

# Obituary

## Sir David George Maddison, Judge of the High Court

David Maddison, whose parents were from the South, was born in Cudworth, Yorkshire in 1947, for no reason other than that his father wished his new child, were he to be a boy, to be eligible to play cricket for the White Rose County. However, soon after David's birth, common sense prevailed, and his parents moved to the North West, where David was educated at the King's School, Chester, before reading Law and Economics at the University of Durham. He was called to the Bar by the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple in February 1970. He undertook a pupillage in London with David Kemp, a distinguished personal injury practitioner and author. From 1972 until 1992 he was in chambers in Liverpool and, despite his pupillage, practised mainly in crime on the Northern Circuit. On 13th October 1992, after only 2 years sitting as a Recorder and when only 45 years of age (young at the time) he was appointed a Circuit Judge and sat in Manchester and thereafter in Liverpool. In 2000, when such appointments were rare amongst the Circuit Judiciary, he began sitting as an additional judge in the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division). On 13th January 2003 he was appointed a Senior Circuit Judge and the Honorary Recorder of Manchester where he sat until his appointment on 29th January 2008 as a judge of the High Court assigned to the Queen's Bench Division. His decision to retire from the High Court Bench on 22nd May 2013 when only 66 years of age was widely lamented by the highest echelons of the judiciary and the Bar. His contribution to the criminal law was widely acknowledged as being outstanding. All those connected with the administration of criminal justice were comforted by the fact that he continued to sit in retirement at first instance and in the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) until 2017.

The first thing any advocate always asks of his clerk is: "Who am I in front of?" When the reply was "Maddison", the advocate knew that he or she was before an extremely accomplished judge and would receive a fair but firm hearing.

He was a member of the Parole Board from 1996 to 2002, elected a Bencher of his Inn in 2005, served as a member of the Criminal Procedure Rules Committee and from 2010 to 2013 he was the Director of Criminal Training at the Judicial Studies Board, the forerunner of the Judicial College. In delivering training, he refreshed the parts and minds of Judges - from experienced Lord Justices of Appeal to those on the bottom rung of the judicial ladder - which other trainers could not reach. In a world where feedback counts for so much, he was the first and so far only lecturer to receive a 100% approval rating from delegates who are notoriously difficult to please. In 2014, in order to mark his enormous contribution to judicial training, he became the College's first Honorary Fellow. This recognition by the College demonstrated his many achievements during his judicial career both on the Bench and within the Judicial College. He was a principal member of the editorial board of the Crown Court Compendium which was first published in May 2016. This was not his first editorial achievement; rather more surprisingly for a criminal judge, but perhaps a legacy from his pupillage, he had been an editor of Bingham's Negligence Cases (4th and 5th editions).

He lived life to the full, both professionally and in his private life. He was totally devoted to his wife, Indira, to whom he was married in 1976, their sons and grandchildren. He would spend as much time as he was able with them at their cottage in the Lake District. Only he could and did insist on purchasing a property but yards away from one of the most pleasing public houses in the country at Elterwater but the extent to which he contributed to its profits is questionable as he was known, not for nothing, but very affectionately, as "Two-pint Maddo".

Away from the law, he had many interests including, from an early age, the piano and tennis, at both of which he was very accomplished. He was a benefactor of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra at whose concerts he was a regular attendee. Much later, he became a keen golfer and by the time of his death was a much-loved and respected member of no fewer than three clubs, at all of which their flags flew at half-mast on the day of his funeral. Without doubt, however, the one club for which his love knew no bounds was Liverpool FC at which he was a season ticket holder for many years, and where the qualities of restraint and patience which he showed on the Bench for over 25 years were rarely, if ever, displayed. He was also extremely proud to be elected the President of the Athenaeum Club in Liverpool in 2017. That pride was, however, tinged with sadness when, towards the end of his year of office, he announced that he was



suffering from cancer of the oesophagus. The method of his announcement illustrated the man he was, because he did so by circulating the diagnosis in an email to all his friends and colleagues and informing them that they would not see him for a while. He did so because, as he had always directed juries, he did not wish there to be any speculation as to the reason for his absence. He battled against his illness with great fortitude and courage. It was how he had always conducted his life. After treatment he was able to return "for a while" but alas, so did his cancer. When he realised that there was to be no cure and that his time was limited, such was his inner strength that it was he who organised the venue of his funeral service and the content including the music and those who were to be privileged to speak. He did not need to arrange the content of the congregation. It was unnecessary - the church was full to capacity and all those present were able to receive a powerful and poignant message which he had written shortly before he died.

He is survived by his wife, Indira, by their three sons, Graeme, Tim and Simon, and his five grandchildren, the last of whom was born but a few days after David's funeral service at the Parish Church of Our Lady and St Nicholas, Liverpool.

**Sir David Maddison, High Court Judge, was born on 22 January 1947. He died on 29 June 2019, aged 72**