John Dorset Shaw: 50 years at the NSW Bar



John Shaw (left) and his fiancee Violetta, along with colleagues and friends celebrating at Courtneys in Parramatta.

On 9 February 2018 Lachlan Macquarie chambers celebrated 50 years to the day that John was admitted to the NSW Bar.

A dinner was held for John at Courtney's restaurant at Parramatta which was well attended by his colleagues and a number of his close friends and associates.

The president of the Bar Association Arthur Moses SC was unable to be in attendance due to his professional commitments but he sent a note on behalf of the Bar Association congratulating John on 50 years of practice. Arthur canvassed, from the Bar Association's records, some of John's early history at the bar. After John was admitted he practised from Selborne chambers and his master was Phil Powell QC.

Rob O'Neill shared his recollections after he met John in August 1975 on the formation of Wardell Chambers. As John had come from 'Phillip Street' he secured one of the prime corner rooms in Wardell chambers. In 1986 John moved to the "wild West" of Parramatta and was one of the founding members of Lachlan Macquarie chambers.

Over the years John has had an extensive practice in equity, family law, wills, probate and appelate work. John has also developed a close professional relationship with his instructing solicitors some of whom have briefed him for very many years. Some of those were able to be in attendance on the night to celebrate with him. John has developed those relationships by developing a professional work ethic.

John in reply shared some recollections of his early days at the bar particularly an instance where he was briefed to appear before his former master in the Supreme Court and His Honour's succinct advice to John's client to 'bring a toothbrush with him' when the matter of contempt return to the court. John also shared his memories of briefs he held as a junior to Clive Evatt QC and his 'interesting' way of conducting a hearing.

Rob O'Neill Lachlan Macquarie Chambers

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