

Obituaries

Graham Anthony Crawford

Graham Crawford died on 25 August, 1987 at the age of 51. He was admitted to the New South Wales Bar in 1972 and had a large Common Law practice.

"Gruff", as he was known to all since his days at Riverview, was first admitted as a solicitor after graduating in Law from the University of Sydney. Thereafter, he acquired a wealth of business experience working for some years for a property developer, in insurance and for McKinsey & Co., management consultants. His skills as an organiser of people and projects were further refined during the 1966 Federal Elections when he tried to wrest the safe Labor seat of Lang from the sitting member. He was unsuccessful, but obtained an 11% swing to the Liberal Party.

The experience he gained in business was put to the service of the Bar generally when he was invited to join the Board of Counsel's Chambers Ltd. in 1977. He served as a Director until his resignation towards the end of 1986. He served also as one of the first members of the Young Barristers' Committee when it was established by the Bar Association.

Gruff Crawford will be remembered as a forceful and effective trial advocate. He meticulously prepared his cases. He combed his briefs for inconsistencies with which to confront his opponents' witnesses during cross-examination.

He was fiercely loyal to his family and friends. He was generous with his time and his kindness. We share the feeling of loss suffered by his wife Kim and their three daughters and four sons. □

John Trew Q.C.



Graham Crawford

Neil Mackerras B.A. LL.B.

The news of Neil's recent sudden and unexpected death comes as a great shock for all of us who knew him during his distinguished years of practice at the Bar in Sydney. In his chosen field in the law of Landlord and Tenant, he made a strong mark both as an advocate and text book writer of renown. Assuming the mantle of Mr. Justice (Bob) Hope and with the assistance of John Dunford Q.C., he produced the only text book in New South Wales which was, and is, in its own right, confined to an annotated consideration of the Landlord and Tenant (Amendment) Act, 1948, as amended. This was produced in 1971 and is still, in spite of subsequent amendments and changes in the law, extremely useful.

When tenancy litigation reduced in the 70's, Neil joined the Aboriginal Legal Service and performed wonders for his clients in the area of Armidale; where he subsequently went into private practice as a Solicitor.

Those who knew Neil as I did, will always remember his courtesy and consideration as an opponent and his charm and delightful sense of humour as a friend and colleague. I was not privileged to know his family personally, but I know it was a large one to whom he was dearly devoted. He was an honest and sincere man with steadfast religious convictions. I recall once when we were opposed in a case, he ear-bashed me over morning coffee about his dialogue with the Catholic Archbishop of Sydney concerning Vatican II. He was both interesting and informative.

I am sure that all of us at the Bar who knew him will join with me in grief at his passing and extend our deepest sympathy to his loved ones. □

Evan Lewis

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