

# OBITUARY

## **The Honourable John Harber Phillips AC QC** (Roll No 591)

It is with sadness that the Bar Council informs members of the Bar of the death of the Honourable John Harber Phillips this morning.

Born in Melbourne on 18 October, 1933, John Phillips was 75 years of age. He had been a member of the Victorian Bar for more than 50 years, having signed the Bar Roll on 24 February 1959.

John Harber Phillips was the tenth Chief Justice of Victoria. His 12 years' stewardship as Chief Justice saw significant expansion and re-organisation of the Court. The Court of Appeal was created; divisions were established within the Trial Court; the old High Court building and 436 Lonsdale Street were acquired; the Court buildings and facilities were substantially refurbished; computer technology was introduced in the courtroom and administration; and, for the first time, women were appointed Judges of the Court. All this was achieved with an awareness on his part of history and context, and for the purpose of ensuring that the Court continue to fulfil its central function of administering justice.

Funeral and other arrangements will be advised as soon as they become known.



**JOHN DIGBY QC**  
Chairman

7 August 2009