

Tribute to

His Honour Andrew Williamson

13 July 2022

The judiciary were saddened to hear of the passing of Andrew Kenneth Williamson who served the people of the Isle of Man for 20 years as a judge.

Although he was Manx born and educated, Andrew made his career initially as a stipendiary magistrate in London and the South East of England before returning "home" to the Isle of Man in 1988 when he became the Deputy High Bailiff, a post he held until 1995 when he became High Bailiff. In both these posts he dealt with the wide variety of work which falls to the Bailiffs, but predominantly criminal trials and inquests. He conducted hearings with fairness and efficiency and was well respected by all who appeared in his court.

In 2002, in response to an increase in family and civil work, the post of permanent Deputy Deemster was created and Andrew Williamson became the first appointee in 2002. For six years he dealt not only with a large number of civil disputes but also with the vast majority of divorce, children and financial disputes arising from the breakdown of relationships. The workload was considerable, yet he was well-liked and admired by the family bar and had the ability to cut to the essence of a case and arrive at a fair and just result. Andrew's ability as a family judge was recognised by none other than the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in the famous MacLeod case in 2007 when the highest court in the land praised the way in which His Honour had dealt with the case at first instance. It has become a leading authority on agreements between divorcing spouses.

Deemster Corlett, now First Deemster, well recalls Andrew's good humour, kindness and advice to him during the "handover period" when he took over as Deputy Deemster on Andrew's well earned retirement in 2008.

Andrew had an essential “hinterland” of interests outside his judicial career and was well known for his superb singing voice which earned him many accolades over the years.

The Manx judiciary would like to pass on their condolences to his family and friends at this sad time.