



His Honour Dr David Lynch

It was a glorious day on the Wirral. The sunshine did its best to brighten the otherwise sombre realisation that this would be my final time with David. It is a measure of the popularity of a man, and of the affection in which he is held, that I was not alone in wanting to see David that day. A veritable queue had formed. Each of us wanting to spend a little of our time with a man who had given so much of his own to us all.

When David's death was announced – exactly a week later – it was fitting, although a little discombobulating, to be informed of the same by an email from 'David Lynch'. I say fitting, because no matter how quick off the mark a Leader strives to be, he (or she) lacks what David had at his fingertips – an encyclopaedic knowledge of Circuit and its Circuiteers. He also had an uncanny knack of knowing these things before anyone else. In short, David was always one step ahead. And so, whilst Leaders (past and present) would scramble to amass the correct facts and to disseminate them to Circuit, David would invariably – and accurately – beat them to it. The email – sent on his account by his son - was profoundly sad, of course. But I think David would have rather liked the fact that, yet again, he was the first one to tell us.

But this time, unlike every other time that such an email had landed, there was no David to 'phone or to email. No David from whom one could seek F and Bs (or whatever they call themselves these days). Not for the first time whilst crafting this have I asked myself, 'where is David when you need him?'

He had that rare gift – even rarer, dare I say, in our profession – of being knowledgeable without being a know-all. Those who have had the privilege of holding office on our Circuit have been fortunate indeed by having David at their side; for his knowledge was indispensable and his treasure

trove of anecdotes a joy. Little wonder we called him 'the Oracle.' Countless times we have consulted him when short on fact (and time). He never let us down. He had time for us all.

*"Such was David's knowledge of, and affection for, the Circuit his view on things was invariably right...a true great of the Circuit. And his greatness lay comfortably alongside his kindness and his geniality."*

Jaime Hamilton KC, Leader of the Northern Circuit

This was David's opening gambit in an email he sent me towards the end of 2019:

*"Please let me know if I am able to assist you in any way. I can honestly say after 80 years, 50 of them on Circuit, I have seen and heard it all."*

It was an email in which he told me that my predecessor, Rose Heilbron QC (as she was then), had led him in his first murder trial – in 1970. Not bad, for a man of only two years call. I was clearly impressed. And so, with characteristic modesty, he explained that they were in fact neighbours, and so his clerk thought their pairing would make the transportation of papers much handier. Him to her. Obviously.

He told me how different Mess was when he first came to the Bar and how women were not permitted to dine:

*"Alexander David Karmel was the first elected Leader of the Northern Circuit. Before that the senior silk took the job. He was Leader when I was elected; he served between 1966-68.*

*I do not know the date, but it happened at Lancaster Assizes. Rose [Heilbron] had dinner on her own as usual.*

*Karmel going into Mess saw Rose sitting alone and invited her to dine at Mess. Rose said I've already had dinner. He replied, 'Well have another one.' That was the breakthrough. No endless committee discussions.*

*Just one brave Leader willing to bite the bullet and do what should have happened many years before."*

David's achievements (before and after his retirement) were remarkable. It is with characteristic sensitivity that David credits his success to his beloved wife, Ann, who died last year after nearly

fifty years of marriage. He and Ann were plainly meant to be, for within four months of their first meeting they were married. Christopher was born in 1976, followed by Peter two years later. They adored their boys, and were enormously proud not only of their achievements, but, more importantly, of what fine and sensitive young men they became. And what joy Lily and Eddy brought in more recent years. David was nothing short of besotted with his two beautiful grandchildren. He was gracious always to credit not only the success and happiness of family life to Ann, but also all that he had achieved in his long and illustrious career. This from Ann's eulogy last year,

*"...supporting David's career at the Bar and on the Bench, his activities with the Northern Circuit, Middle Temple and latterly his recent five years studies at Liverpool John Moores University. Ann was with him every step of the way and he knows he would have achieved little without her love and unfailing support."*

As Sir Henry Globe observed in his valedictory comments to mark David's retirement in 2005, for a man who had achieved so much in life, it was David's long and happy marriage to Ann, and the family they nurtured together, that was David's *"crowning achievement"*.

Our communication by email, and occasionally the landline (him) and mobile (me), was often prompted by my enquiring about his health. Such communication invariably concluded with my resolving that I needed to (a) retire – it sounded fun, and (b) stop worrying about David. What follows is a typical response to my *'let me know you are ok'*:

*"I am keeping busy with circuit matters, continuing to meet the new people. I am giving a talk to new Circuiteers in my LJMU Moot Room in January. Clare recently kindly drove me to Lancaster to be interviewed by the archivist of the Judges Lodgings Museum to record my thoughts on changes on Circuit over the past fifty-five years. On Thursday I am attending Lord David Alton's LJMU Roscoe Lecture at St George's Hall. I have Liverpool Judges dinner and Grand Court to look forward to.*

*Most importantly I shall be at your dinner. Clare and the Circuit have kindly arranged transport for me, and back home at the end of festivities.*

*Yesterday I was driven by my favourite former High Sheriff to lunch in Liverpool at the home of my favourite Lord Lieutenant. Fish pie. Gooseberries and custard, mmmmm. Like being back at school only better.*

*I still attend lunch each month on Wirral with about ten other retired HC/CJs and each Wednesday and Sunday lunchtimes I meet my cronies at the golf club. So you see I have no time to sit around and mope."*

David was dependable, patient and kind - epithets which are often hijacked as a euphemistic way of saying 'dull'. But that couldn't have been further from the truth. David had a quick wit, a cheeky riposte when needed and he was refreshingly irreverent. For a man so steeped in the hierarchical 'establishment' that is our profession, he saw it for what it was: he valued talent and hard work over status and high office, although he was no stranger to either. For it was David's work ethic and determination, coupled with his enviable ability, that led to his achievements and his success in life. Not for him, the silver spoon of a 'leg up'. All the more laudable when his own progression 'through the ranks' was against a backdrop of legal luminaries who had generations of forefathers (and rarely foremothers) to pave the way. He never forgot where he had started, or took for granted where he had got to. He had a charming insouciance for the fake 'pomp' which occasionally attaches itself to the job he and we love. Instead, he respected and found joy in all that was genuinely great about our profession. Which is fitting, really, as he genuinely was one such great.

The esteem in which David was held by the Northern Circuit will not be matched. Or, if it is, not until that individual has put half a century of hard yards into earning it.

And in a profession where we are often too quick to judge, David was in a rare and elite group of those about whom no one ever had a bad word to say. Little wonder he garnered such admiration from colleagues across the Circuit.

*"His achievements for the Circuit, the Inn and the students of LJMU were quite outstanding...he was indefatigable in his quest for knowledge and for any way in which he could help those less privileged than himself. A true Circuit giant!"*

HH Clement Goldstone KC, former Honorary Recorder of Liverpool

My one regret – as I said to David when he asked me to write this – is that he would not be able to read the tributes that flooded in upon his death. I have seen but a snapshot of the people who loved David – this was his job, but not his life. And so as much as we lay claim to David being 'ours' and see him very much through the prism of Circuit, we must remember that he is mourned by his

family and a legion of friends, neighbours and academic colleagues. Each will have their own reflections upon a remarkable father, grandfather and friend.

This can but be a tribute to David from us – his Circuit family.

To whom his son, Christopher, says this:

*“Thank you for all the kind words, visits and best wishes; it brought him great comfort in his final days.”*

And so, where to begin? How to write about the man who wrote about all of us? He is Liverpool's son, of course, and so to the great and the good of that fair city I turned when, in the absence of the Oracle himself, I needed some oracular inspiration. 'Please send me your tributes', I asked - and tributes came there plenty. I am indebted to judges past and present whom I shall reference and from whom, with their permission, I shall quote and summarise. To friends and colleagues across Circuit for their bons mots and the photographs they sent me, thank you. But most of all I am grateful to David. Turns out he was a rather reliable chronicler of himself. Never before have my copies of the directories been so well-thumbed. For most of us, our one achievement in the 10 years or so between the publication of the Directory (1876 – 2004) and the Supplement (2005 – 2015) results in the one line it deserves. If we are lucky, an updated photo. (Although the older (and thus younger) photos are often better.) David was unique in having an entry in the Supplement which surpassed that of the Directory. All the more remarkable when the 10 years or so between Book the First and Book the Second took him well into his seventies. A man whose stamina for productivity and activity increased the older he got. What better example of a role model?



Liverpool Grand Court, December 2023

Born on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1939, David was just shy of his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday when he died, peacefully, on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2024. He is survived by his sons, Christopher and Peter – “the boys”– and by the “little ones”, his grandchildren, Lily and Eddy. He was devoted to them all and, realising he had a captive and willing audience, would not hesitate to share photos of the little ones. Indeed, one of the first emails I received post the Lockdown of March 2020 was from David enclosing a joyful photo of Lily. More such precious photos would follow – as would another grandchild, Eddy - sent by one rejoicing in all that grandfatherhood entailed and gratefully received by one who rather regretted that her own were no longer that size.

David is one of Liverpool’s very own. Raised by his father, Harry, a motor mechanic, David would tell people, *“I was raised in Toxteth. I went to Granby Street School. I then attended the Liverpool Collegiate and I am proud of all of it”*.

David passed the 11 plus and was certainly sufficiently able to have pursued a further and then higher educational route, but instead he left school at 15 in order to supplement the family income. His introduction to the law was as an office boy for a local firm of solicitors, Sharman and Sons, until 1958 when he did National Service for 3 years. He served in the RAF (Signals Intelligence) in Germany where he once encountered a certain Elvis Presley. Their paths had briefly crossed at an airbase, and he seized the opportunity to shake Elvis’s hand. Well, you would, wouldn’t you?

In 1961 David returned home to become a litigation clerk with Bremner Sons & Corlett; a full-time job which he juggled, successfully, alongside studying for two A’ levels and an external London LLB degree in 1965.

His passion lay on our side of the profession, though, and often was the time that David would spend in court sitting behind counsel, thus cementing his decision to jump over the fence. In his own words, *“I fancied becoming a barrister.”*

To Sir Henry Globe I now turn and, with his kind permission, from whom I borrow heavily from his valedictory tribute to David:

*“For five years, David spent his time sitting in court behind such Northern Circuit personalities as Edward Youds, John Edward Jones, Keith Lawton and Gerald Crowe, as they then were known before their respective promotions. Their clerk to Chambers, Eric Johnson, successfully encouraged David to*

*qualify as a barrister. However, these weren't the days of smooth transition, but of intense separation of the professions. David had to leave Bremners and find some other means of financial support. He found a day job teaching Government, Music and Comparative Religions at Highfield Comprehensive School in West Derby, whilst his night job was spent reading for Bar."*

David was called to the Bar by the Honourable Society of Middle Temple on 28<sup>th</sup> March 1968. Thus began a long and happy association with the Inn culminating in his being made a Bencher in 2016. This was a moment of immense pride for David. And as is only right and proper, Middle Temple lowered their flag on 12<sup>th</sup> August upon news of his death.

David was pupilled to Keith Lawton at North House Chambers (a forerunner of 7HS). And it was Keith who, on 15<sup>th</sup> June 1969, seconded David's election to the Circuit he was to come to love. In the 55 years that followed, David observed and then chronicled the transformation of the Northern Circuit.

*"When I was called in 1968, there were 252 names on the Northern Circuit Bar list. There are now [2005] over 1000. In 1968 only 19 were women (7.5%). Of the 161 elected between July 2002 and December 2004, there were 72 women (44.7%)."*

In the time between the publication of the Directory (2005) and the Supplement (2015) a further 400 members were elected to Circuit. Many more still since then, taking our numbers to around 1500. David chronicled them all. A third volume will be published soon. David bequeathed that task to David Hoffman (18 SJS). I am indebted to him, but I do not envy him. Mercifully, David had continued to work tirelessly, even when not in the best of health, such that Book the Third is – as he told me on that final visit - *"bang up to date"*. Posthumously publishing David's final oeuvre seems the very least Circuit can do. And it will be Circuit's honour so to do.

Sir Henry (as edited) picks up the chronology,

*"David's experience in the forces, and in teaching, enabled him to relate well to clients. It ensured a quick start at the Bar. He soon acquired a good all round practice in civil, family and criminal cases.*

*Judicial office was no surprise.*

*David became an Assistant Recorder in 1983, a Recorder in 1988 and was appointed a full-time Circuit Judge in 1990. [On the 31<sup>st</sup> January. Incidentally, the same year as Rhys Davies QC (as he then was)]*

*For about twelve months, he sat in and around Manchester but mainly in Oldham Crown Court.*

*In 1991, David returned home where he presided in civil, family and crime, eventually dropping civil to concentrate on some family, but mainly crime...He was particularly adept at trying cases involving young children. He was attentive and dignified... He was courteous to all, efficient and a judicial rock, yet always displaying touches of humour and compassion at appropriate moments."*

In short, David was the kind of judge who, in the '90s, we young novices were relieved to encounter. Back then, one's day at court could quite often involve a round or two of judicial roulette. It was not just counsel who were glad of his company. His fellow judges delighted in his humour, his wisdom and his charm, and lamented the fact that his retirement in 2005 meant also his departure from the judicial coffee club. A tradition which, I hope, still lives on...

David's legal activities extended far beyond the QEII. For 10 years he was a member of the North West Legal Aid Appeals Committee; he presided over the Mental Health Review Tribunal for 3 years, having sat part-time for several years before that; for 13 years (until 2004) he was the Liaison Judge at St Helen's Magistrates Court where he served alongside six Bench Chairmen and maintained a 100% attendance record at Bench business and social events – which will surprise no one who has seen the joy David derived from attending Circuit Mess.

David was a passionate supporter of education and, unlike many others who lay claim to that accolade, he walked the walk. In 1994 he became the Liaison Judge for Liverpool John Moores University. He revelled in all that the role offered, and the students were the lucky recipients of that enthusiasm. For most of his time on the Bench he would be accompanied by two students from LJMU where he was made an honorary Fellow in 2003. He was an inspiration to the best and brightest of students. Such was his love of the place that, upon retirement, he completed first a Masters and then a PhD in United States Legal History. The PhD was published in 2016, following which he became a research fellow at LJMU. It was, as he acknowledged, rather late in life to be experiencing 'student life' for the first time. But for David, it was never too late for anything. He continued to speak to law

undergraduates and pupil barristers until the very moment when he couldn't.

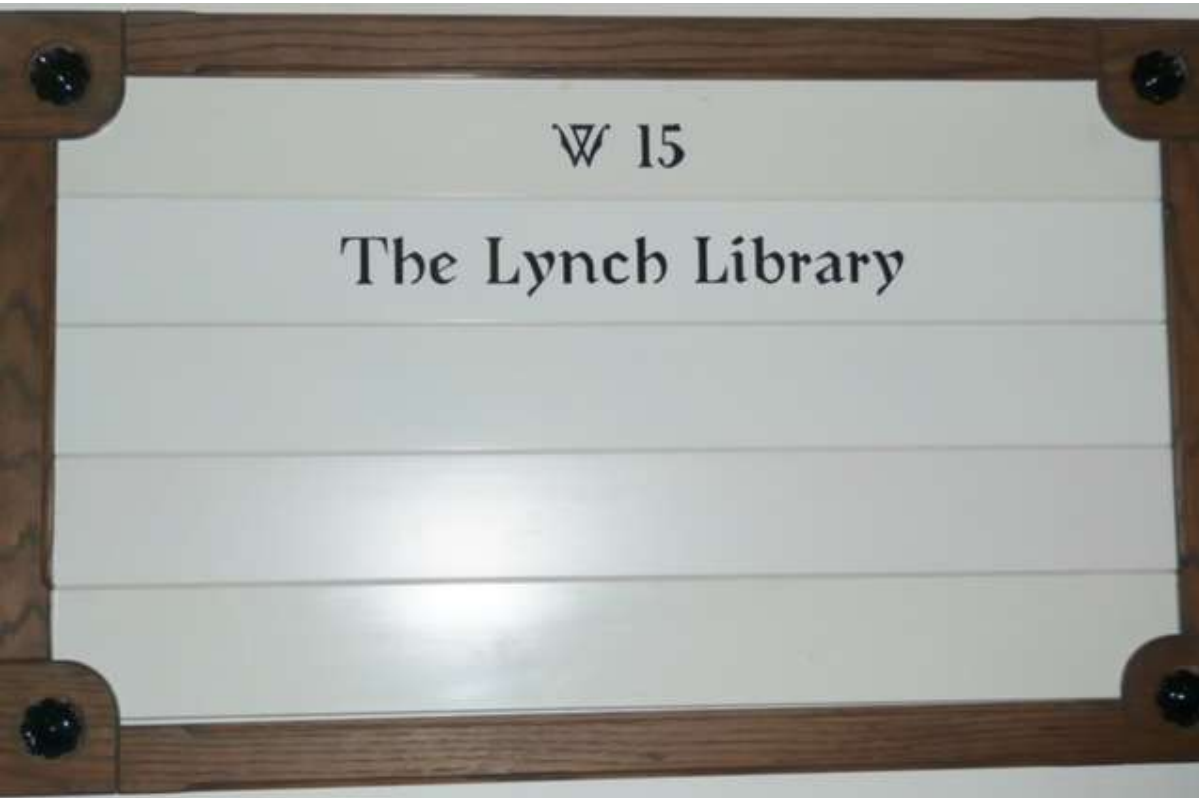


People don't forget kindness. David had it in abundance and many were its lucky recipients. I give you but one example – you will have countless more of your own. It was 1975 and it was Michael Pickavance's first Crown Court trial. As we all know, 'success' in one's first trial is measured not by winning or losing, but by surviving. And survival has much to do with one's opponent and judge, and very little to do with the evidence - less still such skills as the rookie barrister may possess. But Michael had the very good fortune that day to find himself being prosecuted by David who, in the best traditions of the Circuit, tipped off the judge that it was Michael's 'first time.' A matter of law was advanced by David which meant nothing to his novice opponent, but upon which the judge sought a cogent response. Sotto voce, David gave his lost-for-words opponent the answer, knowing that so-doing would jettison his own argument. It was a selfless act by a man who valued doing the right thing above his own success. Michael did more than survive that day: thanks to David, he succeeded. He had won the lottery of opponents and in so doing found a friend for life.

Such values represent the very best of this Circuit. David embodied them. Who better, then, to represent Circuit as its historian?

*David was one of the Bar's gentlemen, and it was always a pleasure to be with or against him in a case. He had a long and successful legal career and was a much-respected and popular judge; but he was always modest about his many achievements and successes, and generous in his praise of others. In his role as Remembrancer he chronicled and photographed Northern Circuit events and landmarks, both happy and sad, and kept us up to date with the news. He will be sadly missed; but his Northern Circuit Directory and supplements will be a lasting reminder of him, and of his love of the Circuit and of Liverpool, and I shall cherish the photographs which he sent me from time to time as reminders of special occasions.*

Lord Justice Tim Holroyde



*“David Lynch is a wonderful example to all entering the profession. Few begin their working life as the office boy in a solicitor’s office, take an external LLB, become a circuit judge, a Bencher of their Inn and a Doctor of Philosophy. David is Remembrancer of the Northern Circuit, welcoming every new member, giving lectures on circuit history, traditions and ethics. Over his lifetime he collected a magnificent library, principally made up of biographies of the great men and women of the Law. He has donated this library to the Royal Courts of Justice where it stands as the Lynch Library”*

*“A very special person”.*

Sir Richard Henriques.

Circuit’s Attorney General, Sam Hillas KC, paid a visit to the Lynch library recently.

*“David was immensely proud of his eponymous library at the RCJ (and the fact that he and the Lady Chief Justice had lunched there). He donated his magnificent library of historical and other legal*

*tomes collected over many years. I have it on good authority from one of the sitting High Court Judges that they can think of no other Liverpool Circuit Judge with a library at the RCJ named after them. As he was keen to tell people, not just anyone could visit it - no, to visit the Lynch Library one has to cosy up to a High Court Judge to take you 'backstage' as the library is open only to members of the High Court Judges' Association and their honoured guests – this pleased him no end. I managed (finally!) to visit it a few weeks ago as I wanted to cheer David up by reporting back positively about it. As I said, "nice digs, David, but I couldn't find the drinks cabinet".*

David had been instrumental in Sam's decision to take on the role of AG. To Sam, as to so many of us on Circuit, he offered support and encouragement. And in return Sam and 'the Liverpool girls' at Mess offered him a place at their table. Or, more accurately, they fought over who would sit either side of him to form the 'David sandwich'. Circuit has Amanda Howard – aka 'AmandaCabs' – to thank for reliably and expertly chauffeuring David to and from Mess; especially to Grand Court (his favourite) where he would sit amongst his adoring female fan club, meet Circuit's bright new youngsters, and sign Books I and II for those whose pleasure it was to be elected. (Some of us are lucky enough to have signed copies of both.) David knew nearly everyone and made it his business to get to know those he did not. He did indeed delight in telling us all about sharing his sandwiches with the Lady Chief, but would have been equally delighted to have done so with a pupil he had not previously encountered, and to whom he would have shown the same degree of courtesy as he

would our most senior judiciary. In David's eyes we were all equal.



Liverpool Mess October 2023

Sir Henry again:

*..I remember well giving his valediction on 16.12.04 in court 4-1 when he retired 20 years ago. It was one of those valedictions when there was so much to say that the problem was deciding what to leave out rather than thinking of what to put in...*

*His career was special then and it was easy to remind people of what a good judge he had been. My final words to David at the valediction were to wish him a long, happy and healthy retirement. I am pleased that that worked out well. What he did, though, during his 20 years of retirement was truly remarkable. He had so much energy. He never stopped doing things and he continued right up to the very end. It was my pleasure in recent months, when he was unable to drive, to give him many lifts to the monthly luncheon club that the retired Liverpool judges enjoy.*

*He has been a valued friend who will be sadly missed by all of us, which includes not just ourselves but most of all his family and of course his very great love, the Northern Circuit. That is why I imagine he will be sitting comfortably with a glass of port settling down to read the obituary with very great interest.*

David's talents extended far beyond the law that he loved. He was an avid collector - train sets, classical records, cinema films, stamps... He had been an accomplished archer and guitarist, and he continued snapping away on his trusty Nikon SLR until only months ago, chronicling for us the many events Circuit has hosted.

The first time I saw David (Bailey) in action was at a Congratulatory dinner. To those of us who can just about navigate the camera on an iPhone, I realise I am in no position to judge. But I did wonder how on earth the subjects of the photographs were even going to be visible – where was the flash? – and slightly winced at the speed and laissez-faire approach of the photographer in action. I need not have worried. David simply applied that casual quietness to his photographic skills as he did to pretty much everything else. The images were perfect. I am looking at one of his photographs as I write this. He was kind enough to snap the family and me at my farewell dinner.

*“David was a pivotal member of the QE2 team throughout my time as Recorder and could always be depended on for his judgment, hard work, wise advice, good humour and supportiveness. It was perhaps inevitable that he ended up trying some of the hardest criminal cases - and that historic sex cases came to dominate his caseload, somewhat to his dismay. As he said on his retirement, the work itself had begun to pall, but the people and the companionship never did.*

*He outstripped us all in his work ethic and the intellectual challenges he undertook during his long and productive retirement. He was not only a good friend, but I much admired him.*

*Henry spoke of David as a collector. He had a huge collection of books, particularly legal biographies. In about 2007/8 he was ready to part with them, but LJMU could not accommodate them. So, he donated hundreds of books to the HCJs at the RCJ, where they are shelved in a room in the judges' corridor now designated as the Lynch Library. I was involved at the time at the RCJ end, helping to arrange the transport and placing of the books. Some judges gather there with their sandwich lunches. So David's name lives on in the RCJ."*

Sir David Clarke



David with Honorary Fellows of LJMU Sir David Clarke, Sir Henry Globe and HH Clement Goldstone KC, all former Honorary Recorders of Liverpool, alongside David Steer KC and LRKC, former Leaders of the Northern Circuit. 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022. Opening of The Lynch Moot Room.

*"David's incredible knowledge of the circuit was much more than a passing interest: he loved the circuit, its history and all its tradition. I doubt that we will ever see his like again."*

*It is a matter of record (I checked in David's book) that we were appointed Recorders on the same day in 1988. David and I were co-defending in Chester and could not get to Liverpool for 17 March when other Liverpoolian Recorders were being sworn in. I think Bernard Caulfield wanted to get on with the case - but he swore us in at Chester Crown Court the following day! So we must be the first Northern Circuit recorders ever sworn in at Chester (now part of the Circuit)!*

*David had an instinctive understanding of the fairness required of judges. His approach did not have to be discerned from anxious study of the authorities - he knew what to do. I had the privilege of supporting his approach to the discharge of a juror for bias in a case that was argued in the House of Lords (R v Gough [1993] AC646): his conclusion prevailed!*

*Where I can perhaps provide some additional information concerns LJM.U. He was a stalwart of the university not only when he was the judicial liaison but also for the years of his retirement. He studied both for his Masters and his PhD at LJM.U. He was a proud honorary fellow and there was no event at the University where he was not a prominent attendee, and he was honoured by the University when they named the Moot Room after him. The sadness when I told them of his passing was palpable."*

Sir Brian Leveson



Dr David Lynch, Graduation Day, 15 July 2015 with LJMU Chancellor Sir Brian Leveson.

Dr David Lynch's graduation day, 15<sup>th</sup> July 2015, alongside the then LJMU Chancellor, Sir Brian Leveson.



In 'The Lynch Moot Room' at its opening on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022

I am grateful to the Chancellor of LJMU with whose kind permission I reprint the tribute and photographs published by her university.

*"The LJMU community is deeply saddened by the death of His Honour Dr David Lynch who had been a part of the fabric of the university for over 50 years as a law student, as a lecturer, as the Liaison Judge for the School of Law, as an Honorary Fellow, a mature student, completing his PhD with the university and Visiting Research Fellow.*

*Born in Toxteth and brought up by his father, David left school at 15 to work as a clerk in a solicitor's office before joining the RAF on extended National Service. Upon completion of his service in 1961, he returned as a clerk while taking his law degree at night school in the College of Commerce, one of LJMU's founding colleges. He was the only student to pass the first-year exams, so progressed on his own while working full time.*

*Completing his London external law degree in 1965, he focused on becoming a barrister and spent two years teaching in a comprehensive school by day and studied for the Bar in the evenings. He also lectured in law part time at the College of Commerce.*

*Called to the Bar in 1968, David practised for 22 years as a Barrister before being appointed a Circuit Judge in 1990, but his association with the university continued. He delivered the Liverpool Law Review lecture in 2004, and as the Liaison Judge for the school, invited students to sit on the Bench with him for every session, providing invaluable work experience for hundreds of law undergraduates, including our current Chancellor Nisha Katona.*

*In recognition of his tremendous service to LJMU and outstanding contributions to law, he was made an Honorary Fellow in 2003 and in November 2022 'The Lynch Moot Room' in the Redmonds Building was named in his honour at a reception attended by the Vice-Chancellor Professor Mark Power, Chancellor Nisha Katona and guests including LJMU Honorary Fellows Sir David Clarke, Sir Henry Globe and His Honour Clement Goldstone KC. David spoke at the event about his long-standing relationship with LJMU and of his delight at the success of continuing generations of LJMU law graduates.*

*David made a significant contribution to the university over more than five decades. Countless law students benefitted from shadowing him in court and through the generous donation of books that he made to our School of Law. He will be greatly missed but I am glad we will play our part in his lasting legacy through the university moot room named in his honour."*

LJMU Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mark Power

*"I met HHJ David Lynch as a marshalling student in 1994. I remember his encouraging guidance but more profoundly, his eyes that twinkled then, with the kind, thoughtful, enthusiastic intelligence that he kindled right to his last days. His passion for the Northern Circuit, the law and for justice filtered through such a good heart, was contagious. Like so many young lawyers he inspired, I am proud to call him a cherished role model and a dear, dear friend."*

Nisha Katona MBE, Chancellor LJMU

David, it is a good job that it was you, and not me, in charge of chronicling our lives. It took you 8 years to compile the first volume, and 20 years or so honing volumes II and III. But you captured hundreds of us and did so quietly and, or so it seemed, without the need to trouble others for information. It has taken me..., well, suffice to say it has taken me quite a while, during which time I have troubled quite a few people in order to compile something of the life of just one Circuiteer. But what a Circuiteer. The truth is, whilst my 'informants' and I have managed to capture much of what you achieved, I fear I have failed to capture the half of what you meant to us all. We admired and respected you, of course. But moreover, we loved you. You didn't 'do god' – as you told me a few weeks back. It may be why you thought I was a safe pair of hands for your obituary. But permit me to say this – may you rest in activity and in your constant curiosity for knowledge. And may you do so surrounded by your beloved Circuit.

Lisa Roberts KC

