

## APPOINTMENTS

### Life memberships

At a meeting of Bar Council on 6 October 2016 Philip Selth OAM, Michael Fordham SC and Penny Johnston were made life members for 'exceptional service to the Bar Association and to the profession of the law'



#### Michael Fordham SC

In October, the Bar Council resolved that Michael John Fordham SC be appointed a life member of the Bar Association for exceptional service to the Bar Association and to the profession of the law. This appointment is recognition for the outstanding contribution Fordo, as he is otherwise known, has made to the bar over many years, principally in his role as convenor of the Bar Practice Course.

The Bar Practice Course sets the standard of conduct expected of practitioners at the bar and emphasises the values which should underlie and form the basis of each barrister's approach to practise at the bar. Among these are honesty and integrity and the highest standards of professionalism both in one's practice and in dealings with colleagues. The convenor of the Bar Practice Course is integral to encouraging these values and the success of the course generally.

Fordo was successful in instilling these values in a generation of readers embarking on their careers at the bar. Through his hard work and commitment to the role, he has offered a lasting guide to countless new barristers as to how to conduct themselves professionally, ethically and with humility.

I was fortunate enough to be a reader in one of the first Bar Practice Courses under Fordo's stewardship. He imbued the course with a strong sense of collegiality and it has become

apparent over the years I have come to know Fordo that he practices the values he preached at the Bar Practice Course.

Michael Fordham came to the bar in 1992 and was appointed senior counsel in 2012. He joined 12th Floor Wentworth Selborne Chambers and practices in personal indemnity and medical law and regularly appears at inquests and before commissions of inquiry. Beyond the Bar Practice Course, Fordo has been involved as an advocacy coach and has always been solid in defence for the NSW Bar football team.

Fordo joins a select group of professionals who have been appointed as life members of the bar, including his predecessor as convenor of the Bar Practice Course, Phillip Greenwood SC. Commenting on Michael's appointment, Phillip said 'Michael brought his own approach and personality to the role and it was his energy and leadership which meant that he was a success in that role.'

The role of convenor of the Bar Practice Course is not limited to cajoling the readers to turn up on time and introducing other speakers (although these are important aspects). Rather, each course requires months of preparation developing the course content and ensuring that appropriate and skilled speakers are selected who themselves reflect the values that the course aims to instil. This involves a significant commitment of time and occasionally adept skills in diplomacy.