preceded by Justices Pater (1874), Herbert (1905), Roberts (1921), Mallam (1926), Ward (1974) and Maurice (1984).

**J**ustice Mildren was an Articled Clerk with the Adelaide firm of Thomson Muirhead Ross and McCarthy until 1968.

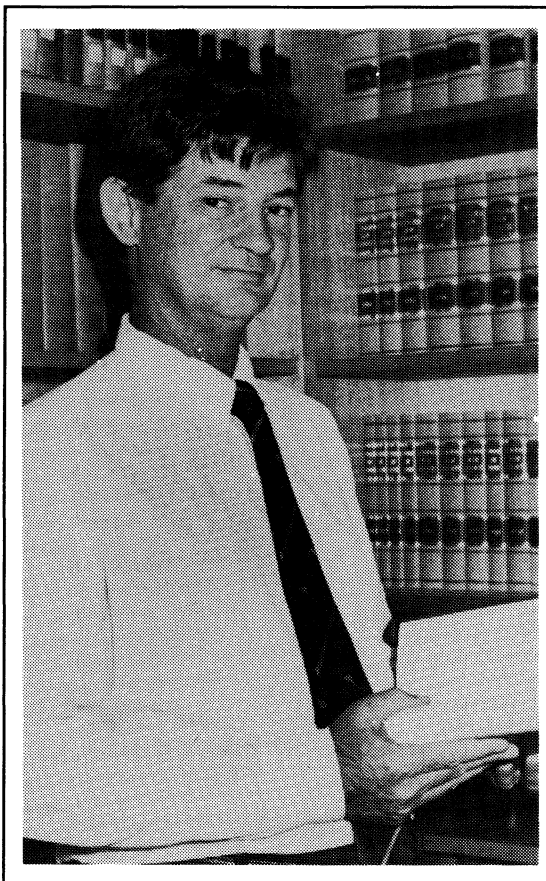
He first came to Darwin as an employed solicitor to relieve for two months while two solicitors were on leave.

In 1972 he bought into the Darwin office, then called Thomson Mildren & Co, and set up a branch in Alice Springs with Ted Skuse which later became Skuse and Partners.

The Darwin firm became Mildren and Partners until Justice Mildren retired to go to the Bar in May 1980.

He took Silk in November 1983.

Justice Mildren remained at the Bar until his appointment to the Bench this month.



*His Honour Justice Mildren in the library of William Forster Chambers.*

Justice Mildren has two great loves: cricket and NT legal history.

He has almost completed a book on the legal history of the Territory, a project which will be put on hold for some time, and lectured in Legal History at the NT University.

He is a stalwart of the Darwin Cricket Club, for whom he has played for "more years than he cares to remember."

**A**nnouncing Justice Mildren's appointment, the Attorney-General, Daryl Manzie, said the new judge would bring 20 years' experience of the NT's legal system to the Supreme Court.

"I am delighted a man of his knowledge has been attracted to fill the vacancy on the Supreme Court Bench," he said. Justice Mildren said he was honoured to sit on the Bench as a Supreme Court Judge.

"There is an important public duty involved," he said.

"I have done very well in the Northern Territory for the last 20 years.

"I think it is time to put something back into it."

Asked whether he found the prospect of the Bench daunting, he said: "Yes, it is. But I am not greatly concerned about it because I had seven years on the NT Planning Appeals Committee and I have been a Judge Advocate in military trials which are very similar to criminal trials."

Justice Mildren is married with three children.

His wife, Liz, is studying Law at the NT University.

Daughter Lara, 20, is studying Photo-journalism at Rusden College in Melbourne.

Second daughter Kirsten, 18, is studying Journalism/Law at the NTU and son Stuart, 13, is in his first year of high school at The Southport School in Queensland.