

His Honour Alan David Bishop

The Alan Bishop Scholarship was established in 2010 to commemorate the life and work of the late Alan David Bishop, particularly his contribution to the Community and Law over a period of forty five years in the course of a long and illustrious legal career.

Alan was educated at Shore School and graduated from the University of Sydney with Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws degrees in 1960 & 1964 respectively. He was admitted as a solicitor in New South Wales in 1964 and commenced legal practice at Hunt & Hunt shortly after admission, practising largely in the areas of personal injury and Insurance. At the same time, he also developed a practice in commercial law that led to his being offered directorships in both private and public companies both in Australia and New Zealand. Alan developed strong relationships with existing clients and developed new associations with individuals and corporations requiring legal services both in Australia and overseas. Having studied the Japanese language, Alan used this skill to establish links with insurance companies in Japan for whom he then acted within Australia.

A further interest included a term as an alderman on the Sydney City Council between 1975 and 1978.

Under Alan's leadership & guidance the Workers Compensation Practice at Hunt & Hunt expanded rapidly, necessitating the development of a team that recruited talented young solicitors. Alan employed newly graduated lawyers, training and mentoring them while encouraging their careers in the legal profession. Ultimately Alan became the senior partner of Hunt & Hunt, by that time the firm had developed into an Australia-wide law firm.

In recognition of his expertise in insurance law and wide commercial experience, Alan became the initial chairman of the WorkCover Authority when that body was established by the NSW Government in 1989. He is remembered by former Board colleagues not only for his intellect and ever present good humour, but also for an open style of chairmanship, an ability to draw out widely divergent points of view and skill in summarising debate and offering resolutions to controversial issues.

Alan remained as Chairman until 1993 when he was appointed a Judge of the Compensation Court of NSW. In 2004, following the abolition of that Court he became a Judge of the District Court, retiring from the Bench in March 2006. As a Judge Alan was considered the pre-eminent professional in all that he did, a simple, uncomplicated man who was good at what he did, and his decisions rarely troubled the Court of Appeal.

With retirement Alan sought new outlets for his energy. His love of Music, Art and Theatre provided many opportunities for cultural involvement. He loved travel, particularly to exotic and far-off countries. He was passionate about Ancient Egypt applying himself assiduously to memorizing hundreds of hieroglyphs.

In 2002 Alan was diagnosed with a rare form of stomach cancer that eventually claimed his life. However during the remaining eight years after diagnosis, Alan set himself the goal of discovering as much as he could about his illness and also became a director of the Australasian Gastrointestinal Trials Group (AGITG). He shared his experiences both as a patient and a community leader to support and increase public awareness of the work of AGITG – to find better treatments for gastrointestinal cancers. He broadened AGITG beyond the clinical arena to reach out to the public through his ideas, networking and commitment to communicating the value of clinical trials.

Alan was a good friend to many, with deep Christian faith and convictions which were evidenced by his long-term membership of the worshipping congregations initially at St Clement's Church Mosman and subsequently St James Church, Kings Street, Sydney. Above all, Alan loved his family. He was a good father to two daughters, doted on his grand-daughter and was a proud husband.