



OBITUARY - ANTHONY JOHN ELLERAY KC

Anthony Elleray KC sadly died on 26 October 2023, at the age of 69.

Anthony was called to the Bar by the Inner Temple in 1977. Having completed his pupillage in London he decided to move North, and to join the Northern Circuit. He started his career in Manchester at Duchy Chambers on Clarence Street, which became Bridge Street Chambers, before moving to St James's Chambers in the late 1980s. In 2001, he joined Exchange Chambers and was one of its founding members here in Manchester, becoming Head of its Commercial Department.

Anthony took Silk in 1993, at the very early age of 38 when only 16 years' call. At that time the appointment of a Chancery Silk outside of London was almost unheard of. It was a great achievement for Anthony which was thoroughly well deserved.

Anthony sat for many years as a Deputy High Court Judge, having previously sat as an Assistant Recorder and Recorder. He was also appointed as a Deputy Deemster on the Isle of Man, he acted as an accredited Mediator, and sat as a Mental Health Tribunal Judge.

In conjunction with his life at the Bar and the Bench, Anthony was an active member of the Northern Chancery Bar Association, of which he was the Chair for many years, and was a former President of the Manchester Law Library.

Anthony's appointment to Silk was not just a fantastic achievement for him personally, but for the Northern Circuit generally as he paved the way for those Chancery/Commercial practitioners who followed; he was a pioneer and trailblazer.

Anthony had an exceptional intellect, a profound understanding of the law and a formidable presence in Court. This allowed him to navigate even the most complex legal cases with ease and his performances in Court, whether cross examining a hostile witness or advancing difficult legal submissions, were masterful. He appeared in Courts at all levels including in the House of Lords in *Alan Wibberley Building Ltd v Insley* [1999] 1 WLR 894. Many of his decisions sitting as a Deputy High Court Judge were reported and have been subsequently cited.

But despite being fiercely effective as an advocate, and beyond his professional accomplishments, Anthony was a true gentleman who was admired for his integrity and genuine kindness. He treated everyone he encountered with respect and dignity; and was generous in his support for pupils and junior barristers.

Anthony had a great love of books, and an acerbic wit. In consequence, his knowledge was encyclopaedic and those who shared time with him benefitted greatly from his wisdom and humour.

Work aside, Anthony was a bon vivant, and a family man. He enjoyed a 40 year marriage to his wife Alison, and he revelled in the achievements of his children, Harriet and Adam and doted on his three granddaughters Ella, Imogen and Millie.

Anthony was a true legend, who left an indelible mark on the Northern Circuit. He will be missed greatly, but his legacy will live on.

HHJ (Mark) Cawson KC and Giles Maynard-Connor KC