

CEDRIC EDWARD KEID HAMPSON
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Crowley QC has, from time to time, threatened to publish the memoirs of his career at the Queensland Bar. This unpublished - and, perhaps, as yet unwritten - masterpiece has the working title Two Counsel Rule. This title takes its inspiration from the autobiographies written by (or, more likely, "ghost written" for) prominent cricketers, with titles that play on a phrase or expression common in that sport: Bowled a Maiden Over, or Fielding in Slips, or Caught in the Covers. Crowley QC's proposed title is not an allusion to the (now abolished) rule which once prevented senior counsel appearing without a junior. It refers, rather, to the dominance of two particular counsel at the Queensland Bar over the last quarter-century: Ian Callinan QC and Cedric Hampson QC.

Now, of course, the "two counsel rule" has been abolished. Similarly, with the appointment of Callinan QC to the High Court of Australia, it can no longer be said that two counsel rule at the Queensland Bar. Cedric Hampson's dominance has become, and continues to be, unassailable.

Hampson QC was President of the Queensland Bar Association from 1978 to 1981, and again in 1995-96. Since the death of Sir Arnold Bennett QC in 1983, he has been leader of the Queensland Bar. This year sees the 30th anniversary of the Letters Patent appointing him as one of Her Majesty's Counsel, whilst 2002 will mark his 45th year at the Bar. More than half of Queensland's barristers were not born when Hampson commenced in practice; had not commenced to study law when Hampson took silk; had not graduated from Law School when Hampson first became President of the Bar Association; and have known no other leader of the Bar.

At one time or another, Hampson QC has led many of the State's current judges and senior counsel. To be his junior is an invaluable educational experience - not only for what one can learn from his profound knowledge of the law, his finely-honed forensic techniques, and his wealth of litigious experience, but also for the courtesy and kindness which he shows to his instructing solicitors, his clients, and (above all) his juniors.

It is inevitable that, given his preeminence within the profession, opportunities have arisen for Hampson to accept judicial appointment. That he has chosen (for whatever personal reasons) not to accept such offers when they were made has been the judiciary's loss, but the Bar's gain. As a great believer in the collegiate spirit which once characterised our Bar - but which, sadly, is not so evident today as it was in times past - Hampson QC has continued to maintain an "open door policy" to any member of the Bar seeking his advice or guidance. Anyone who has the good fortune to work with him, or the intellectual challenge of working against him, cannot fail to benefit from the experience.

Hampson QC's service to the Queensland Bar and the legal profession in this State is not quite unique merely for its longevity. A.D. McGill QC was in continuous practice from 1911 until his death in 1952. Sir Arnold Bennett's career spanned 51 years, 35 of them as a silk, although it was interrupted by a period when he left practice to pursue commercial interests. Yet few could rival the depth of Cedric Hampson's contribution to his profession.

The Inns of Court, at the corner of North Quay and Turbot Street, will stand for many years as a testament to Cedric Hampson's organisational skills, his foresight, and (above all) his remarkable ability to cajole even the most parsimonious members of our profession to give up their dilapidated rooms in a converted boot factory, and make an investment in their own and the Bar's future. It is particularly fitting that the dominant feature which graces the lobby to this building is a sculpture by Catharina, Hampson's wife of 43 years.

It is quite impossible to catalogue the extent and significance of Hampson's contribution to the development of the law in Queensland and Australia, across the vast range of cases in which he has appeared at every level. A perusal of the Commonwealth Law Reports and the Queensland Reports since the early 1960s readily

demonstrates, not only the huge number of cases in which he has appeared, but also the extraordinary diversity of those cases - crime, personal injuries, defamation, commercial and industrial matters, town planning cases, property disputes, and constitutional matters. One might say, as Thomas Moore said of Sheridan, that he has "run through each mode of the lyre, and was master of all."

From a practice of such remarkable diversity, it is with some trepidation that one even hazards to attempt to identify the highlights. In Hampson's case, they must include his long-standing retainer (for more than 35 years) on behalf of sugar mills, in their perennial contest with canegrowers over the price and conditions for the supply of sugar cane. They must also include his numerous appearances as counsel for the Criminal Justice Commission, or as counsel assisting inquiries conducted by that body - including the Carruthers Inquiry and the Connolly-Ryan Inquiry. Nor should one overlook his significant role as counsel assisting numerous Royal Commissions and Commissions of Inquiry, including two major inquiries concerned with the illicit drug trade, presided over by (respectively) the late Sir Edward Williams, and Mr. Justice Donald Stewart of the New South Wales Supreme Court.

But to identify the highlights of a long and distinguished career is perhaps misleading, as it draws attention away from the huge work-load of cases which have attracted very little publicity, and may have seemed mundane to everyone but those directly concerned, yet were of overwhelming importance to Hampson's clients. Whenever members of either branch of the profession have found themselves in professional difficulties, Cedric Hampson has been and continues to be their first choice of representation. Some of the most affluent, influential and powerful members of society - along with many thousands of ordinary Queenslanders - have turned to Cedric Hampson for assistance in their time of need, and will doubtless continue to do so for years to come.

Yet, to write about Cedric Hampson, the barrister, is to touch on only one facet of an extraordinarily active life. A keen Rugby footballer in his younger days at Gregory Terrace and the University of Queensland, he has continued his interest in sport both as a spectator and as Chairman of the Advisory Committee to the Sporting Wheelies and Disabled Sport and Recreation Association (1990-96). Having won a Rhodes Scholarship in 1955, on the strength of both his academic brilliance and his sporting prowess, he has been President of the Queensland Rhodes Scholars' Association since 1996. His membership of the RAAF Reserve saw him appointed as a Judge Advocate, and as Honorary ADC to the Queen (1976-78).

The business world has also benefited from his wisdom and commercial insight, as a director of two listed public companies - Consolidated Rutile Ltd and Cudgen RZ Ltd (1991-96) - as well as his Chairmanship of Barristers Chambers Ltd (since 1973), the Incorporated Council of Law Reporting (since 1973), and the Management Committee of the Bar Practice Centre (1983-89).

Hampson is also active in the affairs of the Catholic Church, as Queensland Lieutenant of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, and a Knight of the Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem.

Like his old rival, Ian Callinan, Cedric Hampson's literary interests have recently borne fruit. His two novels, *Shifting Shadows* and *Cat's Eye*, and his book of short stories, *Sicilian Vespers*, all published within the last two years, have achieved significant sales and some very favourable reviews.

Yet Cedric Hampson remains a very private man. He takes great delight in the time which he is able to spend with his four children and six grandchildren, and particular pride in the success which all of his children have achieved in their own right. His elder daughter, Dr. Edith Hampson, has distinguished herself in academic circles as a veterinary scientist, and is married to one of the state's leading specialist periodontists, Dr. Peter Clark Ryan. His younger daughter, Alice, is a highly respected architect, winner of a number of notable architecture prizes, whose works have been published in Australian and international architecture journals; she is married to Morris QC. His elder son, Leofric, a member of the Queensland Bar, is presently residing in Europe, where he has recently completed post-graduate studies in international law at Leiden University. His younger son, Edmund, is a graduate of the Queensland University of Technology in building science, and has established his own very successful business in the construction industry.

As a young student at Oxford University, Cedric Hampson took a skiing holiday in Austria which irrevocably changed his life. There he met Catharina Brans Kremers, from Amsterdam. They married in 1958, and Cedric brought his young bride back to Australia to share the privations of a frugal existence whilst he worked to establish his career at the Queensland Bar. No doubt Catharina, herself a celebrated sculptor, would agree that the words of the great Italian Renaissance sculptor, Michelangelo, could just as well have been spoken by her husband, if his modesty did not prevent him: "If people knew how hard I worked to achieve my mastery, it wouldn't seem so wonderful after all."