



OBITUARY

Francis (Frank) Xavier Costigan QC

(Roll No 559)

It is with sadness that the Bar Council informs members of the Bar of the death today of Frank Costigan QC.

Frank Costigan was a great leader of the Victorian Bar, and of the national profession. He served on the Victorian Bar Council for 11 years (1968-79) and as Chairman from June 1977 to September 1979. He was a pillar of strength and sage counsel to succeeding generations of Chairmen and to individual members of the Bar. He was President of the Australian Bar Association in 1979; and an Executive Member, then Treasurer, of the Law Council of Australia 1977-79. He was on numerous Victorian Bar Committees for many years, including 15 years on the Applications Review Committee.

Born on 14 January 1931, Frank was educated at St Patrick's College, East Melbourne and at the University of Melbourne. He was admitted to practise on 2 March 1953; and was a partner in the city law firm of Gillott, Moir & Ahern (now Minter Ellison) 1955-57. Frank signed the Roll of Counsel on 13 May 1957 and read with Sydney Frost (later the Honourable Sir Sydney Frost, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Papua New Guinea).

His early practice was largely in workers' compensation and common law. He had four readers. He developed a very broad general practice including crime, commercial matters, and public law. He practised in most States and Territories, in particular in the Northern Territory. He appeared before the Privy Council. He took silk in 1973; and was admitted to practise in all Australian States and Territories and in Ireland. He was Royal Commissioner into the activities of the Ship Painters & Dockers Union 1980-84. He was an Advocate Member of the Legal Profession Tribunal 1996-2004.

He was a Member of the Institute of Arbitrators Australia (Grade 1 Arbitrator) and a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators of London. He was appointed to the Panel of International Commercial Arbitrators by the Australian Centre for International Commercial Arbitration and elected to the Panel of International Arbitrators of the Singapore International Arbitration Centre. He was a Victorian Bar Accredited Mediator for more than 15 years, and was Nationally Accredited last year. He arbitrated in construction, commercial and other private disputes, the largest involving an amount in excess of \$AUD3 billion.

He was a Member of the Latrobe University Proctorial Board since 1996; a foundation member of the University of Melbourne Centre for Philosophy and Public Issues; and has been Chairman of Transparency International Australia since 2003. He was, for many years, a Director of Youth Substances Abuse, Vice-Chairman of Jesuit Social Services and Chairman of the Victorian Drug Rehabilitation Fund. He was very pleased in 2007 to be appointed to the panel of counsel assisting the AFL Tribunal.

JOHN DIGBY QC, Chairman