

## THE HONOURABLE JOHN DARYL DAVIES QC

On behalf of the Award Committee, I wish to congratulate the Honourable John Daryl Davies QC as the recipient of the inaugural Graham Hill Annual Award.

- # Daryl Davies was educated at Melbourne Grammar School and Melbourne University, from which he graduated with an honours degree in law. He was admitted to practice as a barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court of Victoria on 1 August 1952. On 10 February 1956 he signed the Roll of Counsel and read with Mr Keith Aickin, as he then was.
- # He practised at the Bar until 1963 when he became a member of the Taxation Board of Review No. 2, in which capacity he served until 1970.
- # He resumed practice at the Bar in 1971 and took silk in 1972. He practised extensively in all jurisdictions but his particular interests in taxation and administrative law were always to the fore.
- # In 1976 he was appointed by the Victorian government to conduct an inquiry into the liquor industry in Victoria, the report on that subject being presented in April 1978.
- # On 18 May 1978 the then Commonwealth Attorney-General, Senator Peter Durack QC, announced his appointment as a judge of the Federal Court of Australia and of the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory and as Deputy President of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (Cth).
- # He became President of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal in 1979 and held that office until 1987.
- # He served as a judge of the Federal Court for over 20 years until his retirement on 31 August 1998.
- # He has served as an acting or additional judge of other courts, including the ACT and NSW Supreme Courts at various times.

# On 26 February 2004 the then Commissioner of Taxation, Mr Michael Carmody, announced that Daryl Davies had taken up an appointment as consultant to the Australian Taxation Office in the role of Special Counsel. In his role as Special Counsel, he provides advice and assistance on matters critical to the administration of the community's tax system, in particular in relation to matters of principle and policy. He also participates on rulings and other panels in appropriate circumstances.

It is obvious from this short but impressive resumé that Daryl Davies' contribution to the development of tax law in this country has manifested itself in a number of ways but, more importantly, in each of those ways his contribution has been very significant. One has only to read his reasons for decision and judgment while a member of the Taxation Board of Review, while a member of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and while a member of this, the Federal Court, to appreciate the intellect he brought to bear in the areas of taxation and administrative law, the measured response he brought to issues in dispute and the balance he displayed in the exercise of his judgment in deciding those issues. He is, without doubt, a most worthy recipient of the inaugural Graham Hill Annual Award and it is fitting that an Award which is intended to perpetuate recognition of the huge contribution which Graham made in this area is bestowed, for the first time, on a person who has made such a significant contribution himself.