

VICTORIAN REPORTS

THE AUTHORISED LAW REPORTS OF THE
SUPREME COURT OF VICTORIA

VOLUME 54
2016-2018

EDITOR
P G WILLIS SC

Published for the
COUNCIL OF LAW REPORTING IN VICTORIA
BY
LITTLE WILLIAM BOURKE
AUSTRALIA
2018



Little William Bourke

	Little William Bourke (ABN 65 610 951 089).
AUSTRALIA	Level 22 52 Martin Place Sydney NSW 2000 Australia
ELECTRONIC	victorianreports.com.au littlewilliambourke.com.au

National Library of Australia Cataloguing-in-Publication entry

ISBN-13: 978-1-925633-07-8

ISBN-10: 1-925633-07-8

ISSN: 0042-5214 (print); 2208-4886 (online).

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Printed in Australia.

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Memoranda

2018

10 October The Honourable Ian Gray, a Judge of the Court from 1977 to 1990 and a Reserve Judge until 2001, died aged 92 years.

Obituary

The Honourable Ian Gray

The Hon. Ian 'Sam' Gray served the State of Victoria as a Judge and Reserve Judge for 33 years. He died on 10 October 2018, aged 92.

Known universally as 'Sam', Ian Gray was born on 6 March 1926. He was educated at Melbourne Grammar School, where he played in the First XI and the First XVIII.

Upon completing Matriculation in 1943, his Honour enlisted in the Royal Australian Naval Reserve. After training at Flinders, he was posted to Darwin; then to HMAS *Echuca*, seeing service in the Pacific. He was promoted from Ordinary Seaman (Second Class) to Able Seaman.

His Honour then served long articles of clerkship with the Senior Partner at Blake & Riggall (now Ashurst), Mr E W Outhwaite. He completed his long articles Law subjects at the University of Melbourne.

His Honour was admitted to practise in December 1950 and went directly to the Bar, signing the Roll in January 1951. He read with Douglas Little (later Sir Douglas Little of the Supreme Court of Victoria).

In more than 17 years at the Bar, Sam Gray was regarded as a strong and fearless advocate in all jurisdictions, though specialising in personal injuries and common law, and was in high demand for civil jury matters.

His Honour was appointed to the County Court of Victoria in February 1968 and served for 9 years as a judge of that court. He was appointed to the Supreme Court of Victoria in July 1977 where he served for 12 years as a Judge and, after his retirement in March 1990, for 11 years as a Reserve Judge. His Honour also served as an Acting Judge of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory.

His Honour served the State of Victoria in a number of other significant public roles. These included as Deputy Chairman of the Workers Compensation Board from 1972 to 1975 and as Deputy Chairman of the Industrial Relations Court from 1973. His Honour was also the Chairman of the Victorian Australia Day Committee from 1982 for many years.

His Honour was a fine sportsman. He continued to play football and cricket with the Old Melburnians and he captained the Victorian Bar cricket team. He also played golf, tennis and squash. Other passions were bushwalking and gardening; his Honour professed a great love for native Australia flora and it was his ambition at retirement to create a garden of Australian natives. His Honour will be remembered as a hard-working and fair judge, popular among the profession for his courteous manner and refreshing self-effacement.

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