



Supreme Court
of New South Wales

22 June 2018

MEDIA RELEASE

STATEMENT FROM NSW CHIEF JUSTICE TOM BATHURST REGARDING SIR LAURENCE STREET

“All members of the Court were saddened to hear of the death of Sir Laurence Street last night.

Sir Laurence Street was one of the outstanding jurists of the 20th Century. After a distinguished career at the Bar, as a judge of the Equity Division of the Court and Chief Judge of that Division, he was appointed Chief Justice in 1974, and served in that capacity until 1988.

In that period he made significant contributions to jurisprudence in all fields of law, both civil and criminal. His judgments, in both the civil and criminal area, were always a model of clarity and learning and many are as relevant today as at the time they were written.

In addition, Sir Laurence presided over the Court at a time of rapid expansion, including the movement into the building in which it is now situated. Much of the work done by him in structuring the Court and building its collegiality, laid the foundations for the Court as it exists today.

Sir Laurence was always a model of courtesy, both on or off the Bench. Any advocate who appeared before him knew that they would be treated fairly, regardless of their seniority or the strength of their case.

Following his retirement from the Bench, Sir Laurence continued to make an active contribution to the law as a scholar, mediator and through his conduct of various inquiries, on behalf of States and Commonwealth governments.

Sir Laurence was an outstanding man and jurist. He will be sorely missed. On behalf of all members of the Court, I extend my deepest sympathy to all members of his family.”