

IN MEMORIAM:

ERIC MORRIS SC

Eric Morris SC of the Johannesburg Bar died on 8 May 1989 aged 73. At the time of his death he held an appointment as acting Judge in the WLD, a position which he had agreed to hold for an indefinite period. His death was a severe blow to both the Bar and the Bench.

We, the members of Group 836 Innes Chambers, of which he was the leader for many years, will miss him very much. He helped his colleagues whenever requested, yet never offered unsolicited advice. As a leader of the Group he performed his functions with distinction. Members of the staff were fond of and respected him. He was meticulously fair in his dealings with members of the Group. When even the most junior member of the Group had a complaint, for instance about typing, Morris would attend to the complaint and resolve the issue to the satisfaction of all.

Morris started practice at the Johannesburg Bar during March 1939. He took Silk in September 1965. As counsel he adopted the approach set out so clearly with striking anecdotes and examples in his book *Technique in Litigation*, which first appeared in 1969, and which is at present in its third edition (1985). As counsel he was meticulous, methodical and thoughtful in the preparation and presentation of his cases. In practice he exemplified the 'ideal advocate' described in his book.

As a colleague, members of the Bench in the WLD soon learned to respect him for his undoubted contribution. His vast experience and perceptive nature and deep-rooted knowledge and understanding of the rules of court made it a pleasure to appear before him because counsel could be certain that, even if they, in the hurly burly of the battle, overlooked an essential aspect of the case, Morris would not lose sight of the core of the matter and his experience would lead him to the correct result, which would ensure that justice was done and the law applied properly.

Morris embodied the finest attributes of a lawyer: he had a wide practice and a thorough knowledge and understanding of the law to be applied in a specific case. In spite of his quiet and modest manner, he was a formidable opponent. Yet he never placed the interests of his client above his duty to the court. After his death many members of the Johannesburg Bar expressed the view that it was a pity that he had not been appointed to the Bench sooner.

His father, the legendary Harry Morris QC who practised at the Johannesburg Bar during the first half of the century, was called 'A Gallant Defender of Men'. Eric Morris could be called 'A Gallant Defender of Justice' — a true lawyer and a worthy member of the Bar. His untimely death is a blow for all involved in the administration of justice in South Africa.

P Pauw
Johannesburg Bar

'UNCLE FERRI'

At a ceremony specially convened by the Honourable Judge President of the Transvaal Provincial Division in Pretoria in honour of the late I L Grindley-Ferris on 26 April 1989, advocate I W B de Villiers SC, Chairman of the Pretoria Bar Council, delivered the following address:

It is not often that the Pretoria Bar requests your Lordships to honour the memory of a deceased advocate. The Pretoria Bar Council feels that our late colleague, Ivon Lytton Grindley-Ferris, deserves being honoured in this way. We wish to extend a word of appreciation to your Lordship, the Judge-President, for convening the Court at our request for this ceremony.

Ivon Grindley-Ferris, who was affectionately known to his colleagues as "Ferri" or "Uncle Ferri", was born in Pretoria on 21 November 1906. He matriculated at Christian Brothers College in Kimberley in 1922. He studied law at the Transvaal University College where he obtained a BA (Law) degree. Thereafter he read law at Trinity College, Cambridge where he achieved his LLB degree with honours. He was admitted to the Inner Temple in London in 1932.

On 1 March 1933 he was admitted as an advocate of this Court by his father, the late Mr Justice Grindley-Ferris. In October 1933 he commenced practice at the Pretoria Bar and he remained a member of our Bar until his death. He accordingly practised for almost 56 years, a record which is probably unique in the annals of our Bar.

On 15 June 1935 he was married to Joan McIntyre in Pretoria and they resided here for their 53 years of marriage. His wife predeceased him a year or so ago.

He was a keen sportsman and sculled for Cambridge University.

He was an active member of the Pretoria East Bowling Club.

As a token of the respect and high esteem with which his colleagues regarded him, he was made an honorary member of the Pretoria Bar on 16 April 1982.

He was a reporter for the South African Law Reports for almost forty years.

His is a remarkable record of tenaciousness and perseverance, but also one of service; service to his profession and to the Bench.

The Bar was his life. He was a man of the Bar.

He was a modest and unassuming person.

One never heard an unkind word pass his lips.

When other colleagues took silk or appointments to the Bench there was never any envy on his part.

He was a man of innate sweetness.

One could rightfully say he was a beloved colleague.

We bid him farewell. May he rest in peace.

On behalf of the Pretoria Bar and the attorneys' profession we extend our deepest sympathy to his son, Ivon, and his daughter, Jennifer, as well as to his other relatives and friends.