

## THE SECOND GRAHAM HILL ANNUAL AWARD

As those of you who were present at the function held for the presentation of the inaugural Graham Hill Annual Award last year will know, this Award has been established to recognise those who have made a significant contribution to improving the administration, policy, practice, teaching or understanding of revenue law in Australia.

The impetus for the establishment of the Award came from Robin Speed of Speed and Stracey, who most, if not all, of you will personally know, to recognise the huge contribution Graham made in all these areas – as a judge of this Court from 1989 to 2005, as a scholar and writer of seminal works on various aspects of revenue law, as a teacher and lecturer in equally various revenue law subjects at the Sydney University Law School for nearly forty years, as a tax practitioner prior to his appointment to this Court, first as a solicitor and later at the New South Wales Bar and finally, but not least, his contribution as a leader of a number of bodies and organisations concerned with the subject of taxation law – the Taxation Institute of Australia, the Australian Tax Research Foundation, the Law Council of Australia and the Australasian Tax Teachers Association – to mention some.

I have great pleasure in announcing that the recipient of the second Graham Hill Annual Award is Professor Lee Burns, a Professor of Tax Law at the Sydney University Law School. Lee Burns specialises in international and comparative tax law. In 1992 and 1996 – 1998 he worked for the International Monetary Fund providing technical assistance to developing and transition countries on the design of their tax laws. He continues to advise on tax laws under the IMF's technical assistance programme. I am shortly going to ask Professor Gillian Triggs, the Dean of Sydney University Law School to tell you a little more about the very substantial contribution which Lee Burns has made in the areas in which he specialises.

For my part, I would merely like to make a passing observation on a similarity in the characteristics of this year's recipient and the man in recognition of whom this Award was established. One of Graham's finest attributes was his unselfishness. He always exercised his great talents of expertise and scholarship in the area of revenue law because of his genuine interest in that area and the challenges it provided, without regard to material reward; and there is no lack of material reward for those equipped with the talents Graham had in abundance. His early acceptance of an appointment to this Court exemplifies this trait.

Professor Lee Burns, in his work at the University of Sydney Law School and for the IMF's technical assistance programme equally exemplifies this trait. His parallel with Graham in this regard makes him, in the Award Committee's view, a most worthy recipient.

I would now ask Professor Triggs to say a few words before presenting Lee Burns with a small token to record our recognition of his achievements.

**Justice Richard Edmonds**

**29 November 2007**